

INFO BULLETIN

INFORMATION FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

National

Issue 128

July 1 to 21, 2024

Canada apologizes to nine Dakota-Lakota First Nations communities for longstanding injustice

On July 15, 2024, the Honourable Gary Anandasangaree, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, [delivered an apology on behalf of the Government of Canada, to the nine Dakota and Lakota First Nations in Canada](#) for past harms relating to Canada's longstanding denial of their rights. Minister Anandasangaree affirmed the nine communities' status as "Aboriginal peoples of Canada" with constitutionally protected Section 35 rights. This historic apology is an important step toward healing and reconciliation which will help renew our Nation-to-Nation relationships.

This long-overdue [statement of recognition and apology](#) was delivered at a ceremony held today with Dakota and Lakota First Nations' leadership, Elders, youth and community members at Whitecap Dakota Nation. Approximately 650 people were in attendance.

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

First Nations leaders and Canada agree on a proposed reform of child and family services

On July 11, 2024, the Assembly of First Nations, Chiefs of Ontario, Nishnawbe Aski Nation and Canada [reached a \\$47.8 billion Agreement on the Long-Term Reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services Program](#). The agreement is subject to engagement with First Nations and final approvals by the parties to the agreement. This First Nations-led and designed agreement is the product of the cumulative efforts of the First Nations parties and their unwavering dedication and leadership over the past 3 years to ensure the rights of their children and communities are respected and upheld.

Building on the [Agreement-in-Principle](#) signed between Canada and the parties that previously dedicated \$20 billion over 5 years in 2021, this agreement will include \$47.8 billion over 10 years, providing stable and predictable funding over a longer period that fully supports a reformed program and accounts for the increased costs of services in remote communities.

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

Jordan's Principle External Expert Review Committee

Indigenous Services Canada is seeking professionals from various health, educational and social fields to join the Jordan's Principle External Expert Review Committee. The committee reviews appeals and provides recommendations related to Jordan's Principle.

Available positions include: orthodontist, pediatrician, registered nurse, nurse practitioner, registered social workers, child psychologist, orthopedagogists (special education teachers/specialists), registered early childhood educator, occupational therapist, pharmacist and speech language pathologist.

The deadline to [submit applications](#) to join the committee is August 13, 2024. If you have questions about these requests for proposals, contact Alexander.CormierHowie@sac-isc.gc.ca.

Government consults on Budget 2024 commitment to expand opt-in tax jurisdiction for Indigenous governments

On July 12, 2024, the Department of Finance [launched consultations on the Budget 2024 commitment](#) to establish an opt-in framework for interested Indigenous governments to impose their own Fuel, Alcohol, Cannabis, Tobacco, and Vaping (FACT) value-added sales taxes. Expanding opt-in tax jurisdiction would enable Indigenous governments to better exercise their tax jurisdiction with more flexibility. The [draft legislative proposals](#) would enable Indigenous governments to enact a value-added sales tax, under their own laws, on FACT products within their reserves or settlement lands.

The FACT sales tax would work in a similar manner to the existing First Nations Goods and Services Tax (FNGST), including by applying at the same 5% GST rate, but would be limited to FACT products. The draft legislative proposals also include other proposed amendments to the First Nations Goods and Services Tax Act to streamline administration of taxes under that Act. Indigenous governments, organizations and associations, as well as all Canadians, are invited to share feedback on these draft legislative proposals, and interest in being listed on Schedule 3, by emailing FACT-CACT@fin.gc.ca by **August 30, 2024**.

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

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The [Emergency Management Assistance Program](#) supports wildland fire non-structural mitigation and preparedness initiatives through the FireSmart funding stream. FireSmart builds skills in First Nations communities to prevent and prepare against wildland fires.

Proposals will be reviewed on an ongoing basis until funding is exhausted. For more information, including [eligibility](#) and [how to apply](#), please visit [Emergency Management FireSmart program](#).

New contribution program will focus on adapting to climate change to protect health

On July 18, 2024, the Government of Canada announced the launch of [two calls for proposals for the Climate Change and Health Capacity Building program](#). Up to \$17.7 million in funding will be awarded to support work that advances climate action in the health sector and that helps to protect the health of people in Canada from extreme heat. This funding is made available through the [National Adaptation Strategy](#) and the Government of Canada's [Adaptation Action Plan](#).

The first stream of the program will provide up to \$4.5 million to support efforts towards building climate resilient and low-carbon health systems. This stream will build on the success of Health Canada's [HealthADAPT](#) program, launched in 2018. The second stream of the program will provide up to \$13.2 million to protect the health of people in Canada from extreme heat, through the new HeatADAPT program.

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

Coming into force of legislation to establish the National Council for Reconciliation

The Honourable Gary Anandasangaree, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, issued the following statement on July 2, 2024, to mark the coming into force of *An Act to provide for the establishment of a national council for reconciliation*:

"Today marks a significant milestone in our shared journey toward reconciliation as *An Act to provide for the establishment of a national council for reconciliation* comes into force. In our shared pursuit of truth and reconciliation, this Act, which received Royal Assent on April 30, 2024, will establish the National Council for Reconciliation. It is a direct response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Call to Action 53 and provides a basis for implementing Calls to Action 54 to 56.

"The Council will be a permanent, independent, non-political, Indigenous-led organization that will reflect the diversity of Indigenous Peoples in Canada and respect the visions of Survivors. It will serve as a catalyst for innovative thought, dialogue, and action and will monitor, evaluate, and report on efforts to advance reconciliation, including implementation of the Calls to Action, at all levels of government and throughout Canada."

To read the full statement, please visit the [statement release](#).

Wildfire evacuation information for Indigenous Peoples

In the event of a possible emergency evacuation, make sure you and your family are prepared. If there is an emergency event near your home or community, you should:

- monitor the emergency through radio, television or local social media accounts for warnings or information about evacuation plans
- be ready to exercise your [emergency plan](#). Take your [emergency kit](#) and other essential items with you if an evacuation order is issued or you have to leave your home
- follow the routes specified by officials. Don't take shortcuts. They could lead you to a blocked or dangerous area

For First Nations or Inuit who are evacuated, here are a list of [supports available](#) to you. [After you've evacuated](#), you should follow evacuation orders and stay outside the evacuation zone. For more information, visit www.canada.ca/indigenousevacuations.

Vaccines prevent serious diseases from spreading

CANADA.CA/VACCINES

Canada

Regional

Manitoba government partners with Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre to establish Canada's first Indigenous-led supervised consumption site

The Manitoba government is providing [\\$727,000 to support the development of an Indigenous-led supervised consumption site in Winnipeg](#) in partnership with the [Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre of Winnipeg](#) (AHWC). The Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre will lead the service design and delivery of the new site, and a co-ordinator with Shared Health will ensure service integration with the broader provincial mental health and addiction system.

Supervised consumption sites typically include a reception area, consumption spaces and post-consumption common areas. Staff are trained to respond to accidental overdoses and other emergencies and can refer to and support patrons in accessing health and social services. The Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre is Manitoba's only urban-Indigenous community health agency.

Food safety and traceability equipment funding applications now being accepted to support Manitoba agri-food and agri-product producers

The governments of Canada and Manitoba are providing funding under [Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership](#) (Sustainable CAP) to assist Manitoba agri-food and agri-product producers and processors in adopting and improving food safety and traceability practices. The [Pre-Approved Food Safety and Traceability Program](#) assists in the purchase of pre-approved common equipment used to monitor and control food safety parameters and to improve traceability systems.

Eligible applicant groups include primary producers, agri-food processors, agri-product processors, licensed commercial kitchens, food and ingredient wholesalers, abattoirs and Indigenous communities, groups and governments. There is a maximum funding limit of \$30,000 for all food safety items and \$30,000 for all traceability items. **Applications are being accepted until January 23, 2025.**

For more information, please visit the [news release](#) and the province's [Pre-Approved Food Safety & Traceability Equipment Program page](#).

Orange Shirt Day fund will advance reconciliation

The Manitoba government [created the Orange Shirt Day Fund](#) to support events and activities that encourage Manitobans to reflect on the impacts of the residential school system. Orange Shirt Day, also known as [National Day for Truth and Reconciliation](#), is a day to recognize and reflect on the tragic history and ongoing legacy of residential schools, honour the survivors and remember the children who never returned home.

To mark the historic event, the province has allocated up to \$800,000 in funding to establish the Orange Shirt Day Fund. The fund will provide one-time grant funding in 2024, for projects and initiatives that advance truth and reconciliation by raising awareness of Orange Shirt Day and creating opportunities for Manitobans to come together in observation, reflection and commemoration.

Applications for the fund are now open and due August 1, 2024. For more information on the grant program, including eligibility and how to apply, please visit [Orange Shirt Day Fund](#).

Federal government supports upgrades to the Neeginan Centre

The [Neeginan Centre](#) is getting infrastructure upgrades after [an investment of more than \\$21.1 million](#) from the federal government. The Neeginan Centre is an important hub in downtown Winnipeg that provides programs and services to support the educational, social, and economic needs of Indigenous Peoples in the community.

Funding will support improvements to the 100-year old heritage building to address safety, accessibility and environmental concerns. This work will include upgrades to the , lighting, heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning systems in the building, resulting in energy savings and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and will help ensure that the centre can keep serving Indigenous communities for generations to come. For more information, please visit the [news release](#).

Governments of Canada, Manitoba invest in community-led projects addressing gender-based violence

The governments of Canada and Manitoba are working together to end gender-based violence (GBV) in Manitoba by combining over [\\$6.2 million in federal funding with \\$6.35 million from Manitoba through year 2 of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence](#). This year's funding will support 19 GBV-focused community initiatives across the province.

The bilateral funding agreement is part of the second year of a comprehensive 10-year National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence which aims to create a Canada free of GBV and provide support to victims, survivors and their families across the country. Supported initiatives align with 5 pillars: supports for survivors and their families; prevention; responsive justice system; implementing Indigenous-led approaches; and social infrastructure and enabling environment. For more information, please visit the [news release](#).

Emergency Management Assistance Program

In partnership with First Nations communities, provincial and territorial governments and non-government organizations, the [Emergency Management Assistance Program](#) (EMAP) helps communities on reserve access emergency assistance. EMAP provides funding to First Nations communities so they can build resiliency, prepare for natural hazards and respond to them using the 4 pillars of emergency management: mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

If your community is facing an imminent threat or is actively responding to an emergency caused by natural hazards such as wildfire and floods, please contact the ISC Manitoba Region 24/7 duty officer at **1-855-850-4647**.