



[Canada advances First Nations-led new path forward on long-term reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services Program](#)

On December 22, 2025, the Government of Canada announced that it submitted a detailed plan to the [Canadian Human Rights Tribunal](#) (CHRT) to reform the [First Nations Child and Family Services](#) (FNCFS) program—one that respects regional approaches while operating within a coherent national framework.

Canada's approach to regional agreements is supported by funding of \$35.5 billion to 2033 to 2034, and an ongoing commitment of \$4.4 billion annually after that to make sure First Nations children and families—now and in the future—have sustainable resources. Canada's plan would enable First Nations-led regional agreements across the country, supporting solutions designed by and for First Nations to keep children safely connected to their families, cultures, and communities.

For more information, including a [timeline of events](#), please visit the [news release](#).

[2026 annual Award of Excellence in Nursing: Call for nominations](#)

The [Award of Excellence in Nursing](#) is presented to 3 exceptional nurses who provide care to First Nations and/or Inuit clients. Nominees will have demonstrated that they are committed to excellence in professional nursing practices serving First Nations and Inuit communities in Canada.

This award will be presented in a virtual ceremony during National Nursing Week. Recipients will be recognized in an online ceremony hosted by Indigenous Services Canada.

The call for nominations for the 2026 Award of Excellence in Nursing is now open until February 13, 2026 at 4 pm Eastern Time. All nominators and nominees will be notified in April 2026 of the results. We wish to thank everyone involved in the nomination process for taking the time to nominate an outstanding nurse providing direct front-line care in a First Nations or Inuit community.

For more information, including [eligibility](#) and [how to make an nomination](#), please visit the [2026 annual Award of Excellence in Nursing](#).

[2026 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 teams

Nominations for the 2026 National First Nations Water Leadership Award are now being accepted. **Submit your nomination using the online form by February 28, 2026.**

To read about the 2025 recipients and nominees, as well as past recipients, visit [National First Nations Water Leadership Award nominees and recipients](#).

**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

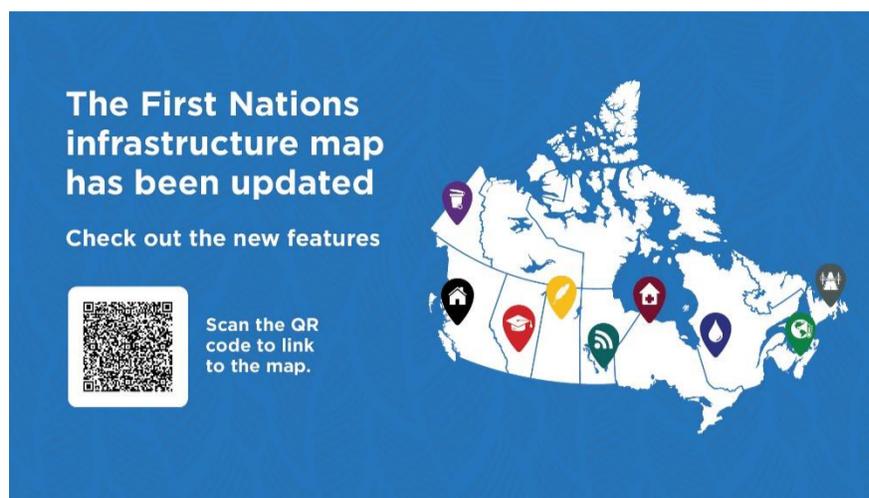
Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line
1-866-925-4419

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

Explore ISC-funded infrastructure projects across Canada

Innovative features, such as a new “Featured projects” toggle that highlights photos and stories about specific projects in First Nations communities on reserves. Stay informed with project updates, financial investments, and more.

Check out the latest updates and explore the map [here](#).



Free educational resources: Help young people make healthier choices

Free interactive online resources on a wide range of health topics are available for teachers, parents and guardians, and youth on the [Health Canada Experiences](#) website. The site features a variety of content including virtual ambassador and teacher led experiences, worksheets, and interactive games!

Cannabis educational programs include:



[Get the Facts](#) – (grades 4 to 6) Students learn the risks of using alcohol, cannabis, tobacco and vaping products, as well as helpful tips on how to combat peer pressure.



[Pursue Your Passion](#) – (grades 7 and 8) Students learn the effects of cannabis use on their brain and mental health. A teacher-led module for Indigenous communities is available in English, French, Cree, Ojibway and Inuktitut.



[All About Cannabis](#) – (grades 9 to 12) Students learn what cannabis is; its effects on mental health and brain function; addiction and stigma; and healthy habits to cope with mental health challenges.

Additional program topics offered include: [Opioids](#), [Vaping](#), [Food Safety](#), and [Tick prevention and education](#).

Visit our [toolkit](#) for free public education resources on: cannabis poisoning in children, cannabis educational programs for youth, and cannabis and mental health.

Canada invests \$19.6 million to advance Indigenous-led climate action and nature protection

On December 17, 2025, the Government of Canada [announced \\$19.6 million for 82 Indigenous-led stewardship initiatives](#) to support locally-led climate solutions, species-at-risk conservation, and First Nations Guardians programs.

Through significant investments in [Indigenous-Led Natural Climate Solutions](#), [First Nations Guardians initiatives](#), and [Indigenous Partnerships for Species at Risk](#), the federal government is supporting Indigenous leadership in efforts to fight climate change, protect species at risk, restore ecosystems and cut greenhouse gas emissions. These initiatives safeguard nature, create meaningful jobs in remote communities, strengthen cultural connections, and promote sustainable economic growth.

For more information, including background information on the funded projects, please visit the [news release](#).



Respiratory Illness Communications Toolkit

As we prepare for the upcoming season, the Public Health Agency of Canada has developed an updated [Respiratory Illness Communications Toolkit](#), that is designed to support your outreach efforts and help promote key public health messages.

[Download the toolkit!](#)

Regional

[Manitoba invests in First Nations women's homeownership through Mino'ayaawag Ikwewag](#)

The Manitoba government is [investing \\$1.125 million in a new partnership](#) with the [Manitoba Tipi Mitawa](#) (MTM) First Nations Housing Program, delivered through the Manitoba Real Estate Association, to support the purchase of homes in Winnipeg for First Nations women and their families.

The [Mino'Ayaawag Ikwewag Housing Program](#), delivered through MTM, provides education, financial literacy and guidance to First Nations women navigating the process of homeownership. It offers assistance for the purchase of first homes for First Nations women, including support for down payments and closing costs (such as legal fees and land transfer taxes). The program is open to First Nations women who are single or have children, have lived in Manitoba for at least 10 years and have total household incomes below \$106,212.

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

[New Crown-Indigenous Corporation to lead Churchill Plus project](#)

The province will [establish the Manitoba Crown-Indigenous Corporation](#) (MCIC), a first-of-its-kind partnership that will lead major economic development and trade corridor projects, including the expansion of the [Churchill Plus project](#). The corporation represents a new approach to Crown-Indigenous partnerships in Canada.

MCIC will guide the next phase of the Churchill Plus project and ensure Indigenous leadership is at the center as the project moves forward. It will also support the continued collaboration between the Manitoba government and the federal Major Projects Office as it works to develop and advance the project. The Manitoba government continues to work with First Nations leadership, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs and the Manitoba Métis Federation as it prepares to introduce legislation in March 2026 to formally establish the corporation.

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

[Universal school food program fed nearly half of students across the province](#)

The Manitoba government is celebrating a major milestone in school food programming, with new data showing an average of 93,431 students accessing food through the Manitoba Universal School Nutrition Program daily. The province tabled the 2024 to 2025 annual report on nutrition programs, highlighting the success of Manitoba's Universal School Nutrition Program, which received a \$30 million investment.

A total of 632 public schools across the province offered at least one meal program this year, 24 per cent more than the previous year. Of these, 481 schools provided multiple meals or snacks, ensuring students access to nutritious food throughout the school day. Daily student participation rose significantly, with 93,431 pupils accessing at least one meal or snack program, a 51 per cent increase from 61,773 the previous year. In total, schools provided 162,446 meals and snacks to students provincially.

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

[New provincial health report maps path to better health and reduced inequities for Manitobans](#)

The Office of the Chief Provincial Public Health Officer has released the [2025 Health Status of Manitobans Report, A Healthier Manitoba for All](#), complementary to the [2024 Regional Health Authorities \(RHA\) Indicators Atlas](#). The reports provide a clear picture of Manitobans' health, where progress is emerging and where long-standing inequities still require attention.

The reports re-enforce the importance of a health-in-all-policies approach, recognizing decisions across government directly affect health outcomes. This work is reflected in initiatives such as the expansion of the school nutrition program, enhancements to the prenatal benefit, community-based diabetes prevention supports and co-ordinated efforts aligning housing stability, income supports and access to services with health goals.

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