

Assembly of First Nations

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ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
July 14-15-16, 2026, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 43/2026

TITLE: Increase and prioritize federal funding for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People

SUBJECT: MMIWG, 2SLGBTQQIA+

MOVED BY: Chief Raymond Powder, Fort McKay First Nation, AB

SECONDED BY: Chief Veronica Smith, Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation, ON

DECISION Approved by the AFN Executive Committee by consensus.

WHEREAS:

A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:

- i. Article 22(2): States shall take measures, in conjunction with Indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.
- ii. Article 39: Indigenous peoples have the right to have access to financial and technical assistance from States and through international cooperation, for the enjoyment of the rights contained in this Declaration.

B. In August 2016, the Government of Canada launched the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (National Inquiry), resulting in a Final Report in June 2019 that details 231 Calls for Justice. These include:

- i. Call for Justice 1.5: We call upon all governments to immediately take all necessary measures to prevent, investigate, punish, and compensate for violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people.
- ii. Call for Justice 3.7: We call upon all governments to provide continual and accessible healing programs and support for all children of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people and their family members. Specifically, we call for the permanent establishment of a fund akin to the Aboriginal Healing Foundation and related funding. These funds and their administration must be independent from government and must be distinctions based.

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There must be accessible and equitable allocation of specific monies within the fund for Inuit, Métis, and First Nations Peoples.

- C. There has been limited substantive progress in achieving the Calls for Justice, although the Government of Canada launched an MMIWG2S+ horizontal funding initiative in 2021 across various federal departments. The total investment was \$12.9 billion.
- D. The Government of Canada announced a decision in Federal Budget 2025 to make spending reductions across all departments, including \$2 billion cuts to Indigenous Services Canada and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada.
- E. Multiple Indigenous organizations have publicly expressed concern that the federal government is now allowing critical time-limited MMIWG2S+ program funding to expire, or “sunset”, because of departmental budget cuts. Funding renewals and sufficient alternate support have not been provided, limiting the impact of local, provincial and national Indigenous organizations working to address violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People.
- F. Violence continues at an alarming rate in Canada against First Nations, including men and boys, significantly out of proportion to our representation in Canada’s population.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the First Nations-in-Assembly:

- 1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to advocate that the federal government increase and prioritize funding to support MMIWG2S+ programming in Federal Budget 2026 and beyond, in line with the Calls for Justice:
 - a. Funding must be predictable, accessible and long-term, recognizing the ongoing nature of this work and the planning and operational needs of First Nations organizations.
- 2. Direct the AFN to call on the federal government to expand awareness of and support for Missing, Murdered and Exploited Indigenous Peoples (MMIEP), as well as grassroots efforts among First Nations to support impacted families and end violence in our home territories by:
 - a. Supporting First Nations-led public education and awareness campaigns.
 - b. Allocating sustained and targeted funding for family support, victim services, community healing, cultural supports, and grassroots initiatives.
 - c. Improving coordination and information-sharing among federal departments, police services, and First Nations governments, while respecting First Nations data sovereignty and privacy rights.
 - d. Supporting First Nations-led safety, prevention, search, outreach, and community response initiatives.
 - e. Publicly reporting on progress, funding allocations, and implementation of MMIEP-related commitments and Calls for Justice.

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