



## National

Issue 137

November 18 to December 15, 2024

### First Annual Report on Registration under the *Indian Act*, First Nations Membership and Status Cards

The first edition of the [Annual Report on Registration under the Indian Act, First Nations Membership and Status Cards](#) for the 2023 calendar year is now available on ISC's website.

Canada committed to publish an annual report in response to the Standing Senate Committee on Indigenous Peoples' recommendations in their report titled [Make it stop! Ending the remaining discrimination in Indian registration](#). In addition to fulfilling this commitment, the report also promotes transparency by providing information and statistics on registration, First Nations membership and status card issuance. In 2023, nearly 160,000 individuals received registration, membership and/or status card services, and more applications were processed than any year in the past 25 years.

ISC welcomes the opportunity to demonstrate its efforts and progress towards improving service delivery and eliminating inequities in registration and membership.

### Canada Post strike: What to expect regarding service delays

We understand that while Canada Post has resumed its delivery services, there may still be delays in receiving or sending important documents and services. We want to assure you that Indigenous Services Canada remains committed to providing you with continued support, and we are actively working to minimize disruptions. If you experience any delays, we've provided helpful links below to ensure you can access the latest information on key programs and services. We encourage you to use these links for updates:

- [Jordan's Principle](#)
- [Non-insured health benefits for First Nations and Inuit](#)
- [Estates services for First Nations](#)
- [Trust moneys](#)
- [Indian status](#)
- [Get, renew, or replace a status card](#)
- [Supporting Inuit children](#)
- [Treaty annuity payments](#)

If you have any immediate questions or need further assistance, please contact us directly at 1-800-567-9604.

### Statement by on the passing of Bill S-13 and strengthening Aboriginal and treaty rights by amending the *Interpretation Act*

On November 27, 2024, the Honourable Arif Virani, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, issued the following statement to mark the Royal Assent of [Bill S-13, An Act to amend the Interpretation Act and to make related amendments to other Acts](#):

"Bill S-13 changes the federal *Interpretation Act*, a key piece of legislation that guides how federal laws are interpreted, by adding a [non-derogation clause](#) (NDC). This clause ensures that all federal laws, statutes, and regulations are interpreted in a way that upholds, and does not diminish, Aboriginal and treaty rights recognized and affirmed in Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

"[...] Previously, 31 federal acts had individual non-derogation clauses, many with slightly different wording. This inconsistency created uncertainty. With the passage of Bill S-13, 28 NDCs will be immediately repealed, while three will remain, following the recommendations of Indigenous Peoples."

To continue reading, please visit the [statement 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](http://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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## PRIME MINISTER'S AWARDS

#PMAwards

Do you know an outstanding educator or teacher? Honor their impact by nominating them for the [2025 Prime Minister's Awards!](#)

Whether you are a student, parent, colleague or community member, submit a nomination for an educator or teacher who has positively influenced others.

- [Nominate an early childhood educator](#)
- [Nominate a teacher](#)

### Application period now open for the Community Sport for All Initiative

On November 14, 2024, the Government of Canada [announced a new call for proposals under the Community Sport for All Initiative](#). National organizations, or those capable of delivering projects across multiple provinces or territories, are invited to submit proposals.

The [Community Sport for All Initiative](#) focuses on removing barriers to participation for underrepresented groups including Black, Indigenous and racialized communities, persons with disabilities, 2SLGBTQI+ people, persons with low incomes, seniors and newcomers. Successful proposals will work with local groups to ensure sport opportunities are available for everyone.

**The deadline to submit applications is December 23, 2024, 11:59 pm local time.** For more information, including [eligibility](#) and [how to apply](#), please visit the [application guidelines page](#) and [Community Sport for All Initiative – Sport Support Program](#).

### Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund

Indigenous communities and municipalities are now able to apply online to the [Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund](#) (CHIF). On November 7, 2024, the Government of Canada [announced \\$1 billion through the CHIF's direct delivery stream](#) which provides communities across Canada with funding to build or improve their critical infrastructure—such as drinking water, wastewater, stormwater and solid waste. Applicants will need to clearly demonstrate how their proposed projects will support more homes by expanding or improving critical infrastructure.

**Indigenous applicants will have until May 19, 2025, 3 pm Eastern Time to submit their applications.** Join a [webinar](#) to learn more about the CHIF direct delivery stream, including eligibility requirements and [how to develop and submit an application](#). If you are interested in registering for a webinar, please email the CHIF at [chifwebinar-webinairefcil@infcc.gc.ca](mailto:chifwebinar-webinairefcil@infcc.gc.ca).

For more information, please visit the [news release](#) and [Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund](#).

### Government of Canada launches Youth Mental Health Fund to support community organizations and better mental health services for youth across Canada

On November 18, 2024, the Government of Canada [launched the first call for proposals](#) under the [Youth Mental Health Fund](#). Organizations can apply for funding to increase access to community-based mental health care for young people across Canada.

The fund will help community organizations expand the mental health care services they offer to youth, add capacity and fill gaps and ensure they are integrated within the broader healthcare system. It will also help community organizations link into [Integrated Youth Services](#) networks and/or provincial and territorial health systems. **The deadline to submit a proposal is January 22, 2025.**

For more information, including [eligibility](#) and [application guide](#), please visit [Youth Mental Health Fund: Call for proposals 2024](#).

Ready for a career where your lived experiences and knowledge can be applied to delivering programs that truly matter?

We're all about collaboration, team spirit, and advancing reconciliation with Indigenous communities. With work-life balance, hybrid work, and tons of support like access to Elders and Indigenous career counsellors, we've got you covered.

Curious to learn more? Join our information sessions or [apply now!](#)



## Regional

### New provincial strategy to empower Indigenous women, girls, Two-Spirit and gender-diverse people

[Mino'Ayaawag Ikwewag](#) (all women doing well) is a 4-year, 10-pillar strategy that takes a whole-of-government approach to address the national crisis of MMIWG2S+ people. The \$20 million strategy includes a \$15 million endowment fund to support MMIWG2S+ families and \$2.2 million in empowerment and prevention grants for programs and services for Indigenous women, girls, Two-Spirit and gender-diverse relatives. Other initiatives include:

- \$750,000 for [All Nations Co-ordinated Response Network's Safe Ride program](#)
- \$160,000 for the Fisher River Cree First Nation healing space at the corner of Osborne Street and Morley Avenue in Winnipeg to support urban Indigenous relatives, including housing and wraparound services
- \$60,000 for Norway House Cree Nation to host an annual Healing and Family Gathering to bring together families impacted by the loss loved ones to share with others the healing experience

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

### First Indigenous-led family care centre coming to Winnipeg

A community centre run by [Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre](#), an Indigenous-led community resource organization in Winnipeg, will be redeveloped into Manitoba's [first dedicated Indigenous-led family care centre](#), after an investment of \$4.2 million from the federal government. This project is further supported by \$300,000 in funding previously announced by the Government of Manitoba, as well as additional contributions from other partners, including \$800,000 from Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre Incorporated.

In the heart of Winnipeg's Elmwood neighbourhood, the Larsen Family Care Centre will be Manitoba's first Indigenous-led, dedicated facility of its kind. The site will serve the surrounding community as a drop-in space offering a range of trauma-informed and culturally relevant family resources, wrap-around support services, and programming to nurture children and families.

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

### Expanding high-speed Internet access for rural and Indigenous communities in Manitoba

On November 15, 2024, the Government of Canada announced over [\\$38 million in federal funding for 4 projects under the Universal Broadband Fund](#) and support from Indigenous Services Canada to bring high-speed Internet access to 3,611 households in [14 rural and remote communities](#) across Manitoba. This includes 3,135 Indigenous households. The funding is provided through the [Universal Broadband Fund](#), a program designed to ensure that Canadians in rural, remote and Indigenous communities have access to reliable high-speed Internet.

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

### Long Plain First Nation to improve safety at Portage hospital

The Manitoba government is [launching a 3-month pilot project](#) with Long Plain First Nation Safety Officers (FNSO) stationed at Portage District General Hospital to enhance safety and security for patients and front-line workers. Through the initiative, First Nation Safety Officers from Long Plain First Nation will patrol the hospital and its surrounding campus, parking lots and properties on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 4 pm to 2 am.

As peace officers trained in public safety, crime prevention and de-escalation techniques, the FNSOs will perform duties that enhance safety and security.

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

### First Nations, Canada and Manitoba come together to improve winter roads

On November 28, 2024, the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Indigenous Services [gathered with First Nations leaders in Winnipeg to discuss the upcoming winter road season](#). This meeting, co-hosted by the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC), followed the roundtable held in Ontario and provided an opportunity to discuss innovative solutions to the challenges faced by First Nation communities that rely on winter roads.

Indigenous Services Canada announced up to \$20 million in additional funding over 4 years, beginning in 2024, to support upgrades and improvements to winter roads in Manitoba. The funding will be guided by the input of First Nations communities to ensure the uninterrupted delivery of essential goods and supplies.

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

## Addictions, Community & Mental Health Worker Diploma Program

Indigenous Services Canada is excited to sponsor another cohort of Manitoba region mental wellness workers through Commonwealth College's [Addictions, Community & Mental Health Worker Diploma Program](#). There are 32 spots available with entry dates in 2024 to 2025 for individuals who wish to become certified and trained in how to deal with addiction and substance use work at the community level.

The program is open to Manitoba First Nations individuals who wish to have a career in addictions, community and mental health work, or for those already working in their community or at a treatment centre. Tuition, including registration fees, e-books, supplies and a laptop, are provided at no cost to the student.

For those interested in applying, please [get in touch with Commonwealth College](#) at (204) 944-8402 or by email at [info@commonwealthcollege.ca](mailto:info@commonwealthcollege.ca). For more information about the program, please visit the [Addictions, Community & Mental Health Worker Diploma Program](#).

## Helping to keep Indigenous women safe in Brandon

The Manitoba government is providing [\\$500,000 to support a new 24-7 safe space in Brandon](#) where Indigenous women, two-spirit and gender-diverse people at risk of harm can escape violence, build supportive relationships and help each other heal. The new 10th Street Safe House, also known as Franny's Place, will include 10 bedrooms, bathrooms, a shared kitchen, laundry facilities and a living room and dining area. Residents will be able to engage in positive activities based on their interests including beading, cooking, baking, painting, growing plants, playing bingo and woodworking.

This space will also offer a 24-7 drop-in service, providing outreach services, intake assessments and other supports for people awaiting placement in the safe house or another safe program. The program is supported by Keegawegeein (I'll Help You), a volunteer committee of wise Indigenous women from the community who provide support rooted in the Seven Sacred Teachings.

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

## Manitoba government reaffirms commitment to community-led HIV prevention, intervention projects

The Manitoba government is reaffirming its [commitment to support person-centred, culturally-safe initiatives that improve access to HIV prevention and intervention](#). The province has invested over \$8 million on initiatives to increase access to care for care for sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections (STBBI) and promoting awareness of HIV in Manitoba, including, but not limited to:

- removing barriers to accessing HIV medication by providing [pre-exposure prophylaxis \(PrEP\)](#), post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) and antiretroviral therapy (ART) for free
- funding community-based projects that improve access to HIV prevention and intervention
- supporting ongoing work with [Ka Ni Kanichihk's Mino Pimatisiwin Sexual Wellness Lodge](#) to provide Indigenous-led and culturally-safe care

[HIV in Manitoba 2023: Annual Surveillance Update](#) was released on December 2, 2024. The annual report provides epidemiological trends of HIV in Manitoba, said Asagwara, noting this data is critical for developing new and adapting existing initiatives to ensure they effectively meet community needs.

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



Vaccines prevent  
**serious diseases**  
from *spreading*

