



Minister Gull-Masty introduces legislation to support access to clean drinking water in First Nations communities and announces historic funding commitment

On June 16, 2026, the Government of Canada introduced Bill C-37, the proposed [First Nations Clean Water Act](#), in the House of Commons, alongside the largest single commitment ever made for First Nations water – \$4.6 billion in targeted funding for water and wastewater in First Nation communities.

Bill C-37 includes provisions to:

- affirm that the inherent right of First Nations to self-government includes jurisdiction over water on, in and under their lands
- require that drinking water standards at least meet the guidelines set out in the [Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality](#) or at least meet provincial or territorial drinking water standards
- require that wastewater effluent standards at least meet the standards set out in the federal *Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulations*, or at least meet provincial or territorial wastewater effluent standards
- support the development of regulations in consultation with First Nations governing bodies to allow First Nations to administer and enforce their own water laws on-reserve

For more information and other measures included in Bill C-37, please visit the [news release](#).

Fifth anniversary report on progress to end the national crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people

June 3, 2026, marked the fifth anniversary of the [2021 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ People National Action Plan: Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ People](#). On this day, the Government of Canada released the [2025-26 Federal Pathway Annual Progress Report](#).

The report highlights federal efforts across several areas, including culture, health and wellness, human safety and security, and justice. Here are some examples of progress made over the past year:

- **163 Calls for Justice** were advanced through **171 initiatives led by 28 federal departments and agencies**.
- **38 partnerships** were established with urban Indigenous organizations to expand culturally safe registration services at **65 service points** through the [Trusted Source program](#) to overcome barriers preventing access to essential services and benefits linked to registration.
- **33 projects** were delivered through the [Supporting Indigenous Women's and 2SLGBTQI+ Organizations program](#) to create opportunities to empower and engage Indigenous women's and 2SLGBTQI+ organizations in decision-making processes that impact their lives.

For more information, including more examples of progress made over the past year, please visit the [news release](#).

Minister Chartrand launches the Build Communities Strong Fund Local Impact Stream in the North

On June 8, 2026, the Government of Canada announced that the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor) will deliver \$22.7 million of the [Build Communities Strong Fund – Local Impact Stream](#) over four years. Eligible recipients can now apply for funding for the construction and renewal of community infrastructure in the three territories. With funding for projects up to \$1 million, the program will help build new community spaces and modernize existing ones through expansions, renovations, retrofits, climate adaptation improvements, and replacements.

The [Build Communities Strong Fund](#) is a cornerstone of the Government of Canada's plan to build the infrastructure needed to build Canada strong – today and for generations to come. For information on how to apply, visit [CanNor's Local Impact Stream webpage](#). **The intake period opened June 8, 2026 and will close on July 10, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time.**

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



New Fiscal Relationship Grant

More than 210 First Nations and partners are now receiving support that gives them more funding flexibility, control over programs delivery and long-term, predictable funding agreements to meet First Nations' needs.

Your Nation, Tribal Council or First Nations-led service delivery organization may also be eligible. Express your interest by September 30. Learn [more](#) and see if your organization can apply.

Government of Canada partners with Indigenous communities to address the growing health impacts of climate-sensitive diseases

On June 18, 2026, the Government of Canada announced \$3.3 million over three years for [five projects in collaboration with First Nation, Inuit and Métis communities](#). These projects will help communities prepare for and respond to the growing health impacts of climate change on the spread of infectious diseases.

The five projects, funded through the Public Health Agency of Canada's [Infectious Disease and Climate Change Fund \(IDCCF\)](#), will support community-driven initiatives that integrate Indigenous knowledge with Western science. This work will raise awareness, build surveillance capacity, and empower communities to monitor, prevent, and respond to climate-sensitive infectious disease risks.

Funding recipients include Aurora College, the Canadian Pharmacists Association in collaboration with Indigenous Pharmacy Professionals of Canada, the Canadian Red Cross in collaboration with the Nunatsiavut Government, Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay, and Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak.

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

Government of Canada invests \$22.8 million in Indigenous sport programs to empower First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities

On June 1, 2026, the Government of Canada announced the 2026–2028 funding recipients for the [Sport for Social Development in Indigenous Communities \(SSDIC\) program](#).

Through this \$22.8-million investment, Indigenous-led projects will expand access to sport and physical activity in communities across the country. These initiatives will prioritize culturally relevant and community-designed programming to empower Indigenous people, including youth, women, girls, 2SLGBTQI+ individuals and persons with disabilities.

Since 2019, the SSDIC program, in collaboration with Indigenous-led organizations and governments, has benefited hundreds of communities across Canada. Please consult the backgrounders for a detailed list of 2026–2028 [Stream One](#), [Stream Two](#) and [Stream Three](#) recipients.

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



Regional

Five Manitoba First Nations reach major milestones in improving access to safe drinking water

On June 23, 2026, the Government of Canada announced major milestones in improving access to safe and reliable drinking water in First Nations across five communities in Manitoba. Indigenous Services Canada contributed more than \$122.2 million to support these water infrastructure projects.

- Long Plain First Nation completed upgrades to and an expansion of its water treatment plant.
- Tataskweyak Cree Nation has built a new water treatment plant.
- Berens River First Nation has completed upgrades to and an expansion of its water treatment system, allowing the community to lift its drinking water advisory in January 2026.
- Misipawistik Cree Nation completed upgrades to and an expansion of its water treatment plant.
- Tootinaowaziibeeng Treaty Reserve is nearing completion for repairs and upgrades to the water treatment plant.

These projects are helping improve the daily lives, health, and well-being of approximately 9,525 community members living on reserve. For more information, please visit the [news release](#).

Updated eligibility for free hepatitis A vaccine

Criteria for free hepatitis A vaccines have been further updated. The updated criteria are in response to the ongoing hepatitis A outbreak in Manitoba. Under the updated program, children born on or after Jan. 1, 2010, who are at least six months of age, are eligible for two vaccine doses if they:

- live in an Indigenous community in Manitoba
- travel regularly to Indigenous communities
- have household visitors from Indigenous communities

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

Manitoba government expands high-speed internet access across northern communities

The Manitoba government is advancing its commitment to expand high-speed internet access across the province by supporting Valley Fiber in a major expansion of broadband services for underserved northern communities. Under the agreement, Manitoba Hydro will grant Valley Fiber access to two unused strands of its fibre-optic network for a period of up to 20 years.

This access will allow Valley Fiber to fulfil commitments under its Universal Broadband Fund application and deliver high-speed broadband service to communities that currently lack reliable service, including First Nations and rural Manitoba communities.

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

Province of Manitoba appoints first associate chief judge of reconciliation

Judge Jerilee Ryle has been appointed as Manitoba's first associate chief judge of reconciliation for a seven-year term beginning July 2nd. An associate chief judge presides over matters in the Manitoba provincial court. The provincial court's strategic plan focuses on strengthening relationships with Indigenous nations and advancing reconciliation by building a court system that reflects Indigenous traditions, beliefs and lived experience.

Ryle has served as a provincial court judge since May 1, 2025, and previously practiced as a defence lawyer, senior Crown attorney and reconciliation lead for the Manitoba Prosecution Service. She is Anishinaabe, from Lake St. Martin First Nation and has been recognized for her work in equity, diversity and inclusion.

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

\$1 million invested to combat overdose crisis

The Manitoba government is investing \$1 million to address the ongoing toxic drug crisis and support community organizations in Winnipeg by enhancing first aid equipment, providing training for frontline staff and establishing a dedicated 24-7 mobile paramedic team in the downtown Winnipeg area.

To support front-line organizations and improve responses to overdose incidents, the Manitoba government is providing the following funding:

- Winnipeg Fire and Paramedic Service (WFPS) – \$802,000 to support a pilot mobile overdose response team serving Winnipeg's downtown
- Main Street Project – \$150,000 to manage the supply and distribution of approximately 20 oxygen delivery devices
- St. John Ambulance and Manitoba Harm Reduction Network – \$100,000 in shared funding to support intermediate first aid training and overdose response training for front-line community partners including naloxone administration and guidance on when to call emergency medical services

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