



Dayagen Togada Mani:
10 Years of Action Supporting Truth
and Reconciliation in Saskatchewan

Land Acknowledgement

Saskatchewan is located on the traditional and ancestral lands of the Dene, Nehiyaw (Plains Cree), Nehithaw (Woodland Cree), Nehinaw (Swampy Cree), Nahkawé (Saulteaux), Nakota, Lakota, Dakota and the home of the Métis. The Government of Saskatchewan acknowledges and recognizes the immense contributions Indigenous people have made to what we now call Saskatchewan. We acknowledge past harms and reaffirm our commitment to partnership and reconciliation.

Cover Photo: Bryan Eneas/Tourism Saskatchewan

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Context of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) was officially established in 2008 through a legal settlement between Residential Schools Survivors, the Assembly of First Nations, Inuit representatives and the parties responsible for creation and operation of the schools: the federal government and the church bodies.

The mandate of the TRC was to inform all Canadians about what happened in residential schools. The TRC documented the truth of Survivors, their families, communities and anyone personally affected by the residential school experience. This included First Nations, Inuit and Métis former residential school students, their families, communities, the churches, former school employees, government officials and other Canadians.

The TRC concluded its mandate in 2015 and transferred its records to the safekeeping of National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

On June 2, 2015, the TRC released a summary report on the experiences and legacy of Canada's residential schools. The report contained 94 Calls to Action (CTA). The final report was released in December of that year.

The 94 CTA were grouped under themes and are directed at federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments as well as community organizations, post-secondary institutions, First Nations and Métis leaders and others. Those CTA were used to create the sections of this report.

Saskatchewan's then-Premier Brad Wall released a statement of commitment to reconciliation and to the creation of a multi-ministry team to examine the report, build on successes and adopt practical solutions to address the legacy of residential schools.

This document, *Dayagen Togada Mani: 10 Years of Action Supporting Truth and Reconciliation in Saskatchewan*, does not include every action taken by Saskatchewan but provides a high-level overview of efforts across all ministries, agencies and Crowns. Readers will see references to the Calls to Action being addressed in each section. Detailed information on the Calls is available on the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation [website](#). In the writing and publishing of this document, the Government of Saskatchewan recognizes the value of reflecting on its response to the Calls to Action in the past decade and acknowledges that there is more work to do to support reconciliation in the province.

Dayagen Togada Mani meaning "moving ahead in a good way" in Nakota. This title was written in consultation with Nakota language speakers and Elders who suggested a focus on the future rather than the past. While this document provides a selection of government actions over the past decade, it is also intended to guide acts of truth and reconciliation into the future.

Note that the term "Aboriginal" was widely used in the TRC documents to denote First Nation, Métis and Inuit people. At the time of the TRC release, it was the correct collective noun used to describe this population. However, governments now use the term "Indigenous" when recognizing First Nation, Métis and Inuit people of Canada. The Government of Saskatchewan uses "Indigenous" throughout this document.



The first Coordination Agreement in Canada is signed by the Government of Canada, the Government of Saskatchewan and Cowessess First Nation in July 2021.

Child Welfare

Responding to Calls to Action: Child Welfare (1, 5)

The TRC cited changes to child welfare as its top priority for the CTA due to the disproportion of Indigenous children in care, which resulted in children losing their languages, cultures and ties to their communities. The Government of Saskatchewan has taken a number of actions to support Indigenous and youth to connect to their cultures, languages and communities.

The Child and Family Programs division within the Ministry of Social Services actively engages and collaborates with First Nation and Métis Elders and Knowledge Keepers from across the province. For more than 20 years, the ministry has funded community-based organizations to offer Indigenous

cultural supports and services such as talking circles, culturally based parenting programming, ceremonies and teachings from Elders and Knowledge Keepers to children, youth and families. Traditional talking circles offer a culturally sensitive approach in resolving a dispute between a family and the Ministry of Social Services.

The ministry has actively engaged with Elders and Knowledge Keepers to not only support and guide families but also to support the ministry to better serve children, families and caregivers within the child welfare system. In many ministry office locations, cultural spaces are available for the Elders and Knowledge Keepers to meet with employees and/or families to be able to smudge and to participate in cultural teaching and activities. The development of these resources also includes the delivery of culturally based programming to families in keeping with their local traditions and customs.

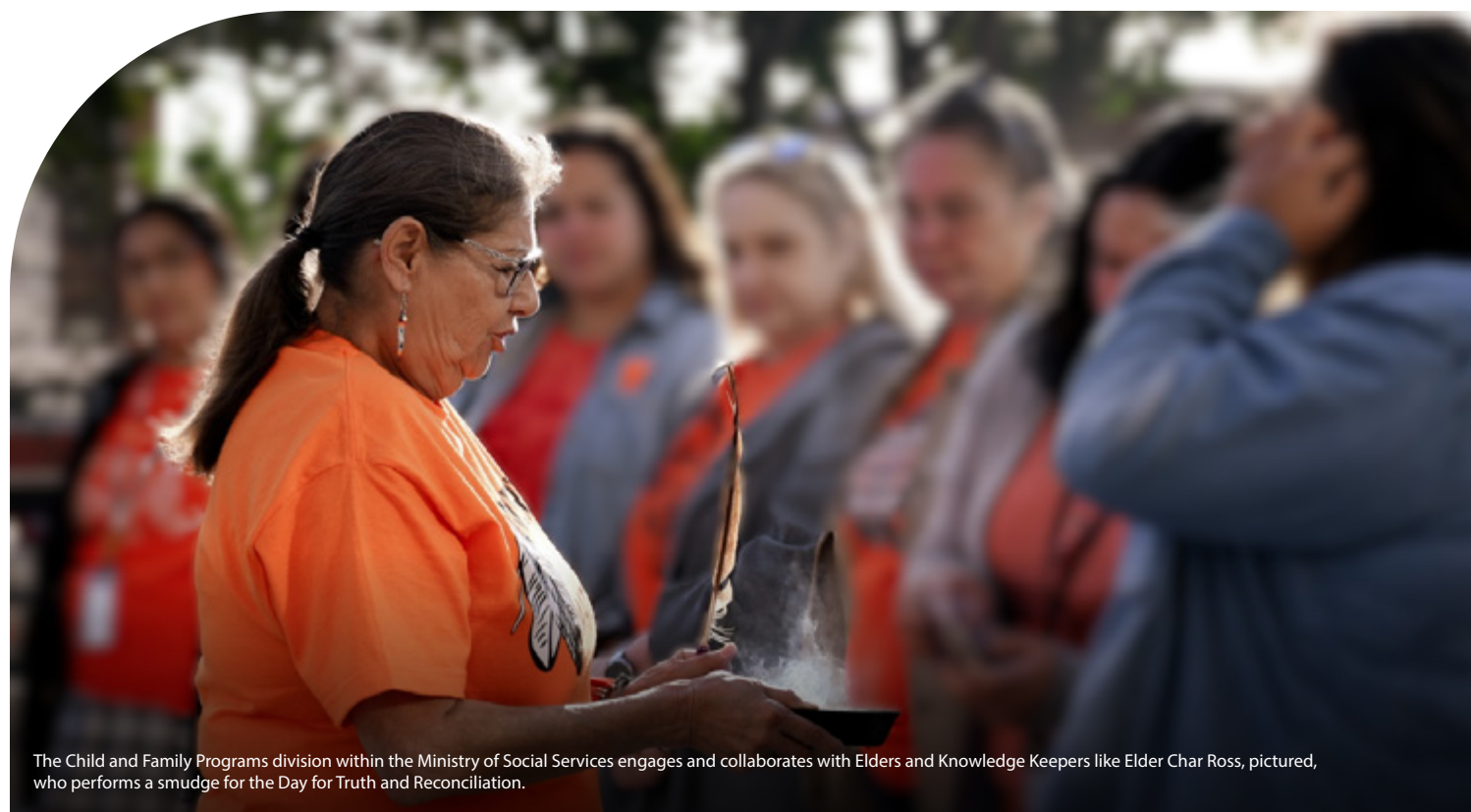
There have been many ways that reconciliation within the child welfare system has been initiated in Saskatchewan, one of the first being the launch of Touchstones of Hope curriculum. Initially provided by First Nations Child and Family Caring Society, locally trained Indigenous facilitators foster the curriculum's guiding values of self-determination, culture and language, holistic approach, structural interventions and non-discrimination. This program engages with all staff who work in the child welfare sector across the province including Ministry of Social Services, First Nation Child and Family Service agency and community-based organization staff. The basis for Touchstones of Hope is that reconciliation cannot be classified as a single event, rather a movement carried forward through ongoing events, moments between Indigenous and non-Indigenous individuals and, most importantly, relationship building.

There are 19 First Nation Child and Family Service agencies across Saskatchewan that provide a range of child and family services to support the safety, wellness and cultural identity of Indigenous children. Through delegated authority under *The Child and Family Services Act*, each agency delivers child protection services in its member communities. Many also offer prevention-based programming that focuses on family reunification, early intervention

and community wellness. This reflects a shared commitment to reconciliation and to creating better, culturally appropriate services for Indigenous children and families in Saskatchewan.

In June 2024, *The Child and Family Services Amendment Act, 2023*, came into force, resulting in improved outcomes for children, youth and families.

Amendments to the Act focused on strengthening language in the Act to enhance family, community and cultural connections for children and youth. These amendments prioritize the best interests of the child to recognize the unique cultural aspects of Indigenous children and requires preservation of the child's Indigenous identity, experience and connections in case planning. In addition, other factors played into the importance of the placement within the child's extended family or community as the preferred environment, the care and upbringing of the child and the importance of involving the community in planning with Indigenous children and families. The definition for "extended family" has been added to the Act: "includes a person to whom a child is related through familial, kinship or spousal relationships, adoption or the customs of Indigenous peoples." This emphasizes a broader lens on the interpretation of family to preserve and promote meaningful relationships with family, culture and community.



The Child and Family Programs division within the Ministry of Social Services engages and collaborates with Elders and Knowledge Keepers like Elder Char Ross, pictured, who performs a smudge for the Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

The amendments also expand confidentiality and information-sharing provisions to allow information to be more accessible to meet the best interests of the child and former child in care. These changes balance the child's right to know who they are and where they come from with the privacy rights of others. This underscores the importance that children in care, or who were previously in care, have a right to better understand their identity, story, family and community connections. This helps with clarifying their life story and can potentially assist with healing from the trauma that may have occurred in their lives.

In July 2021, then-Chief of Cowessess First Nation, Cadmus Delorme, Premier Scott Moe and then-Prime Minister Justin Trudeau signed the first Coordination Agreement in Canada. Coordination agreements can be signed when an Indigenous governing

body exercises jurisdiction over child welfare under the federal framework of "An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families, S.C. 2019, c. 24." This was a momentous event for the Cowessess First Nation and the Government of Saskatchewan and integral in establishing the Chief Red Bear Children's Lodge on Cowessess First Nation as the organization responsible for the programs and services. The Ministry of Social Services continues to work collaboratively with Cowessess First Nation to fulfill the objectives of the agreement, which is currently led by Chief Red Bear Children's Lodge.

Muskeg Lake began Coordination Agreement table discussions with the ministry and the federal government in October 2023, Okanese First Nation in February 2023, and Red Pheasant Cree Nation in November 2025.



The first Coordination Agreement in Canada is signed by the Government of Canada, the Government of Saskatchewan and Cowessess First Nation in July 2021.

opikinawasowin (opik)

An Elder led and Ministry supported endeavor

Ministry of Social Services employees met with Elders in Saskatoon in June 2025 to ensure common understanding of opikinawasowin, build connection and discuss the challenges facing children and families in Saskatchewan.

Opikinawasowin

The opikinawasowin (opik) hearing process was originally implemented to address two significant issues in child welfare law in Saskatchewan: the significant overrepresentation of First Nation and Métis families and the increasing pressures on the judicial system to deal swiftly with court applications under *The Child and Family Services Act*. Opikinawasowin, a Plains Cree word that means “holding children in high esteem,” is the name given by a Métis Elder to a traditional method of dispute resolution that has been adapted to child protection proceedings in Saskatchewan. It encompasses all teachings, ceremonies, traditions and practices of raising children. Traditionally, when families needed help, Elders from the community would work with the parents on behalf of the children to heal, strengthen or reunify the family unit. The Ministry of Social Services has embraced the opik process as a traditional reconciliation approach used in addressing issues, ensuring that the voice of the child is at the centre of all planning.

An opik includes a Council of Elders that meets with the family, their supports and their caseworker to provide First Nation and Métis families an alternative, non-adversarial hearing process. At the conclusion of the opik, the Council of Elders informs the court of their decision for the children in writing and by advising the court directly.

The first opik was held in Saskatoon in July 2003. The opik process, given its less formal, more inclusive and culturally respectful approach grounded in traditional teachings, has expanded to other opportunities to resolve not only conflict but also to proactively co-develop case plans with children, youth and families. First Nation and Métis families have said they feel more comfortable participating in an opik because it provides a safe forum for children and parents to participate in resolutions that affect them. The Elders promote and maintain respect within the circle and often provide teachings and recommend traditional programs of assistance to the child, youth and/or family.



A crowd, including His Honour Russ Mirasty, former Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, gather at Government House in Regina on September 30, 2024, for the premiere of The Crown and Indigenous People video series.

Addressing the Legacy of Education

Responding to Calls to Action: Education (7, 12), Education for Reconciliation (62, 63), Business and Reconciliation (92)

The TRC Final Report calls upon government to develop and implement learning resources on Indigenous peoples in Canadian history and the history and legacy of residential schools with Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. This section also includes a CTA to develop culturally appropriate early childhood education programs for Indigenous families. The initiatives below demonstrate examples of the Government of Saskatchewan's work under this CTA.

In August 2021, the Ministry of Education signed the Canada-Saskatchewan Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement. One of the key priorities is to engage with First Nations and Métis early learning and childcare organizations to develop a coordinated system that reflects Saskatchewan's First Nation and Métis peoples.

The ministry meets with the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN) Early Learning and Child Care Circle and Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S) on initiatives and areas of collaboration within Canada-Saskatchewan Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement.

The ministry engages and provides funding to Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies and Dumont Technical Institute for the development and delivery of culturally responsive Early Childhood Educator (ECE) professional learning and certification.

Over the years, the ministry has had ongoing collaboration with the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies and Dumont Technical Institute on several initiatives including to offer tuition-free ECE training and professional learning opportunities and bursaries for Indigenous learners under the Canada-Saskatchewan Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement. This includes the development and delivery of an advanced certificate in Indigenous ECE at the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies. This training reflects cultural values and builds the knowledge base of the sector to understand and reflect First Nation and Métis ways of knowing through their work.

The Ministry of Education, with the help of Moose Jaw's Sacred Heart Community School's youngest students, launched Help Me Tell My Story in 2017. Help Me Tell My Story was a holistic and interactive tool used between 2017 and 2022 to measure the oral language development of a child. It was based on First Nation and Métis content and knowledge and helped improve the understanding of early learners in Saskatchewan, to set them up for future success and was available to every Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten child in the province. Ensuring equitable outcomes and improved student achievement for First Nation and Métis students is a priority for the Government of Saskatchewan and, with the assistance of the Help Me Tell My Story tools, teachers, school divisions and the ministry were able to better support the students from the very start of their school careers.

The Inspiring Success: First Nations and Métis PreK-12 Education Policy Framework continues to guide the development of First Nation and Métis education plans at the provincial, school division and school levels and to ensure that Indigenous perspectives and ways of knowing shape the learning experience for all students. Inspiring Success also guides strategic actions at all levels of the provincial education sector to improve outcomes for First Nation and Métis learners. Inspiring Success supports the infusion of Indigenous content, perspectives and ways of knowing into renewed curricula to benefit all learners; teaching Indigenous cultures, languages and histories in the classroom; building positive relationships; reconciliation; and mandatory Treaty education. Métis and First Nation organizations, Elders and Traditional Knowledge Keepers, provincial PreK-12 education stakeholders and teacher education programs worked with the Ministry of Education to renew this policy framework. It is also informed by key learnings from the Joint Task Force on Improving Education and Employment Outcomes for First Nations and Métis People (2013), the province-wide Student First engagement (2014), the Following Their Voices initiative and other education sector initiatives.

Supported by the Ministry of Advanced Education, the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies offers a variety of professional development opportunities to address the need for a certified ECE workforce that includes more Indigenous people and perspectives. The Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies Childhood Education Program is rooted in Indigenous worldviews, perspectives, history, literature, engagement with Elders and land-based education practices. It highlights the importance of Indigenous approaches to child development and provides culturally relevant strategies for ECE professionals to use in their practices.

Crown Investments Corporation has expanded its Indigenous Bursary program to include several regional colleges throughout the province, providing more than \$500,000 to Indigenous students across Saskatchewan in 2024-25. Starting in 2025-26, Gabriel Dumont Institute and Northlands College will be added, bringing total support up to \$575,000 annually.

The Provincial Capital Commission worked with the Lieutenant Governor's Office and community representatives to complete a three-part video series *The Crown and Indigenous People*. The series was completed in October 2024 and is featured in the J.E.N Wiebe Interpretive Centre at Government House as well as through the Government House website. The three parts included are: Treaty, Residential Schools and Truth and Reconciliation. While all three topics are complex, these videos were developed as introductions to encourage questions and further independent knowledge seeking. During the summer of 2025, the videos were featured in exhibits at the Western Development Museum and Fort Carlton.

Following Their Voices

Launched in 2015, Following Their Voices is a made-in-Saskatchewan education initiative designed to improve learning outcomes for First Nation, Métis and Inuit students by fostering culturally responsive, student-centred learning environments. The initiative was developed through extensive research and engagement with Indigenous students, families, educators and school administrators, alongside guidance from Elders and Knowledge Keepers representing all Indigenous language groups in the province.

Following Their Voices is grounded in the belief that strong relationships between students and teachers, engaging and well managed classrooms, and culturally affirming teaching practices are essential to student success. The initiative equips participating schools with structured training, resources and ongoing support to help school teams transform classroom interactions through reflective teaching, student voice and community collaboration.

Each year, approximately 1,000 teachers participate in the initiative. In the 2025-26 school year, there are 45 schools involved, including:

- 1,200 school staff including teachers and administrators
- 18,500 students with 10,000 self-declaring as First Nation, Métis or Inuit

Following Their Voices: Demonstrating Student Success Over 10 Years

Graduation within three years:

- Indigenous students achieving this milestone increased from 32 per cent (228 of 713) to 45 per cent (448 of 995) - a 13-point gain, compared to a 10-point provincial increase. This represents 220 more Indigenous students graduating within three years than a decade ago.

Credit attainment (8+ credits per year, Grades 10–12):

- Indigenous students achieving this milestone rose from 24 per cent (883 of 3,679) to 31 per cent (1,400 of 4,516).
- Non-Indigenous students achieving this milestone rose from 59 per cent (1,953 of 3,310) to 69 per cent (2,670 of 3,870).
- In real numbers, 517 more Indigenous students and 718 more non-Indigenous students achieved this milestone compared to baseline.
- Following Their Voices schools outperformed provincial trends, demonstrating that the program is a key driver of success for Indigenous learners.

- The Indigenous student cohort grew from 713 to 995, indicating more students are staying in school and progressing toward graduation.

Over the last two years, Following Their Voices has developed and implemented three new online tools designed to improve teacher practice and student learning. A Clarity Pack assists teachers to develop effective lessons. The student Check-in Tool gathers student voice data on the impact of teachers' lessons on student learning. The Peer Observation Tool allows teachers to watch one another teach, develop a goal, create an action plan and later reflect on the degree to which the goal was achieved. Changes in learning are evident. Over the course of the last school year there was:

- A 23 per cent increase in Indigenous students who could clearly explain what they were learning in class.
- An eight per cent increase in Indigenous students who could use appropriate language to self-assess their learning. The initiative includes provincial schools, First Nations schools, a joint provincial/federal school, an alternative independent school and a campus of the Distance Learning Centre.

The initiative includes provincial schools, First Nations schools, a joint provincial/federal school, an alternative independent school and a campus of the Distance Learning Centre.

Following Their Voices is an example of reconciliation in practice where provincial education systems, Indigenous communities and student voices work together to build classrooms where every Indigenous learner can thrive. As Saskatchewan reflects on 10 years of progress responding to the TRC's CTA, Following Their Voices stands out as a model of meaningful, sustained and community-led change in education.



The Dene Teacher Education Program is four-year Bachelor of Education program focused on Dene language instruction and First Nations ways of learning.

Language and Culture

Responding to Calls to Action: Language and Culture (14, 17), Education for Reconciliation (62)

The TRC Final Report called on governments to protect and revitalize Indigenous cultures and languages. Through project funding and support for Indigenous language programs in universities and first-language classes in elementary schools, Saskatchewan works toward fulfilling this commitment.

Through the Ministry of Advanced Education, the Government of Saskatchewan provides \$50,000 annually for three Indigenous Language Scholarships through the First Nations University of Canada. The scholarships were announced in 2023 to retain current students and foster growth in the number of students pursuing Indigenous language programming.

The ministry also supports multiple Indigenous language teacher education programs with instruction delivered in Dene and Cree in various communities, including programs such as a four-year Bachelor of Education program focused on Dene language instruction and First Nations ways of learning. Since 2018-19, enrolment in teacher education programs across northern Saskatchewan has grown from 62 to 161 students in 2025-26.

Indigenous language teacher education programs have many positive impacts including improving options for and access to higher education in Saskatchewan, increasing the number of Indigenous teachers in the province and increasing the retention and graduation rates of Indigenous learners Kindergarten to Grade 12. In January 2024, funding was approved to expand the Cree Teacher Education Program and Dene Teacher Education Program into Waterhen Lake First Nation and Hatchet Lake Denesuline Nation which will enable more students in northern communities to learn their traditional languages.

For children in Kindergarten to Grade 12, the increase in Indigenous languages teachers in the province supports the growth of Indigenous language curricula, including locally developed language courses. A provincial Aboriginal Language framework for Kindergarten to Grade 12 is currently posted and a new level 1 to 9 First Nations-Métis Language Framework is in development.

For students in high school, 10, 20 and 30 levels of nēhiyawēwin, Dene, Nakawe, Nakota, Dakota and Michif are available and a French Michif program is in development.

The Government of Saskatchewan is making efforts to protect and preserve Indigenous cultures through actions that support individuals to reclaim their traditional names. The TRC called on governments to enable residential school survivors to reclaim their traditional names free of administrative costs. In Saskatchewan, eHealth has received three name change requests since 2015. All three name changes have been processed and 100 per cent of fees have been waived. Similarly, SGI will waive administrative costs for individuals though no requests have been received as of 2025.

The Ministry of Social Services offers the Saskatchewan Income Support Program. Program clients can choose their preferred name when engaging in conversations about their benefits or when discussing their case planning objectives, ensuring a client-centric approach to program delivery respecting personal identity and culture.

Communities in Saskatchewan can apply for grant funding from SGI to pay for traffic safety projects. Funded through the Provincial Traffic Safety Fund program, the program was launched in 2019 and has funded safety initiatives like bilingual Stop signs in Cree and English at Thunderchild First Nation and Pelican Narrows (2023), and Cree traffic signs at Grandmother's Bay Indian Reserve (2020) and James Smith Cree Nation (2023). Bilingual traffic signs help all drivers and pedestrians to understand local traffic laws and can help preserve the local languages.

Chief Long Lodge Education Centre

Carry the Kettle First Nation's Chief Long Lodge Education Centre is a First Nation Adult 12 School for students 16 to 21 years old. The education centre aims to provide new learning opportunities for community youth to not only advance their western education but incorporate traditional education into their curriculum.

In June 2025, Chief Long Lodge Education Centre was one of the successful applicants of the Ministry of Government Relations' Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls+ Community Response Fund. This fund supports projects with up to \$40,000 to raise awareness, promote prevention and build safety for families and communities. The project, Nurturing Family Foundations Through Culture and Identity, focused on fostering family and community resilience through a unique cultural and educational experience that included a camping trip for students in the Nakota homelands in Saskatchewan's Cypress Hills.

The project gave the students an opportunity to deepen their understanding of Nakota traditions, to connect with their ancestral lands and to learn through direct experience about their cultural heritage that forms the foundation of their identities. There was a strong emphasis on reinforcing the value of kinship, history and community ties in shaping strong families and future leaders.



Knowledge Keeper and Nakota historian, Matthew Spencer, indicates on a map the traditional Nakota territories during the "Nurturing Family Foundations Through Culture and Identity" project in Cypress Hills.

"We all have to know who we are and where we come from. That is a must. This project gave our students an opportunity to learn that and be proud of the generations that came before them, and now, to move forward in a good way. That is reconciliation."

-Jan Thomson,
Chief Long Lodge Education Centre's former
Program Coordinator

Jan Thomson, Chief Long Lodge Education Centre's former Program Coordinator said, "This grant funding gave our students an opportunity to experience ceremonies, traditional hunting protocols, kinship systems and traditional parenting methods. These experiences will inspire our students to become Knowledge Keepers in areas such as Nakota ceremonies and build that safety for our women and girls." Thomson reiterated, "We all have to know who we are and where we come from. That is a must. This project gave our students an opportunity to learn that and be proud of the generations that came before them, and now, to move forward in a good way. That is reconciliation."



The Saskatchewan Health Authority Truth and Reconciliation Steering Committee spent time learning more about Métis culture, traditions and history at the Gabriel Dumont Institute Culture and Heritage Gallery in Saskatoon in December 2024.

Health

Responding to Calls to Action: Health (18, 22, 23), Youth Programs (66), Business and Reconciliation (92)

The Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) made a formal commitment to the TRC CTA in 2019 during a public signing event at the First Nations University of Canada with the Saskatchewan Health Authority Board Chair and CEO, MN–S, FSIN, the Ministry of Health, Traditional Knowledge Keepers and youth.

The SHA established an Implementation Working Group to monitor progress on goals set out in the commitment. The working group reports to SHA senior leadership and to the community on its progress. The working group has initiated a number of actions including enhancing cultural safety and anti-racism training for staff and physicians; increasing recruitment and retention initiatives as well as advancement opportunities for Indigenous staff; and incorporating traditional healing spaces and culturally responsive models of care into the builds of several major projects across the province in partnership with First Nation and Métis organizations.

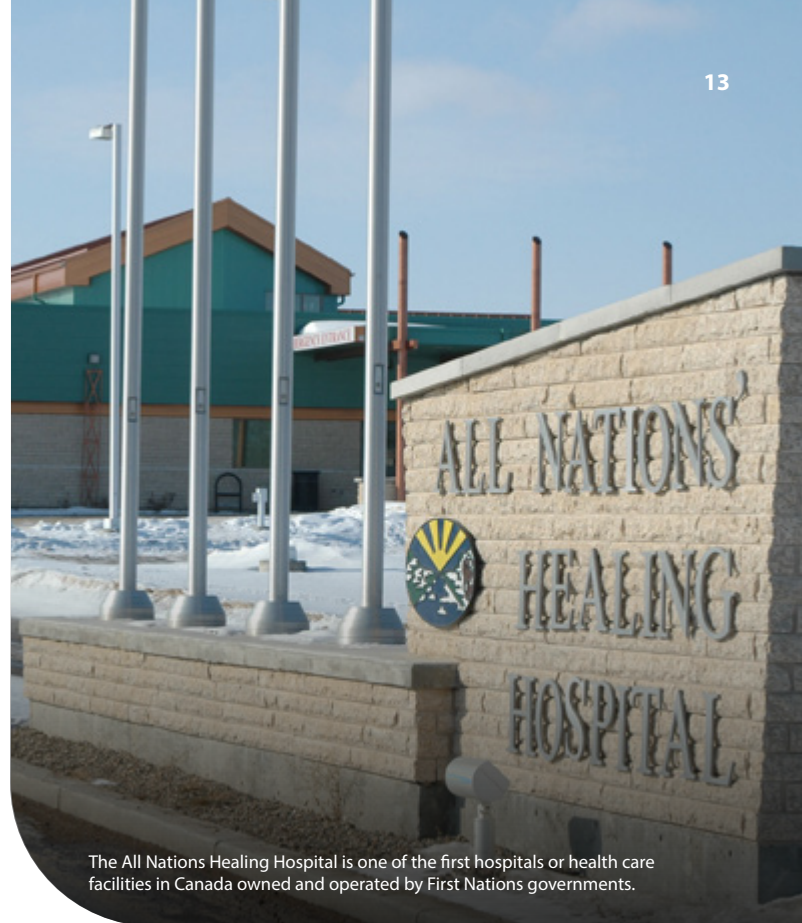
The SHA established a Truth and Reconciliation Steering Committee to provide accuracy and accountability for the implementation of the authority's Truth and Reconciliation commitments. The steering committee is co-chaired by the SHA's Chief Operating Officer and Vice President of First Nations and Métis Health Services and consists of a Knowledge Keeper, Patient Family Partner, First Nation and Métis Health directors and a cross-section of Senior Leadership Team executive directors.

The FSIN-led Cultural Responsiveness Framework was developed in partnership with the Ministry of Health, health system partners and First Nation community members. The framework speaks to the importance of harmonizing traditional healing practices with western medicine and is used by the SHA to help inform its cultural responsiveness strategies, including the use of traditional healing approaches and medicines.

The Traditional Pathways Program was introduced at a ceremony in 2020 in Regina. This unique, culturally responsive program acknowledges the practices and approaches of traditional medicine and its contribution to health and wellbeing. While not directly delivering this care, the SHA provides information to patients wishing to access the ways of traditional medicine and directs them to a Medicine Person for support and service.

The We Ask Because We Care initiative which collects Indigenous self-identification at registration in all SHA acute care facilities began in 2021. In 2025-2026, the authority's focus is on developing an Indigenous information governance framework with community engagement to guide the use of self-identification data. The evolution of this work supports the Call to establish measurable goals to identify and close the gaps in health outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

The Traditional Knowledge Keepers Advisory Council provides ongoing guidance and recommendations to the SHA on implementing system change to better meet the needs of First Nation and Métis individuals, families and communities.



The All Nations Healing Hospital is one of the first hospitals or health care facilities in Canada owned and operated by First Nations governments.

A SHA Systemic and Indigenous-specific Anti-racism Framework is complete and work has begun on implementation with the development of a training package.

First Nations and Métis Health Services Health Educators deliver culturally relevant health promotion, provide system navigation support and advocate for the incorporation of patient preferences into treatment plans. Their role ensures care is culturally safe and barriers are addressed where and when they arise. They help coordinate services like transportation, Non-Insured Health Benefits and other community resources. They participate in both inpatient and discharge care planning which includes helping patients and families understand these plans. They also assist with Indian status and MN-S registration for newborns, ensuring connections to First Nations and Métis-specific supports. Health Educators also provide education and mentorship to healthcare team members on providing culturally responsive care. They facilitate referrals to First Nations and Métis Health Services Cultural Support Workers who provide traditional knowledge, cultural connection and assist with things like advanced care planning.

The Government of Saskatchewan supports several health and wellness centres operating close to or within First Nation communities to decrease structural barriers to accessing healthcare.

The All Nations Healing Hospital, an affiliate of the SHA, is one of the first hospitals or health care facilities in Canada owned and operated by First Nations governments. All Nations Healing Hospital clients can access Indigenous Elders, traditional healing practices and medicines alongside conventional western medicine practices on-site.

The Ministry of Health provided \$2.5 million in capital funding toward the Lac La Ronge Indian Band Wellness, Healing and Recovery Centre. The centre opened in June 2022 and is a blend of both western and traditional approaches to health and wellbeing. When the centre opened, then-Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Seniors and Rural and Remote Health Everett Hindley said, "Our government is pleased to provide capital funding for this project. This contribution is an opportunity to participate in an innovative model of care that is community-driven and culturally responsive. I want to extend a sincere thank you to the project team, community members, leaders, and elders for making this project a success."

In September 2019, the Government of Saskatchewan announced funding for a new Thunderchild Wellness Centre located northeast of Turtleford. Then-Minister of Trade and Export Development and Immigration and Career Training Jeremy Harrison noted the benefits the \$4.5 million investment would bring to the area, saying, "Once built, the wellness centre will help improve quality of life and give the community a new facility they can be proud of."

Ministry of SaskBuilds and Procurement, on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan, entered into an agreement with the Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation to build an Urgent Care Centre in Saskatoon. Ahtahkakoop will own the land and the building for the Urgent Care Centre, which will be operated by the SHA under a long-term lease. Construction is expected to be completed in fall 2026.

"Our government is pleased to provide capital funding for this project. This contribution is an opportunity to participate in an innovative model of care that is community-driven and culturally responsive."

-Everett Hindley,
Then-Minister of Mental Health and
Addictions, Seniors and Rural and
Remote Health



A bird's-eye view of the Boston Bear Youth Camp shows youth gathered in a circle around the tipis during a group activity.
Photo: Boston Bear Youth Mental Health Program

Boston Bear Youth Mental Health Camp

In 2022–23, the Government of Saskatchewan provided \$212,000 to the FSIN to support the Boston Bear Mental Health Camp, a land-based mental health and wellness camp with a focus on engaging urban First Nation youth. This investment represented a broader recognition of the need for Indigenous-led mental health programs that are community-driven, culturally informed and responsive to the realities faced by young people in the province.

In September 2022, more than 65 Indigenous youth ages 14 to 18 gathered at Gillis Lake for the inaugural Boston Bear Youth Mental Health Camp. The camp was co-hosted by the FSIN and Flying Dust First Nation and was inspired by the vision of Boston Bear, a young person from Ochapowace First Nation who created the program from his own lived experience growing up with mental health challenges.

Supported by his father, a trained outfitter, and with guidance from FSIN, Boston Bear's vision was brought to life in a five-day land-based camp that provided participants with a safe, supportive environment to explore mental wellness. The camp combined outdoor experiences, cultural teachings and traditional knowledge with open conversations about mental health, aiming to reduce stigma and foster resilience. Youth had the opportunity to engage in land-based learning, connect with Elders and Knowledge Keepers and build meaningful relationships with peers who shared similar experiences.

The Boston Bear Youth Mental Health Camp is a powerful example of what is possible when youth voices are supported. Through the leadership of Boston Bear and the commitment of the FSIN, the camp was a meaningful step forward in supporting Indigenous youth wellness in Saskatchewan.



Cultural and Community Coordinator Sarah Fahlman stands in front of the Regina Correctional Centre Healing Garden, where inmates can grow medicinal plants and explore Indigenous cultures.

Justice

Responding to Calls to Action: Justice (30, 31, 33, 36, 38, 40)

Saskatchewan has many province-wide, community-based offender accountability initiatives that respond to CTA including alternative measures and youth extrajudicial sanction programs. These initiatives provide alternatives to the incarceration of offenders and help to address the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in custody. Many of these programs are delivered by Tribal Council or First Nation partners. Province-wide fine options and community service programs provide clients with alternative options to the traditional justice system while still holding them accountable for their actions.

The Government of Saskatchewan entered a partnership with the Saskatoon Tribal Council to provide Indigenous-led transition programming to offenders.

The Ministry of Community Safety signed a three-year contract with the Saskatoon Tribal Council to develop and deliver culturally supportive programming that helps adult male offenders successfully reintegrate into their communities and reduce returns to custody. The *sîtoskatôwin* (Cree for “to lift each other up”) program at Urban Camp was introduced in 2024 and sees correctional workers and the Saskatoon Tribal Council jointly creating tailored case plans for men leaving custody. Urban Camp at the Saskatoon Correctional Centre also provides inmates services ranging from landscaping, building and property maintenance, cleaning, community gardening, construction, event clean up and disaster relief support. While there, inmates can access onsite counselling for addictions and programming for domestic violence, culture, spirituality, grief, trauma, literacy, parenting, vocational and employment.

In late 2022, \$1.2 million was provided for the Saskatoon Tribal Council's ikwēskīcik iskwēwak program (Cree for "Women turning their lives around"). The reintegration program is designed to provide up to 18 months of intensive supports for female offenders. This program offers housing, transportation and support for mental health, substance misuse, culture, income assistance, education, employment and family reunification with the goal of reducing returns to custody.

At the time of the announcement, then-Corrections, Policing and Public Safety Minister Paul Merriman said, "Our government is committed to addressing the root causes of crime and recidivism in the province and to trusting community partners like the Saskatoon Tribal Council to use their cultural knowledge and experience to deliver programs that help offenders find stability as productive members of their communities."

Beginning in the spring of 2025, the ministry expanded its engagement with Regina Treaty Status Indian Services at both the Regina Correctional Centre and the Paul Dojak Youth Centre. Through this partnership, Regina Treaty Status Indian Services provides reintegration support, cultural guidance and healing circles for interested participants. To date, more than 200 inmates have engaged in this initiative, strengthening cultural identity, promoting community connection and supporting transition planning for release.

In 2022-23, Saskatchewan supported kichiwasiminawak (Woodland Cree for "Our Children"), a land-based program in Stanley Mission that connected adult and youth offenders with their culture, language and heritage while working closely with Elders and community members. Offenders were eligible for this program through alternative measures or extrajudicial sanctions programs.

The provincial Gang Violence Reduction Strategy, supported by the Ministry of Community Safety and Justice and Attorney General, includes funding a Community Intervention Model focussed on helping high-risk, gang affiliated individuals exit gang life and become successful in their communities. In 2024-2025, 120 individuals actively participated in phased programming and 43 clients received 231 tattoo removal sessions.

The Ministry of Community Safety is working to evolve First Nation Policing and public safety in Saskatchewan towards a service delivery model focused on community safety priorities with a goal of building safer and healthier communities and reducing the number of Indigenous people in custody.

Provincially, \$23.7 million has been invested to support the First Nation Policing Program in 2025. This funding supports the continuation of the First Nations Community Safety Officer pilot project, the self-administered File Hills First Nation Police Service and community tripartite agreements that deliver dedicated RCMP policing services to 45 First Nations in the province.

The First Nations Community Safety Officer pilot enables First Nations to focus on high-priority, low- risk-to harm activities in their communities, permitting police of jurisdiction to remain focused on complex community safety and serious criminal enforcement activities. After three years, a positive impact on public safety had been shown in communities involved in the project and as a result, the pilot has been extended by two years to allow for further review.

The Ministry of Community Safety supports initiatives related to Gladue factors which continue to be a priority for information gathering and assessment purposes. Gladue factors take into account circumstances of a self-identified Indigenous accused's life for a judge to consider while deciding on a sentence. These can include personal and community histories as well as trauma such as colonialism and its ongoing impacts.

In 2021, Community Corrections revised provincial policies which ensured Gladue factors were addressed consistently and thoroughly throughout Indigenous youth and adult pre-sentence reports.

The Ministry of Community Safety employs a Director of Indigenous and Chaplaincy Services who oversees a cultural coordinator in each adult correctional facility and youth secure custody facility. These positions coordinate Indigenous services for offenders, offer information and training for staff and assist with the reintegration. Further, the ministry maintains a number of service agreements with Elders and chaplains who deliver cultural/

spiritual programs and services to offenders within custody facilities including teaching traditional spiritual and cultural ways, addressing identity issues, healing from the legacy of residential schools and counselling from an Indigenous perspective. These Elders and chaplains are a valuable bridge to community supports for ministry clients when returning to their home community.

Smudging is practiced by clients in correctional facilities and sweat lodge ceremonies are held on a regular basis. To aid in the facilitation of ceremony, new cultural lodges were constructed at the Paul Dojack Youth Centre, Prince Albert Correctional Centre, Regina Correctional Centre, Saskatoon Correctional Centre, Pine Grove Corrections Centre and Kilburn Hall Youth Centre. Drumming, singing and other Indigenous teachings are offered to offenders upon their request. As part of traditional healing practices, a medicine garden was built at the Regina Correctional Centre and opened fall 2024, to be tended to and used by the participants from the Regina Correctional Centre Cultural Program.

The Ministry of Community Safety organized two Indigenous youth camps in March and November 2022. The two-week camps had youth from both northern and southern regions. Each camp had guest speakers from the Indigenous communities to lead and engage youth on discussions regarding Indigenous history and teachings. Activities included skinning and meat preparation, storytelling, land-based teachings, nature hikes, daily talking circles, daily smudging, ceremonial teaching, a pipe ceremony and sweat ceremonies.

In addition, annual onsite cultural camps are now hosted at Paul Dojack Youth Centre in Regina with the most recent held in fall 2025. These camps engage youth in storytelling, ceremony, traditional teachings and mentorship, helping them strengthen identity, wellness and connection to community.

The Ministry of Justice and Attorney General funds five crime prevention programs in three communities: PA Outreach in Prince Albert, Indigenous Christian Fellowship and Rainbow Youth Centre in Regina, and Safe House and Saskatoon Downtown Youth Centre in Saskatoon. These

programs focus on at-risk children and youth, particularly Indigenous youth in urban areas, and provide services to address the causes of crime and victimization and prevent youth from entering the justice system.

The ministry also funds school-based restorative justice programs serving 11 Saskatoon high schools, as well as schools in the Yorkton Tribal Administration six member nations: Yorkton, Grenfell, Broadview and Pinehouse. These programs help young people resolve conflict, develop leadership abilities, build positive relationships and resiliency, enhance their academic skills and support mental health and wellness in schools.

The ministry continues to fund Aboriginal Courtworker programs in a 50-50 funding partnership with the federal government to help ensure Indigenous people who come before criminal courts receive fair treatment. Ten Aboriginal carrier agencies offer courtworker services in Saskatchewan.

Indigenous Resource Officers are established in six police-based victim services programs throughout the province to provide specialized assistance to Indigenous victims of crime and their families. The programs also advocate within the criminal justice system on behalf of Indigenous victims of crime. Many Indigenous Resource Officers and other Indigenous police-based victim services staff work with local Elders to build closer working relationships with Indigenous communities and support Indigenous victims of crime more effectively.

Victim/Witness Services work with Elders in their communities to provide support for children and other vulnerable victims and witnesses who are required to testify in court. Soft rooms exist in centres around the province. These rooms have been enhanced to provide culturally sensitive environments to meet the needs of Indigenous victims and witnesses and provide a comfortable, non-threatening atmosphere where they can provide their statement regarding an offence or, in some cases, provide testimony from outside the courtroom.

Indigenous Family Violence Programs provide culturally appropriate, community-based programs that help Indigenous families that live in urban centres to deal with various forms of abuse or violence. Indigenous Family Violence Programs offer a more comprehensive and holistic service to address the issue of family violence in cooperation with other agencies working in the family violence area. Programs operate in four communities: Battlefords, Prince Albert, Regina and Yorkton.

Launched in 2021, the Northern Transportation and Support Initiative is a Saskatchewan-based program assisting individuals and families living in the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District who are fleeing interpersonal violence and abuse. The initiative was developed in response to address systemic challenges in the north including geographic isolation, limited infrastructure and financial barriers which may make it extremely difficult for people to access safety.

Delivered by North Saskatchewan Victim Services Inc., the Northern Transportation and Support Initiative provides emergency transportation, transitional financial support, safety planning and referrals to community-based services for women, families and vulnerable youth aged 16 and 17 who may not otherwise have the means or resources to leave unsafe environments. The program is rooted in trauma-informed and culturally responsive practices, acknowledging the unique needs and experiences of northern and Indigenous communities. By addressing the logistical and financial barriers that often prevent people from escaping violent situations, the Northern Transportation and Support Initiative ensures those in the north have access to the same safety and support services available elsewhere in the province.

Since its inception, the Northern Transportation and Support Initiative has served individuals from more than 70 remote communities across northern Saskatchewan. These communities, many of which are only accessible by gravel road or air, often lack transition houses or emergency shelters. Each case is handled with care and urgency, ensuring a coordinated and compassionate response that prioritizes the safety and dignity of every person who reaches out for help.

To complement the Northern Transportation and Support Initiative, the Transportation Reimbursement Policy provides province-wide funding to agencies offering low-barrier transportation and emergency supports for women and their accompanying children who are fleeing violence. Eligible agencies can recover costs for travel, fuel, third-party services or emergency supplies, ensuring victims can safely access safe shelters, medical care, forensic examinations, and community supports without financial burden.

As Saskatchewan strengthens its trauma-informed response to interpersonal violence, these transportation and support initiatives stand out as essential components of the province's broader commitment to safety, equity and reconciliation. By ensuring that no one is isolated from support, these initiatives offer a lifeline to those who need it most and represent a meaningful step toward a more responsive and inclusive system of care.

A Domestic Violence Death Review is a collaborative, multi-sectoral process that examines domestic violence-related homicides to identify risk factors, systemic gaps and opportunities for earlier intervention. Drawing on both professional and lived expertise, the review generates recommendations aimed at preventing future tragedies and improving public safety.

Saskatchewan's first Domestic Violence Death Review report was released in 2018, and the results of the province's second Domestic Violence Death Review were released in early 2025. In Saskatchewan's second Domestic Violence Death Review, regional case review teams were introduced for the first time. This allowed for:

- Localized, in-depth analysis of domestic violence-related deaths across different parts of the province.
- Inclusive, regionally grounded perspectives, particularly from the northern region, where resources, risks, and community contexts differ.
- A stronger understanding of place-based factors, such as geographic isolation, access to culturally relevant services and emergency response challenges.

This structure led to a more equitable and comprehensive understanding of domestic violence patterns — acknowledging that experiences and risks vary in urban, rural, northern, and Indigenous communities.

The Status of Women Office leads and coordinates Saskatchewan's multi-sector Implementation of the National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence, which contains key actions that support "Pillar Four, Indigenous-led Approaches," under the National Action Plan.

Grant funding is available to community-based organizations to support programs and activities that help women live safer, healthier and more prosperous lives. The Status of Women Office's grant funding is focused on supporting programs and services that include Indigenous-led approaches to learning and knowledge sharing. In the 2025-26 fiscal year, funding was provided to several organizations including the Ile-à-la-Crosse Friendship Centre to expand outreach supports in the areas of cultural programming, Elder supports, traditional

teachings and Indigenous focused programming. Funding was provided to the Weyburn Big Brothers/Big Sisters for the Ignite girls camp which works with Elders and an Indigenous Knowledge Keeper to develop culturally relevant materials.

The Family Information Liaison Unit provides trauma-informed, culturally grounded support to families of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQ+ people. In collaboration with the FSIN and the MN-S, the unit helps families navigate government systems, access available information about their loved ones and connect with supports that honour both emotional and cultural needs.

The Family Information Liaison Unit's approach is family-centred and collaborative, ensuring that services reflect the unique needs of each family and community. Guided by Indigenous values and practices, the unit often integrates Elder involvement, ceremony and traditional healing alongside practical assistance with information requests and justice-related processes.



Annual onsite cultural camps are hosted at Paul Dojack Youth Centre in Regina. These camps engage youth and help strengthen identity, wellness and connection to community.

Through this work, the Family Information Liaison Unit:

- Supports healing and trust-building by ensuring families are heard, respected and empowered to guide their own journey.
- Bridges gaps between families, government agencies and community-based services to improve access to information and resources.
- Raises awareness of systemic barriers and advocates for change informed by lived experiences.

CTA #33 calls upon governments to develop programs to prevent Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) in collaboration with Indigenous people “that can be delivered in a culturally appropriate manner.” Since 2016, in partnership with other Saskatchewan ministries and Crown corporations, the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General has led work with northern communities requesting support to decrease the impacts of alcohol misuse on safety and well-being through collaboration and best practice.

Since 2021, the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority has provided funding for salaries and benefits for two program managers within the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General to support and expand the Northern Alcohol Strategy. The Northern Alcohol Strategy is an initiative of the Community Safety and Well-Being Branch, whose personnel work, when invited by communities, to support and measure the implementation of community-led, evidence-based approaches to address alcohol misuse and its impacts.

The Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority supports FASD prevention and awareness through yearly grants to the FASD Network and the Saskatchewan Prevention Institute’s FASD Prevention Program, with total funding for these programs exceeding \$1.1 million since 2018. Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority has also provided supports for other programs designed to help youth develop informed approaches to alcohol use, including programs developed for northern communities in collaboration with the Northern Alcohol Strategy.

Police and Crisis Teams

The Police and Crisis Teams (PACT) program is a collaborative mental health initiative between Saskatchewan’s municipal police services and the Saskatchewan Health Authority. PACT responds to the CTA for realistic alternatives to imprisonment for Indigenous offenders while responding to the underlying causes of offender behaviour. It is designed to support individuals experiencing mental health and addictions crises by providing timely, on-site interventions that prioritize compassion, de-escalation and access to appropriate community-based services.

PACT currently operates in Saskatoon, Regina, Prince Albert, Moose Jaw, Yorkton, North Battleford and Estevan. The mobile teams are composed of a police officer and a mental health professional — typically a social worker or psychiatric nurse — who respond together to crisis situations with the goal of reducing unnecessary hospital visits and minimizing involvement with the criminal justice system.

PACT plays a vital role in shifting how mental health and addiction crises are handled in Saskatchewan. The Government of Saskatchewan has continued to invest in the program, recognizing its value through enhanced funding, expanded staffing and broader geographic coverage. PACT’s impact is evident in the number of individuals diverted from hospital emergency rooms, the increased capacity for front-line officers to manage mental health situations and the strengthening of ties between healthcare, policing and community-based services.



The first Indigenous Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, His Honour Russ Mirasty, centre, pictured with his wife Donna and dancers during the Lieutenant Governor's Canada Day Celebration at Government House in 2024.

Professional Development

Responding to Calls to Action: Professional Development and Training for Public Servants (57), Education for Reconciliation (62), Business and Reconciliation (92)

Prior to the 2015 TRC Final Report, the provincial government engaged and partnered with Indigenous communities through a dedicated area established in 1990: the Saskatchewan Indian and Métis Affairs Secretariat. The role of the secretariat was, among other things, to promote and implement government policies and programs related to the social and economic development of Indigenous people. Through this secretariat, the historical Saskatchewan Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement in 1992 was signed. The Saskatchewan Indian and Métis Affairs Secretariat has evolved alongside the province's reconciliation awareness, and its work now forms an important part of the Ministry of Government Relations.

The Government of Saskatchewan has made continuous strides over the last decade to integrate truth and reconciliation into the public service. From training opportunities to cultural celebrations and efforts to build and strengthen relationships with provincial Indigenous partners, Saskatchewan's public service is committed to an inclusive and evolving workplace culture.

One way the government works toward achieving this goal is through the creation and promotion of Senior Indigenous Advisor positions throughout executive government. These positions and their work respond to the Call to establish senior-level positions in government dedicated to Indigenous content. Senior Indigenous Advisors are evolving senior level positions strategically focused on building capacity of cultural knowledge and protocols, building relationships with First Nation and Métis communities and networks and providing strategic advice and expertise on policy, program development and planning across ministry leadership and other areas of government when requested.

The Ministry of Education was the first ministry to introduce the position in 2012 in anticipation of the TRC report. Since then, nine additional ministries have created the position: Advanced Education; Agriculture; Community Safety; Energy and Resources; Justice and Attorney General; Parks, Culture and Sport; Public Service Commission; SaskBuilds and Procurement; and Social Services.

As well, some ministries and Crowns have established Indigenous Engagement or Indigenous Relations positions and units to advance reconciliation.

Indigenous awareness training is mandatory for all executive government employees. The introduction of this training began in March 2016 when the Public Service Commission requested a five-session pilot program “Aboriginal Awareness,” delivered by the Office of the Treaty Commissioner. The success of the pilot led to a request for proposals and, in 2017, the one-day course was delivered by Aboriginal Consulting Services, an Indigenous, Saskatchewan-based firm. The training builds awareness of the histories of Indigenous people, including the impact of residential schools, treaties, the journey of the Métis, Indigenous law and contemporary issues. Aboriginal Consulting Services was awarded the contract with the Public Service Commission again in 2022 and works with the agency to ensure course content is up to date and continuously improving.

As of March 31, 2025, approximately 11,300 Government of Saskatchewan staff have completed this training.

Since 2023-24, the Ministry of Social Services offers additional online Indigenous Awareness training, which is encouraged as a component of ministry onboarding. The training is viewed as an opportunity to improve outcomes for Indigenous clients through staff education and is available to all current employees. The training is a self-paced interactive course offered by the Indigenous Leadership Development Institute.

Indigenous Awareness Training is also mandatory for staff at the Saskatchewan Research Council and by the end of 2025-26, all 400+ staff and board members will have taken the in-person training. One goal of this training is to help the Saskatchewan Research Council create a culturally safe workplace, attract and retain Indigenous talent and build authentic, meaningful relationships with Indigenous communities. Many ministries, Crowns and agencies also offer training to staff through The Blanket Exercise. This half-day training provides a brief overview of Indigenous rights in Canada, exploring the major themes and findings of the Royal

Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. Further, the exercise explores the historical relationship between the British Crown and Indigenous people and examines the effects of colonization like residential schools and the Sixties Scoop.

Crown Investment Corporation offers its Indigenous Cultural Awareness Program training to the entire Crown sector. All Crown employees are eligible to attend and, since the program’s inception, more than 2,500 Crown employees have received training. While each Crown corporation has its own approach, most Crown employees are required to take some form of formal Indigenous awareness training.

Additional training is offered to executive government employees through virtual avenues, including the 4 Seasons of Reconciliation course. This program includes several interactive modules featuring Saskatchewan-based stories. The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency made the 4 Seasons of Reconciliation course mandatory training in 2023.

Each fiscal year, the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency delivers a minimum of six initiatives focused on Indigenous awareness and reconciliation, including:

- Engagement-based learning activities, such as drum-making workshops that offer immersive cultural experiences
- Virtual education sessions, making reconciliation learning accessible to staff across the province
- Awareness campaigns through blogs, newsletters and symbolic items like pins, designed to promote inclusive language and cultural understanding in the workplace

A standout initiative is the weekly “Words Matter” blog, which explores problematic terminology and promotes inclusive language. Many posts throughout the year have focused specifically on Indigenous-inclusive language, reinforcing the agency’s dedication to respectful and culturally sensitive communication.

Speakers, Elders and facilitators are often invited to speak with government staff to teach about the history of colonization, the impact of residential schools and the importance of reconciliation. One example is the Métis Speaker Series at the Ministry of Government Relations which is focused on Métis experiences in Saskatchewan and invites highly regarded Métis Knowledge Keepers and experts in areas such as Métis history, culture, identity, language, education, art, law, community building and governance to share their knowledge with staff. The series was launched in November 2024 and consisted of four virtual sessions.

Saskatchewan's Ministry of Justice and Attorney General prioritizes ongoing Indigenous awareness and education for all staff. Ministry staff regularly receive training and education sessions on Indigenous and First Nations issues related to history, protocol and ceremony. Prosecutors receive training regarding working with Indigenous witnesses and victims. Coroners receive training designed to help them understand the diversity of Indigenous communities and to provide appropriate services to families in Indigenous communities.

The Ministry of Community Safety has assumed leadership of Indigenous cultural awareness and protocol training for all new hires across correctional institutions and community operations, ensuring that all staff receive consistent, culturally informed training grounded in the TRC CTA.

The Ministry of Immigration and Career Training has implemented initiatives to increase employee knowledge and connections with Indigenous communities to ensure the ministry is successful in its goal to grow Indigenous participation in the Saskatchewan workforce. The ministry created a Reconciliation Wall and hosted Sharing Circles, which provided an opportunity for participants to share their knowledge about Indigenous history, fostering a deeper understanding among staff.

During the week of Truth and Reconciliation Day, the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority hosts staff Lunch and Learn online sessions offered by the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority also encourages staff to use online educational sessions that explore allyship, empowerment, and how to create a more culturally safe environment in which Indigenous community members can reconnect with their cultural identities and heal generational trauma.



Left to right: Brenda Sarsah, Paul Huber, Rosalie Lizée, Jacob Pratt and Josephine Elendu

Ministry of Social Services staff participate in The Blanket Exercise on September 16, 2025. The Blanket Exercise provides a brief, half-day training on Indigenous rights in Canada, as well as the historical relationship between the British crown and Indigenous people.



Members of the Ministry of Agriculture Indigenous Engagement Unit attend the Ag in Motion farm show.



Shelly Daniels, from Gordon's First Nation, has worked for the Government of Saskatchewan since 2007 and witnessed the impacts of the TRC CTA on the public service.

Shelly Daniels

Shelly Daniels began her career in the Government of Saskatchewan in 2007 at the Ministry of Social Services. After approximately seven years in the Corporate Services Branch, she moved into the Income Assistance Division as a financial analyst. In 2015, an Indigenous woman joined her team and it was the first time Daniels had ever worked with another First Nation person in the public service. When a third Indigenous woman joined the branch, the trio began presenting information sessions during branch huddles to better inform their colleagues about Indigenous people, including sharing personal stories of how government policies impacted their families.

"I see this unit as an especially important part of the Ministry of Agriculture. We are teachers to our ministry; we are reviewers of the work to provide that Indigenous lens and we are supporting Indigenous endeavors to enter the agriculture sector."

-Shelly Daniels,
Provincial Indigenous Engagement Specialist

"These stories had an impact on our coworkers as they would often come and thank us for sharing and tell us that they did not know any of the history," Daniels said.

From Social Services, Daniels moved to the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission before arriving at the Ministry of Agriculture in 2024 as a Provincial Indigenous Engagement Specialist. She says that during her nearly 30-year career, she has noticed the incorporation of reconciliation in how the government serves citizens.

"I see this unit as an especially important part of the Ministry of Agriculture. We are teachers to our ministry; we are reviewers of the work to provide that Indigenous lens and we are supporting Indigenous endeavors to enter the agriculture sector," she said. "The goal of our unit is to increase First Nations and Métis participation in the agriculture sector by listening to their needs and connecting them with funding opportunity and expert services. Building strong relationships with First Nations and Métis is fundamental to our success."

For Daniels, the public service has changed for the better, but there is still more to do. "More Indigenous voices to help grow the number of Indigenous people employed in the Government of Saskatchewan. Ideally the number of Indigenous employees would reflect the Indigenous population of Saskatchewan," she said.

Saskatchewan has seen a government-wide emphasis on recognizing important Indigenous occasions and initiatives. Across the public sector, orange shirts are worn to recognize Orange Shirt Day/Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, red on Red Dress Day on May 5, and moose hide pins for May's Moose Hide Campaign Day. Beginning in 2022, ministries have collaborated on stories for the government's intranet site on Red Dress Day and the Moose Hide Campaign, encouraging reflection and raising awareness of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

The growing culture of reconciliation in public service has generated many unique initiatives. The Ministry of Environment created and launched an Indigenous Engagement workshop for staff in 2020 which facilitates discussion and exploration of issues and concerns relevant to the ministry's work. The workshop led to the creation of Mâdawapitân (Woodland Cree for "let's meet"), a monthly forum that fosters open dialogue and shared learning with 45 sessions held as of September 2025. Mâdawapitân is a cornerstone of the ministry's commitment to reconciliation, offering staff an ongoing opportunity to learn, reflect and build capacity for respectful engagement with Indigenous communities. The sessions have covered a wide spectrum of topics that strengthen cultural competency and deepen understanding of reconciliation. Practical sessions on land acknowledgements and cultural protocols equip staff with tools to integrate reconciliation into everyday practice, while experiential learning through storytelling and teachings on Wahkohtowin (Cree for "natural law"), Indigenous worldviews and land-based learning offer the opportunity to learn about relational approaches in environmental work.

The Ministry of SaskBuilds and Procurement launched the 100 Acts of Reconciliation initiative in September 2024. This initiative encouraged staff to take actionable steps individually and as teams toward reconciliation. Employees were invited to commit to one or more acts of reconciliation and share their experiences within their teams and work units. This collaboration resulted in a list of 100 actions that can be implemented in day-to-day work and interactions such as beginning meetings with a land acknowledgment, attending cultural events, celebrating special Indigenous days, learning about

Indigenous place names and reading the work of First Nations and Métis authors.

The Ministry of SaskBuilds and Procurement also updated a policy in June 2025 to ensure that Indigenous smudging and pipe ceremony can occur in Government of Saskatchewan workplaces. The goal of the policy is to ensure client ministries and agencies have the information and support they need to accommodate Indigenous ceremonies whenever possible and appropriate.

To further support learning and connection, the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency has created dedicated Indigenous spaces in several of its physical locations. These cultural corners honour Indigenous traditions and serve as visible reminders of the agency's commitment to reconciliation.

Under the sponsorship of Crown Investment Corporation, a new Advisory Council on Indigenous Reconciliation was formed in January 2023. The council is mandated to share knowledge, set direction and provide advisory services for the Government of Saskatchewan. The Advisory Council on Indigenous Reconciliation meets six times a year and is composed of Indigenous and non-Indigenous subject matter experts from the Crown sector and executive government. The council has hosted two conferences for public servants to foster Indigenous engagement and build community across government.

Many of Saskatchewan's Crowns have established networks for Indigenous employees. SaskTel's Indigenous Employee Network, SaskEnergy's Aboriginal Government Employees, SGI Indigenous Employee Resource Group and SaskPower's Indigenous Employee Network all foster inclusivity, empowerment, cultural representation and reconciliation in the workplace. The networks provide education for all staff through events like Lunch and Learns and through internal communications. The Government of Saskatchewan also has an Indigenous Employee Network led by a group of Indigenous employees and supported by an Elder. The Indigenous Employee Network is in the process of revitalizing and recently collected feedback from across the government to inform governance and priorities.

Within the Ministry of Social Services, a network for Indigenous employees was established in 2017, called Team of Indigenous Employees Saskatchewan. This network is committed to creating a space where Indigenous employees are supported and uplifted.

Part of the Government of Saskatchewan's approach to reconciliation within the public service is an emphasis on the involvement of Elders.

For example, the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General Aboriginal Elders Advisory Committee is made up of Indigenous Elders with knowledge of and experience with the justice system who advise the ministry. The committee has existed since 2004, before the TRC report was released, but continues to act as the voices of their communities. Participating Elders represent Saskatchewan's Indigenous linguistic and geographic diversity, including on- and off-reserve communities, and ensure a balance of genders. Their insights help ministry officials better understand Indigenous culture, traditions and the long-term impacts of residential schools and colonization. Committee meetings provide space for respectful dialogue between Elders and ministry staff, offering guidance on cultural protocol, systemic challenges and opportunities for justice system reform. These conversations contribute to the development of more inclusive, responsive and culturally grounded policies and services.

The Ministry of Social Services' Income Assistance Programs Division partners with Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers to provide onsite support for clients and employees. This partnership began in February 2025 and provides culturally appropriate services that connect families to traditional teachings, guidance and practices to support families in keeping children safe.

The ministry's Disability Programs Division has worked with an Elders Advisory Group since 2022. The group provides feedback on services for people with intellectual disabilities and helps build relationships that support strong services with Indigenous clients and communities.



As part of its commitment to Truth and Reconciliation, SaskEnergy has hosted and participated in many Indigenous ceremonies in recent years. This includes powwows, feasts and sweat lodges, as well as the pipe ceremonies that have become standard practice on many of SaskEnergy's construction projects.

Child and Family Programs offices across Saskatchewan work with First Nation and Métis Elders and Knowledge Keepers to support and guide employees in cultural teachings, historical and current impacts to Indigenous people, Truth and Reconciliation, Missing and Murdered Women and Girls Calls to Justice, cultural supports, traditional customs, ceremonies and practices. Elders and Knowledge Keepers are engaged in providing their wisdom and guidance to improve policies, services and programs provided by the ministry. In many locations, cultural spaces are available for the Elders and Knowledge Keepers to meet with employees and/or families to be able to smudge and to participate in cultural teaching and activities.

As part of its Indigenous Action Plan, the Saskatchewan Research Council formed an Indigenous Advisory Committee and held its inaugural meeting in September 2025. The committee, made up of Indigenous Elders and representatives from across the province, aims to strengthen the council's relationship with Indigenous communities and guide its efforts towards reconciliation. Specifically, the Indigenous Advisory Committee is designed to provide guidance and advice on how the Saskatchewan Research Council can respectfully and effectively engage with Indigenous communities and businesses in Saskatchewan.

A land acknowledgement is a formal recognition of one's location on Treaty land and the home of the Métis. The Government of Saskatchewan formalized the use of land acknowledgements in speaking engagements by senior officials in 2018. By creating and sharing a policy and guidelines for writing and delivering land acknowledgements, the government ensured a consistent and respectful approach by accurately naming the Treaty and the First Nations that call it home.

In 2019, the first Indigenous Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, His Honour Russ Mirasty, was installed. A tipi was set up on the north lawn of Government House in Regina and celebrated during the Month of Métis (October 2019) and the 175th Anniversary of the Birth of Louis Riel. A public art exhibition by Métis artists, historic exhibits, guest speakers, cultural educational programming and Métis juggling and music lessons marked the occasion.

The Ministry of Social Services recognizes that many of its clients are impacted by the legacy of residential schools and the Sixties Scoop. As a result, the ministry ensures that the staff who develop programs and policies understand the scope of these legacies and how they impact First Nation and Métis populations. Efforts to provide education and awareness to staff have resulted in more empathy, increased discussions, improved client services and consistent use of the TRC lens when approaching program development.

The Government of Saskatchewan, in partnership with the Office of the Treaty Commissioner, is providing Treaty awareness to thousands of drivers everyday thanks to highway signs marking Treaty boundaries along the province's busiest roads. Between 2022 and 2024, eight sets of Treaty boundary signs were installed to acknowledge every occupied Treaty area in Saskatchewan (2, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 10), as well as a significant Treaty adhesion 6A. Saskatchewan is the first province in Canada to mark Treaty boundaries along major highways within provincial boundaries. The signs include an image of a Treaty medal specific to that Treaty territory and the historic phrase, "As long as the sun shines, grass grows and rivers flow" to reference the spirit and intent of the Treaties. Indigenous language is also

incorporated into traffic signs with each sign having "Welcome" in the traditional languages specific to the Treaty area being entered including Anishinaabe, Saulteaux, Dakota, Lakota, Nakota and Cree.

In 2022, a bridge over the Montreal River in the La Ronge area was renamed Reconciliation Bridge, and unveiled on September 30, the Day for Truth and Reconciliation. In 2025, Highway 201 received dual designation as Chief Kahkewistahaw Way, to honour the well-respected chief who was one of the original signatories of Treaty 4.

In 2024, the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General supported reconciliation through a series of education and awareness initiatives. Ministry staff, including ministers and senior leadership, visited the Muskowekwan Indian Residential School — the last remaining residential school structure in Saskatchewan. Guided by former students, participants were able to hear firsthand accounts of residential school experiences, deepening their understanding of the intergenerational effects of colonial systems.

The Conservation Officer Service in Saskatchewan nurtures its relationships with Tribal Councils and Métis communities across the province through proactive measures like delivering schools presentations, providing in-person First Nations' perspective training for recruits and participating in culture camps. Conservation officers often receive invitations to attend cultural camps and welcome the opportunities to learn about First Nation and Métis cultures. These camps also provide opportunities to talk about the role of conservation officers and to build healthy relationships between Indigenous people and local officers. For example, conservation officers attended a camp in September 2024 at Father Porte Dene School in Black Lake and presented to students about firearm safety.

In 2024, the government created the Indigenous and Northern Services branch within the Ministry of Immigration and Career Training. This branch works directly with employers, particularly Indigenous businesses, post-secondary institutions and service providers to grow Indigenous participation within the workforce with a focus on northern Saskatchewan and the natural resource economy.

The Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety aims to provide a culture of empathy and a psychologically safe experience for Indigenous employees and clients. To achieve this goal, ministry staff are provided monthly education sessions. The Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety has worked directly with several First Nations on programming including conflict resolution, negotiation and mediation. In 2023, the ministry piloted education sessions targeted to Indigenous organizations that focused on rights under *The Saskatchewan Employment Act* as well as labour relations, employee/employer relations and conflict resolution with the aim to not only increase accessibility to these education areas but also ensure that Indigenous employees feel they can access the services of the Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety if their employment rights are violated. Currently, the ministry works with a Knowledge Keeper to provide culturally appropriate services to organizations and employees in disputes and to continue to provide education programming as well as cultural services to ministry staff.

Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan is committed to having 50 per cent of employees in casinos who identify as Indigenous as part of the Gaming Framework Agreement signed between the Government of Saskatchewan and the FSIN in 1994.



In 2025, the Treaty 4 and Métis flags were raised at SGI Head Office in Regina. Raising the Treaty 4 and Métis flags is about recognizing the First Nation and Métis people of the territory.



Former Lieutenant Governor, His Honour Russ Mirasty, spoke during Miyo-wîcîwitowin Day on September 29, 2022. Photo credit: Sgt Mathieu St-Amour, Rideau Hall © OSGG, 2022

Miyo-wîcîwitowin Day

Held September 29, 2022, Miyo-wîcîwitowin Day at Mosaic Stadium in Regina was a landmark event dedicated to advancing truth and reconciliation in Saskatchewan. Miyo-wîcîwitowin means “walking together in a good way” in Cree and reflects the spirit of unity, respect and learning that the day aims to promote. Organized by a coalition led by Regina Exhibition Association, the event brought together more than 18,000 people including students, Indigenous and non-Indigenous community members and public servants to honour survivors of residential schools, learn from Indigenous voices and celebrate Indigenous culture.

Patrick Barber, who works with the Ministry of Government Relations, attended the event and found it deeply meaningful on a personal level. “The moment that stood out for me perhaps more than any other was seeing the thousands of students gathered together on the Mosaic field,” Barber said. “When I was that age, growing up and attending elementary and high school, we were taught little about Indigenous histories and people and nothing to do with residential schools. Witnessing this positive sight on Miyo-wîcîwitowin Day resonated with me more than any other speech or performance at the event.”

The Government of Saskatchewan sponsored Miyo-wîcîwitowin Day and encouraged public participation. The program featured powerful stories from residential school survivors, traditional and contemporary Indigenous music and dance performances and educational presentations that emphasized the importance of remembering the impacts of Canada’s colonial past. A notable addition to Mosaic Stadium was the Seat of Truth — an empty orange chair representing the children who never made it home from residential schools, serving as a lasting symbol of remembrance.

In conjunction with Miyo-wicîwitowin Day, the provincial government proclaimed September 30, 2022, as Truth and Reconciliation Day in Saskatchewan. This day was recognized as one of reflection and remembrance for those harmed or lost to the residential school system. Then-Minister of Government Relations Don McMorris reaffirmed the government's commitment to partnering with First Nations and Métis communities, stating that reconciliation is a continuous journey the province is committed to taking together with Indigenous peoples.

Government employees are encouraged to wear orange on September 30 to recognize Orange Shirt Day and to stand in solidarity with survivors and their families. As a public symbol of respect, flags at

all provincial government buildings, including the Legislative Building and Government House, are lowered to half-mast. Additionally, the Provincial Capital Commission has illuminated key areas of Wascana Centre with orange lights — visibly reinforcing Saskatchewan's commitment to reconciliation.

Reflecting further on the significance of the day, Barber noted the lasting impression made by the people attending the event. "Many of the speeches and performances were great, but again the thing that stuck out to me the most was the people who were present and knowing that everyone was there for the same reason — to acknowledge and continue to advance truth and reconciliation."



Mosaic Stadium turned orange for Miyo-Wicîwitowin Day. Photo credit: Sgt Mathieu St-Amour, Rideau Hall © OSGG, 2022



The Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology is an Indigenous post-secondary institution in Saskatchewan.

Education Reconciliation

Responding to Calls to Action: Education (7), Language and Culture (14), Health (23), Reconciliation for Education (62, 63)

In June 2022, the Ministry of Education assembled 20 Indigenous representatives from across Saskatchewan to begin the renewal of the province's Native Studies 10, 20 and 30 curricula. Known as the Native Studies Guidance Group — the “GG” — the team is made of Elders, Knowledge Keepers, teachers and Indigenous community leaders representing every language group in Saskatchewan. Their task is to provide ongoing guidance, grounded in Indigenous perspectives, for the update of curricula that were first introduced in 1992.

They provide more than that, including the development of guiding principles for future curriculum renewal process and development that incorporates First Nations and Métis knowledge, experiences and ways of knowing. The curricula are being renewed to better align grade level content and include concepts not previously addressed. A preliminary version of the renewed Native Studies 10 curriculum — including a new name — is expected in fall 2026 with a final version anticipated for fall 2027. Development of the 20 and 30 level curricula will follow.

Treaty education for Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12 students has been mandatory in Saskatchewan since 2007. Since 2002, the topic of residential schools has been addressed in social sciences curricula. With this foundation to build upon, the ministry began the process of further Kindergarten-Grade 9 (K-9) curriculum renewal, working with the Office of the Treaty Commissioner, Elders and teachers. The renewed K-9 Treaty Education Learning Resource kit was released in 2018, ensuring Indigenous perspectives and ways of knowing were infused within education.

Now, mandatory and elective curricula include opportunities to learn about residential schools, Treaties and historical and contemporary contributions and issues impacting Indigenous people in Canada. Learning outcomes with an Indigenous focus are included in courses across the education spectrum including math and sciences.

In the elementary grades, students learn the history of how Saskatchewan and Canada were formed, including the impact and importance of Treaty relationships, the contributions of Indigenous people and the lasting effects of historical injustices.

Grade 10-12 curriculum review has been underway since 2010, working with teachers, experts in the community, the universities of Regina and Saskatchewan and Elders and Knowledge Keepers. Currently, high school students examine how systems and policies led to residential schools, the development of Treaties and the loss of Indigenous cultures and languages while also receiving opportunities to learn more about acts of reconciliation. In 2025, math, sciences, physical education and applied arts have been reviewed and the work to update the curriculum is ongoing.

Part of the provincial response to education reconciliation is to improve outcomes for First Nation and Métis students. To help achieve this goal, targeted funding through the Learning

Opportunities Program is provided to northern Saskatchewan school divisions for innovative projects to improve student success. The teacher-led initiatives are designed to align with the Provincial Education Plan and the Ministry of Education's priorities including the Inspiring Success Policy Framework. The Learning Opportunities Program approved and granted 24 projects with funds totaling \$95,500 for the 2025-26 school year from three northern school divisions. From 2016-17 to 2024-25, 294 Learning Opportunities Program projects have been granted. More than 28,000 students and staff directly participate with more than 64,000 school, family and community members influenced.

It's one thing to say it is a priority that Saskatchewan's educators have the tools to teach about residential schools and reconciliation and another to achieve that goal. Through the Supporting Reconciliation in Saskatchewan Schools website, the ministry provides learning modules to give teachers the knowledge needed to teach these important lessons to their students. The modules cover how to start the conversation, the Sixties Scoop, and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.



The Traditional Knowledge Keepers Program at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum in Regina offers educational experiences during Orange Shirt Day.

Through the First Nations and Métis Education Achievement Fund, the ministry has provided dedicated annual funding of \$3.8 million each year since 2011-2012 for the improvement of First Nations and Métis education outcomes in Saskatchewan. This funding is used by school divisions to improve student engagement, literacy, numeracy and graduation rates.

Investing in post-secondary education for First Nation and Métis students is a priority for the Government of Saskatchewan. Since 2015, the Ministry of Advanced Education has invested nearly \$193 million in Indigenous post-secondary institutions and programs for Indigenous students. This funding supports annual operating grants of Indigenous post-secondary institutions such as Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies, First Nations University of Canada, Gabriel Dumont Institute and Dumont Technical Institute as well as programs to support Indigenous students, like Saskatchewan's Polytechnic's Indigenous Student Success Strategy, the Mitacs Indigenous Pathway Internship program and scholarships for Indigenous learners. In addition, the Ministry of Immigration and Career Training has invested nearly \$80 million since 2015-16 in adult education and skilled trades programs at Indigenous post-secondary institutions. The Indigenous Apprenticeship Initiative began in 2002 with dedicated funding of \$400,000 annually to support First Nations and Métis apprentices.

Education also occurs outside the classroom. Away from their desks, nearly 18,000 students visit the Royal Saskatchewan Museum First Nations Gallery every year. The museum, with the Friends of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum and the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation, built the Traditional Knowledge Keepers Program in 2019. Through the Traditional Knowledge Keepers Program, the Royal Saskatchewan Museum has hosted Indigenous Storytelling Month events every February since 2023 and the Traditional Knowledge Keepers Workshop Series in June. The workshop series gives the public the opportunity to view pieces in the Indigenous History Collection that are not on public display, allowing participants to make connections between the past and present as well as discuss the nuances of cultural appreciation versus appropriation.

The Traditional Knowledge Keepers Program also recognizes National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21 with drop-in activity stations in the First Nations Gallery along with activities throughout the museum including atlatl throwing, a scavenger hunt, a pottery reconstruction activity and Métis Red River Cart demonstration with the Regina Archaeological Society.



The Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program is a four-year Bachelor of Education program delivered by Gabriel Dumont Institute, in partnership with the Ministry of Advanced Education, and the Universities of Regina and Saskatchewan.

The Western Development Museum, which is primarily funded by the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport, is incorporating reconciliation into its work in partnership with the Office of the Treaty Commissioner. They signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Office of the Treaty Commissioner in June 2023 and collaborated to offer Treaty education through the Treaty Timeline traveling exhibit. The timeline display walks visitors through the Treaty history of Canada, beginning with pre-contact through the early and numbered Treaties and into the recent era. The traveling exhibit will be on display at each museum location throughout 2025 and 2026, before being available to other museums. A permanent Treaty Timeline exhibit is being designed for each Western Development Museum location.

A unique photo-naming project for the Western Development Museum in Saskatoon became an act of reconciliation and a renewed relationship. In 2018, more than 50 archival photographs of Indigenous people were identified in the museum's George Shepherd Library. The discovery led to the rediscovery of a long-ago relationship between the museum and the Whitecap Dakota Nation. The photos were taken at Pion-Era, which was a heritage exhibition organized by the museum. Members of Whitecap First Nation were invited to attend to perform cultural dances but, as the museum staff would discover through interviews with Elders, the Whitecap used the opportunity to promote other aspects of their cultural and find common ground with their rural neighbours.

The photograph discovery, naming and relationship building culminated in October 2022 when the Western Development Museum opened a new permanent display in Saskatoon called Wapaha Ska Oyate: Living Our Culture, Sharing our Community Pion-Era, 1955-1969. The exhibit was co-curated with the Whitecap Dakota First Nation and confronts the historical inequities between the museum and Whitecap Dakota First Nation as well as the shared history of settlers and the First Nation. Since opening in October 2022, the exhibit has recorded more than 90,000 visitors and has featured in educational programming including school group tours and university class sessions.



Photo: Tourism Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan Parks collaborates with Indigenous communities throughout the province to develop and deliver culturally meaningful programming for park visitors. These efforts are aimed at fostering greater understanding and appreciation of Indigenous cultures, histories and traditions, while actively promoting reconciliation and inclusion.

Echo Valley Provincial Park serves as a key location for guided cultural hikes delivered in partnership with local Elders and Knowledge Keepers. These guided experiences provide visitors with unique insights into the ecological significance and traditional Indigenous teachings related to the region. Echo Valley has recently installed interpretive art panels highlighting Indigenous languages and wildlife, further enriching visitor understanding of local Indigenous heritage.

At Fort Carlton Provincial Historic Park, Saskatchewan Parks has partnered with Pêmiska Tourism and Beardsy's and Okemasis Cree Nation to host important cultural events such as Treaty 6 Day and Trade Days. These events offer visitors immersive opportunities to participate in authentic cultural activities including bannock making, storytelling and traditional demonstrations. Pêmiska Tourism also provides further culturally immersive experiences through Indigenous-led excursions and accommodations such as tipi-style glamping.

Through these deliberate and respectful partnerships, Saskatchewan Parks demonstrates a strong commitment to cultural education, reconciliation and the integration of Indigenous knowledge into park programming. These initiatives contribute significantly to fostering inclusive environments where visitors can meaningfully connect with Indigenous history and culture in Saskatchewan.

Truth and Reconciliation at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum

The Royal Saskatchewan Museum, an agency of the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport, continues to play an important role in advancing Truth and Reconciliation by delivering Indigenous-led programming, fostering cultural understanding and creating inclusive learning opportunities. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing commitments to Indigenous representation and ceremony, the Royal Saskatchewan Museum adapted its programming and strengthened its engagement with Indigenous communities.

When the Royal Saskatchewan Museum was temporarily closed due to the pandemic, staff transitioned to online formats to maintain meaningful engagement with the public. A key highlight was the development of a seven-part video series, “Grandfather Teachings with Elder Hazel Dixon.” Widely used by educators across Saskatchewan, the series explored the seven sacred teachings and provided accessible, culturally grounded content for classrooms during lockdown and beyond.

In June 2020, National Indigenous Peoples Day and National Indigenous History Month programming was reimagined for virtual audiences. A virtual tipi camp tour and smudging ceremony were also delivered through the Royal Saskatchewan Museum’s Knowledge Keepers program. In February 2021, the museum hosted its fifth annual Indigenous Storytelling Month online, featuring Elder Hazel Dixon and Joely BigEagle-Kequatooway, who shared teachings through traditional stories.

The Royal Saskatchewan Museum continues to host and develop programming aligned with the TRC’s CTA. In September 2022, the museum hosted a public Orange Shirt Day event. The 2022 Solstice Speaker Series included presentations such as What Have We Truly Inherited with then-Chief Cadmus Delorme, a National Indigenous Peoples Day celebration.

On March 28, 2023, the Royal Saskatchewan Museum and the Friends of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum hosted “Storytellers: Our Truths. Our Perspectives,” a public panel event exploring the relationship between storytelling, Indigenous identity and truth. Panelists included Nelson Bird, John Lagimodiere, Kerry Benjoe and Cherish Francis, each of whom shared perspectives based on their professional and personal experiences.

The Royal Saskatchewan Museum incorporates Indigenous ceremony throughout its operations. Quarterly smudges are held in galleries, offices and collections areas. Pipe ceremonies and feasts are conducted twice annually to honour sacred Indigenous artifacts and staff also participate in an annual sweat and feast. These practices are guided by Elders and embedded into the institutional culture.

In collaboration with the Friends of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum and the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation, the Royal Saskatchewan Museum delivers the Traditional Knowledge Keepers Program. Running from September to June, the Traditional Knowledge Keepers Program connects Indigenous cultural leaders — primarily from Treaty 4 territory — with schools and public audiences. Knowledge Keepers share their teachings and lived experience through workshops, school visits and public events.

As part of the program's expansion, a workshop series was introduced in spring 2025 featuring sessions on beading, ledger art and rug hooking. Each workshop will include opportunities to view related items from the museum's Indigenous History Collection. In February 2025, the Royal Saskatchewan Museum celebrated Indigenous Storytelling Month with live storytelling events featuring Elder Hazel Dixon as well as artists Teddy Bison and Skylar Anderson. A mini powwow was hosted with performances by kinîmihitonâwaw (Cree for "they all dance") Dance Troupe, Yellow Creek Singers and MC Jeff Cappel.



The Battleford Industrial School in 1889. Photo credit: Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan

Missing Children and Burial Information

Responding to Calls to Action: Missing Children and Burial Information (71, 75, 76)

In November 2021, dozens of pairs of children's shoes covered the front steps of the Saskatchewan Legislative Building. Along with scattered toys and stuffed animals, the footwear — sandals, runners and boots worn by children of all ages — represented solidarity with the discovery of unmarked graves near Canada's residential schools.

The Ministry of Government Relations, working with Regina Treaty Status Indian Services and Elders, honoured and removed the tributes left on the steps to a sacred place on a local First Nation as part of a private, traditional ceremony.

To support the research into undocumented deaths and burials on former residential school locations in Saskatchewan, the provincial government provided \$2 million to the FSIN in June 2021. With this funding, the FSIN supported First Nations to carry out this research as many Indigenous communities had indicated their intention to investigate former residential schools.

While communities continue to document deaths and burials that occurred at residential schools in Saskatchewan, all requested provincial records have been provided to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. In October 2015, the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan provided 1,684 scanned items related to the history and legacy of the residential school system and the reserve pass system. Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan continues to consult annually with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation to work toward providing any newly identified relevant archival records to them. Among the records initially provided were residential school registers which may help track the deaths of Indigenous children in the care of residential schools.

In the summer of 2024, the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan received permission from the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Regina and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Prince Albert to share registers with the Saskatchewan Coroner's Service. With these registers, the Coroner's Service could cross reference names of children who attended residential school with death records, supporting efforts to identify those who may have died while attending residential schools. The Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan provided spreadsheets and encrypted electronic records to the Coroner's Service in September 2024. The Coroner's Service will review the documents for relevant information and provide any additional case files to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

The Coroner's Service first shared case information with the centre in December 2023. These files included all records, including repatriated inquest/coroner files previously stored in courthouses across the province and compared the records to a list of potential residential school deaths provided by the TRC. In total, the files from five cases involving 23 children were sent to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation with two more sent in January 2023.

In 2015, eHealth Saskatchewan provided the centre with 19,000 genealogical and publicly accessible child death records dating back to 1943. However, the way the deaths were recorded made it impossible to identify if a child was residing at a residential school when they died. A representative of eHealth was invited to appear before the Standing Senate Committee on Indigenous Peoples in February 2024 and explained the limitations of the records and the way they were recorded. Following the Senate appearance, eHealth began work to review all genealogical and publicly accessible child death records between 1944 and 1954, seeking additional information to share with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. In November 2024, 2,432 additional records were transferred along with the original 19,000 records.

The Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan collaborated with the University of Regina History Department in 2024 to pilot an Applied MA Degree internship. One of the internship projects was indexing the names of Indigenous people, including children at residential schools, who were tested and treated for tuberculosis by the Anti-Tuberculosis League/Saskatchewan Lung Association in the 20th century. The index was completed in January 2025 and will be used to help search for Indigenous people documented as part of this testing.

In consultation with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport is researching and compiling an inventory of residential school cemeteries in Saskatchewan to facilitate preservation planning. The ministry is also providing advice from the archaeological sector to various parties on the application of ground penetrating radar in the identification of suspected burial sites. Since 2021, several technical guidance documents have been created and shared with interested parties to aid in the identification of burial sites.

Between 2016 and 2019, the ministry worked with several parties to advise and support them in achieving both municipal and provincial heritage property designation for residential school cemeteries associated with the former Industrial schools near Regina and Battleford. Heritage designation provides a level of commemoration and protection to these cemeteries. Both the Regina Indian Industrial School and Battleford Industrial School cemeteries were designated as Provincial Heritage Properties in July 2017, in partnership with Indigenous-led community organizations who, in turn, engaged with residential school survivors, Knowledge Keepers and other community members.

Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies Mental Health and Wellness Programs Focused on Missing Children

The Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies delivers trauma-informed mental health and wellness programming that supports Indigenous communities in responding to the intergenerational impacts of missing children. Informed by the legacy of Indian Residential Schools, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and the Sixties Scoop, Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies' services and academic offerings are designed to be culturally relevant and community based.

A key area of delivery is through the Wellness and Community Development Unit at the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies which leads mental health outreach and workforce development initiatives for institute students across the province. One of the central programs under this unit is the Resolution Health Support Workforce. This program deploys trained professionals who provide emotional and psychological support to families and communities impacted by the trauma of missing children. Services are offered during commemorations, public gatherings and other community events, integrating Indigenous teachings, cultural values and ceremony to support respectful and inclusive healing environments.

In parallel, Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies offers academic programming to build Indigenous capacity in the mental health field. The Mental Health and Wellness Diploma program trains Indigenous learners in both Indigenous and western approaches to mental health and addictions care. The program emphasizes land-based healing, trauma-informed practice and cultural safety with clinical placements in Indigenous communities. In the wake of the rediscovery of unmarked graves, students and graduates of these programs have provided mental health first aid and community-based support in affected areas.

Cultural inclusion is embedded across school programming. Elders and Knowledge Keepers provide ongoing guidance, offering ceremonies such as smudging, healing circles and prayer as part of broader wellness and mental health strategies. These practices strengthen cultural identity and support the healing journeys of individuals and communities affected by the loss of children and cultural disconnection.

Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies continues to work with the Government of Saskatchewan and other partners to improve access to culturally responsive mental health training and services. In 2024–25, the Ministry of Immigration and Career Training provided \$850,000 to support 25 new seats in the Mental Health and Wellness Diploma program, increasing total capacity to 145 seats. As of January 2025, 123 of the 138 enrolled learners in the program self-identified as Indigenous. Clinical placements are being conducted both in Saskatoon and Indigenous communities to ensure students gain experience applying holistic approaches in real-world settings.

By combining academic programming with community engagement and cultural revitalization, the school is equipping students with the tools to respond to the unique needs of their communities. Continued support for initiatives such as the Mental Health and Wellness programs contributes to the broader goal of ensuring Indigenous peoples can lead and shape their own pathways to healing, wellness and self-determination.



Former Lieutenant Governor, His Honour Russ Mirasty and his family show Governor General Mary Simon the Residential School Memorial on the grounds of Government House on September 29, 2022.

Commemoration

Responding to Call to Action: Commemoration (82)

On June 21, 2022, National Indigenous Peoples Day was recognized in a special way in Regina. On the grounds of Government House, a National Historic Site and Provincial Heritage Property, a ceremony was held with traditional dancing and speeches. This was to dedicate a memorial of a dark period of Canadian history in a tranquil space made for reflection.



The stone centrepiece of the memorial was found in the Qu'Appelle valley north of Regina in Treaty 4 territory. The plaque affixed to the stone notes the location of all residential schools in Saskatchewan recognized by the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

The Saskatchewan Residential School Memorial is a public, accessible installation in Saskatchewan's capital city. It honours survivors as well as the children who were lost to the residential school system and was developed in consultation with Elders. Located on a quiet section on the Government House lawn, the memorial is a circular space with reclaimed wood benches surrounding the focal point: a large stone affixed with a plaque noting the location of all residential schools in Saskatchewan recognized by the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

The stone centrepiece was found in the Qu'Appelle valley north of Regina in Treaty 4 territory by then Lieutenant Government of Saskatchewan, His Honour Russ Mirasty. After gaining permission from the landowner to relocate the rock, Mirasty visited the stone with an Elder who was providing guidance for the memorial. The Elder agreed that the stone was the appropriate centrepiece and following a ceremony, confirmed the Creator supported the choice.

"The Elder now would say that when I tell the stories 'Well no, you didn't find the rock. The rock found you,'" said Mirasty in a video about the experience.

The incorporation of natural elements was a priority during the design of the memorial with great care taken to honour traditional practices and acknowledge the earth and circle of life. A smudge stone lies in front of the central stone for ceremonial purposes. The pathways leading to the centre stone travel north-to-south and east-to-west. Traditional plants and trees are included in the landscaping and the wood for the benches came from Wascana Centre. Each element was carefully chosen to encourage healing.

In 2024, interpretive panels were added to the memorial to help tell the history of the residential school system in Saskatchewan. The panels are accompanied by metal silhouettes of children

created by Pro Metal Industries, a 100 per cent Indigenous-owned company. They are installed together in the pavilion near the memorial and add context to the existing elements of the space. The addition of the panels and the silhouettes was a collaboration between the Office of the Lieutenant Governor and the Provincial Capital Commission.

One of the purposes of the Saskatchewan Residential School Memorial is to provide education on the residential school system and its impact. As such, the site is used for educational events each September. In Saskatchewan, September 30 is proclaimed Truth and Reconciliation Day to honour the survivors of residential schools, their families, their communities and the children who did not return.



The metal silhouettes of children are incorporated into the design of the gazebo at the memorial site.

National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation

Responding to Calls to Action: Professional Development and Training for Staff (57), Museums and Archives (70), National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (77)

In 2011, before the TRC report was released, staff at the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan were already analyzing the permanent collection, seeking documents related to the residential school system and Canada's reserve pass system. With hundreds of thousands of documents in the collection, the work was intensive and required months of dedicated research. In October 2015, more than 30 GB of scanned data was shared with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. Among these records were 11 audio recordings, 47 textual records, 834 photographs and five maps.

In addition, the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan provided the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation with a list of archival sources believed to contain additional information related to the residential school system for potential future research. Archival records are one-of-a-kind and many records regarding residential schools are in the possession of the Archives because they were donated by private individuals or organizations. Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan continues to work with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation to plan for providing these additional archival sources in the future.

The Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan is influencing and supporting the reconciliation work of other archives as well. In July 2020, A Reconciliation Framework for Canadian Archives report was released by the Response to the Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Taskforce of the Steering Committee on Canada's Archives. A member of the Archives staff participated in the steering committee initiated by the Association of Canadian Archives in response to the TRC CTA. The framework is intended to guide the work of all archival institutions in Canada.

Since 2022, the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan has adopted the framework to guide its own decision-making around reconciliation issues. Previously, Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan was more dependent on the level of individual expertise on reconciliation of the staff in the archives. Using the framework, Archives can have greater confidence in the validity of its approaches under reconciliation. The framework was built from consultation and guidance with First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities and archivists from across Canada.

The first major project the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan has undertaken guided by the framework is the Respectful Terminology Project. In this project, archivists work to identify and update outdated, offensive and hateful language found in the Archives catalogue. This language can be racist, sexist, ableist or other forms of discrimination that are illustrative of the records' time of origin but are now known to be harmful. The original language is not deleted; rather, it is maintained in a separate field to provide context of the period in which the record was created. This project was completed in September 2025 with 1,970 catalogue descriptions being addressed.



Archivist Donald Johnson browses records at the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan. Johnson was a member of the steering committee that drafted the Reconciliation Framework for Canadian Archives.



The North American Indigenous Games in Halifax in 2023.

Sports and Reconciliation

Responding to Calls to Action: Sports and Reconciliation (87, 88, 90)

Coaching soccer has helped Dave Mysko understand his purpose.

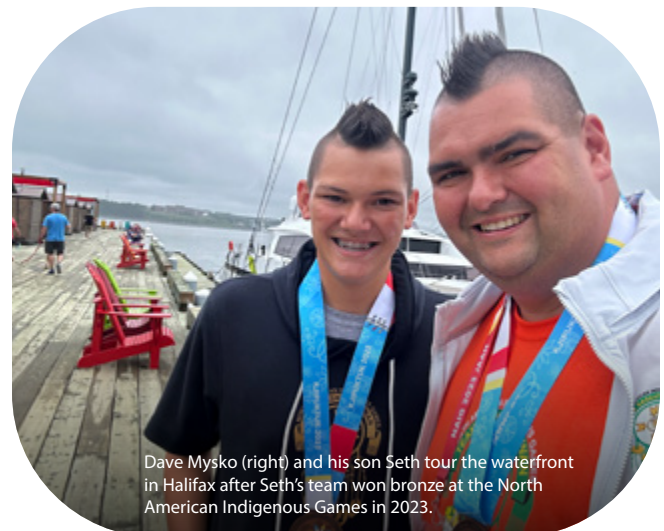
“Working with athletes that I could see a resemblance to me ... was good because I felt my purpose was to bring hope to some of the kids that were struggling with identity,” he said.

Mysko has been involved in soccer for about a decade, after he offered to help a soccer sports coordinator with weekend tryouts for the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG). This led to a gig managing the team and eventually a coaching role.

“Participating in NAIG helps the athletes feel a sense of belonging and helps them with their identity. It also helps build a sense of community with other athletes,” said Mysko, who has attended one NAIG competition and looks forward to attending more.

NAIG are a multi-sport athletic competition for Indigenous youth. The games host teams from across Canada and the United States and is one of the largest Indigenous sporting and cultural events in North America.

Sask Sport is a sponsor of Team Saskatchewan, providing funding for travel to the games as well as some of the preparation costs. Through an agreement with the Government of Saskatchewan, proceeds from Sask Lotteries are dedicated to sport, culture and recreation organizations to benefit communities throughout the province.



Dave Mysko (right) and his son Seth tour the waterfront in Halifax after Seth's team won bronze at the North American Indigenous Games in 2023.

“Working with athletes that I could see a resemblance to me ... was good because I felt my purpose was to bring hope to some of the kids that were struggling with identity.”

-Dave Mysko,
Coach, NAIG

Ahead of the 2023 NAIG in Halifax in 2022-23, nearly \$10.2 million was provided to First Nation and Métis organizations and communities in various direct, indirect and northern support programs and services through the Sask Lotteries Trust Fund. The Government of Saskatchewan also secured funding through the Indigenous Supplement of the Federal Provincial/Territorial Bilateral which provided additional funding to support Team Saskatchewan. In 2023, Team Saskatchewan once again secured the higher points total of any contingent.

According to Mysko, it's an experience just to travel with the young athletes, some of whom have never left Saskatchewan before attending NAIG. “I loved experiencing the variety of Indigenous cultures from across North America and seeing how we are all unique and different yet share so many similarities,” he said.

Sask Sport has been Saskatchewan's federation for amateur sport since 1972 and serves the province's communities through programs and services beneficial to sport. Sask Sport, which is a volunteer-led non-profit organization, also operates Sask Lotteries, the main fundraiser for support, culture and recreation in the province.

One way that Sask Sport has responded to the TRC is to support long-term Indigenous athlete development and growth through the Indigenous Coaches and Officials Program. The program exists to help Indigenous athletes benefit from the instruction of coaches trained in the National Coaching Certification Program as well as other development opportunities. Indigenous Coaches and Officials Program launched in 2007 and has helped more than 7,800 coaches and officials develop their skills. This leads to increased opportunity for the growth and development of Saskatchewan athletes.

A new program called Future Stars has been launched to further support Indigenous athletes for the next NAIG in 2027. The program includes leadership and mentorship, access to sport medicine and science services and sport and athletic development. Numerous camps have been hosted with more on the way.

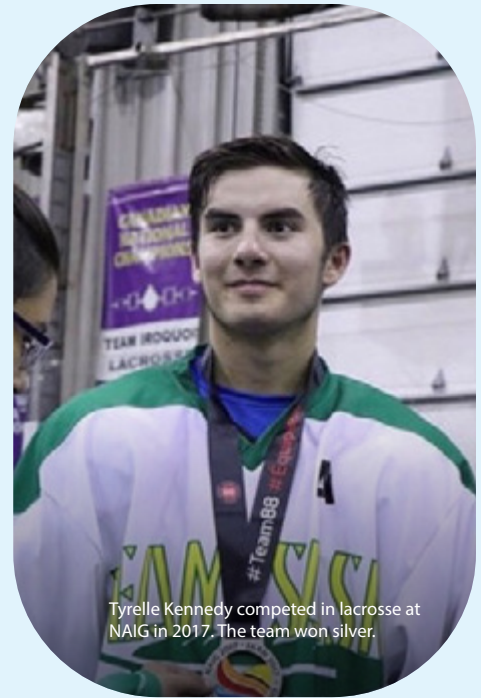
With the Future Stars program focusing on athletic ability, Sask Sport collaborated with MN-S, FSIN and Big Brothers Big Sisters Saskatoon to create the Nikaniwin program to help athletes with their cultural development. Nikaniwin offers 20 culturally relevant lessons that integrate physical activity and traditional teachings to support healthy lifestyles. The 10-week program is intended for First Nation communities and schools with the program partners providing mentors and materials as well as ongoing support.



The North American Indigenous Games in Halifax in 2023.

North American Indigenous Games

The North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) are a multi-sport and cultural event held every few years for Indigenous youth across Canada and the United States. Athletes ages 13 to 19 represent their regions in a wide variety of sports while also taking part in cultural celebrations that highlight Indigenous traditions, languages and heritage. NAIG is one of the largest gatherings of Indigenous athletes in North America and serves as a platform to promote pride, unity and reconciliation through sport.



Tyrelle Kennedy competed in lacrosse at NAIG in 2017. The team won silver.

“I was ecstatic and humbled the moment I found out that I was selected to represent the First Nations of this province, especially in a sport integral to First Nations people.”

-Tyrelle Kennedy,
Athlete

For athletes like Tyrelle Kennedy from Carry the Kettle and Little Black Bear First Nations, competing at NAIG was more than just an athletic achievement — it was deeply personal. Kennedy recalls first trying out for Team Saskatchewan in lacrosse when the games were hosted in Regina in 2012. At that time, he was told he was too young but was encouraged to keep training and return.

Four years later, Kennedy’s dedication paid off. “I was ecstatic and humbled the moment I found out that I was selected to represent the First Nations of this province, especially in a sport integral to First Nations people,” he shared.

Team Saskatchewan has consistently been a top performer at NAIG. Since the games began in 1990, Team Saskatchewan has claimed the overall championship title at seven out of 10 games. At the most recent games held in Halifax in 2023, Team Saskatchewan once again finished first overall, winning a total of 175 medals: 51 gold, 63 silver and 61 bronze. Sask Sport and Sask Lotteries played a key role in supporting Team Saskatchewan through funding for athlete preparation, travel and participation.



NAIG provided Kennedy with a profound cultural experience as well. Selected as a flag bearer for Team Saskatchewan, Kennedy led the grand entry during the opening ceremonies — an honour he describes as deeply meaningful.

“As I walked into the arena, I was overcome with a sense of pride to be among elite Indigenous athletes from across North America,” Kennedy explained. “Before each game, an honour song was played to acknowledge the game, the athletes and the host nation. This event is more than about sport. It is about having that sense of cultural pride shine from within us as young people.”

Reflecting on competition, Kennedy recalled how special it was to compete against other nations from across North America. “Watching other nations begin each game with their own unique traditions was vital to my experience,” Kennedy said. “Specifically, witnessing the Haudenosaunee in their territory exhibiting their traditional song and dance was both exciting and intriguing. To them, lacrosse is known as Creator’s Game. The immense pride that I felt during our match against them in the semifinals was almost overwhelming.”

Kennedy noted that representing both Carry the Kettle and Little Black Bear First Nations deepened his sense of responsibility and pride. “The Chiefs from my respective First Nations called me to congratulate me and offered their support for my family and I to travel to Toronto. Having my older sister there was grounding, as she had competed in several games herself. Sharing these moments with her and our parents made the experience even more meaningful.”

Kennedy, who served as Assistant Captain for Team Saskatchewan, also described how the leadership skills he developed at NAIG shaped him beyond sports. “Being part of high-level athletics forced me to become a leader for my team. In later years, this experience has urged me to take on more leadership roles with confidence.”

Kennedy encourages future athletes to fully embrace every moment: “It is an experience of a lifetime to see all the cultural pride of our nations competing in sport. It is important to live in the moment, take in all the experiences surrounding you and be truly proud of who you are and where you come from.”



Tanya Ritchotte, SaskPower Indigenous Relations Consultant, accepting the company's PAIR Gold award in 2024.

The Economy and Reconciliation

Responding to Calls to Action: Education (7), Business and Reconciliation (92)

The Government of Saskatchewan implements many actions that support increasing Indigenous access to jobs, training and educational opportunities while helping to make sure Indigenous communities enjoy long-term benefits from economic development projects.

The Indigenous Economic Development branch in the Ministry of Trade and Export Development supports the growth of First Nation and Métis communities and businesses, and:

- Establishes and maintains relationships with Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities' leadership, economic development corporations, businesses and institutions in order to understand their interests, priorities, opportunities and challenges.
- Path-finds, shares opportunities, connects stakeholders, aligns partners and priorities and reduces barriers to economic development.
- Supports initiatives that facilitate knowledge-building.

The Indigenous Economic Development branch is also focused on Saskatchewan's priority of increasing Indigenous participation in the province's natural resource sector. The ministry supports funding agreements with Indigenous people in the resource sector including more than \$1.5 million to support education, business development and training programs.

The Ministry of Finance works in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade and Export Development to refine and deliver a program providing loan guarantees through the Saskatchewan Indigenous Investment Finance Corporation to increase access to capital for Indigenous communities to participate in natural resource development and value-added agriculture projects. Loan guarantees of at least \$5 million are available to Indigenous groups interested in being equity owners in natural resource, value-added agriculture and related infrastructure projects.

As prescribed in The Gaming Framework Agreement and *The Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan Corporation Act*, the Government of Saskatchewan through the Ministry of Government Relations distributes profits from casinos and online gaming to Indigenous organizations to support social and economic programs that benefit Indigenous people. Since 2015, more than \$792M has been distributed.

The Ministry of Agriculture is also dedicated to working alongside First Nations to build upon their natural connection to the land. Historically, First Nation people were placed on reserves and barriers were put in place that prohibited them from buying farming supplies or selling their crops and livestock. Today, the Indigenous Engagement Unit creates meaningful partnerships with Indigenous communities to assist to increase participation in the agricultural sector, support investment in infrastructure to build an economy that creates employment and provide opportunities for a sustainable future that their ancestors were denied.

The First Nation and Métis Consultation Policy Framework is an important process that supports economic activity and promotes reconciliation while fostering productive relationships between First Nation and Métis communities, government and business proponents. In the summer and fall of 2022, the Ministry of Government Relations led the engagement with the leadership of First Nation and Métis communities and organizations, industry associations and municipal organizations to discuss the successes, strengths and opportunities to revise the First Nation and Métis Consultation Policy Framework, originally released in 2010.

The Consultation Policy Framework outlines government's commitment to its constitutional obligations to consult with First Nation and Métis communities in advance of decisions or actions that may potentially adversely impact Aboriginal or Treaty rights to hunt, fish and trap for food, and traditional uses of lands and resources such as the gathering of plants for food and medicinal purposes, and the carrying out of ceremonial and spiritual observances and practices. The Consultation Policy Framework applies to all Saskatchewan ministries, Crowns and agencies that make decisions that may impact these rights and traditional uses.

In January 2024, the revised Consultation Policy Framework came into effect with an updated criteria for the Consultation Participation Fund which supports First Nation and Métis communities to participate in consultations.

Since the implementation in 2024, Government Relations staff have provided education on the revised Consultation Policy Framework as well as attended cultural events to learn, share policy changes and build respectful relationships with the Indigenous community.

Saskatchewan has the highest number of urban reserves of any jurisdiction in Canada. Urban reserve creation is a positive development for First Nations acquiring new reserve land under Treaty Land Entitlement and other Specific Claim Settlement Agreements. Urban reserves accelerate First Nation participation in the economy by initiating projects that increase employment opportunities and economic benefit for both the urban centre and the First Nation.

Saskatchewan also leads the country in its work to settle outstanding Treaty Land Entitlement claims with Entitlement First Nations. These agreements address the historical shortfall of Treaty land promised by Canada. Work on Treaty Land Entitlement settlements has been ongoing for many years and remains a significant act of reconciliation, with significant progress occurring with the signing of the *Saskatchewan Treaty Land Entitlement Framework* in 1992. To date, 36 Treaty Land Entitlement agreements have been signed and work continues in partnership with the federal government and First Nations to implement the agreements, which provide for up to 2.37 million acres to be converted to reserve. This collaborative way of resolving outstanding claims demonstrates the Government of Saskatchewan's commitment to working together in the spirit of reconciliation.

The Ministry of Energy and Resources remains committed to the Growth Plan and the Critical Minerals Strategy to growing Indigenous participation in natural resource development. Nowhere is this more apparent than the forestry industry where Indigenous employment is 29 per cent, the highest of any province. Thirty-two per cent of Saskatchewan's timber supply is allocated to Indigenous businesses,

also the highest of any province. Mining also has a strong record of Indigenous economic participation with sector companies procuring more than \$900 million in goods and services from Indigenous businesses in 2024.

The ministry has prioritized inclusive engagement in environmental monitoring and policy development through programs that integrate Indigenous and local knowledge, ensuring community concerns and traditional practices inform environmental stewardship. These initiatives have built trust and credibility, particularly in areas affected by resource development.

To further support Indigenous engagement and participation, the ministry established the Indigenous Engagement Fund in 2021. Since its inception, this fund has supported 23 projects, enabling the ministry to engage with Indigenous partners about key initiatives in meaningful ways. The ministry has provided translation services in Woodland Cree, Plains Cree and Dene, ensuring that engagement materials are culturally and linguistically appropriate. These efforts reflect a sustained commitment to reconciliation through collaboration, inclusion and shared responsibility for sustainable outcomes.

Working together is also at the heart of SaskTel's Rural Broadband Partnership Program which launched in September 2021. The initiative sees SaskTel partner with internet providers to bring advanced broadband connectivity to underserved rural areas in Saskatchewan, increasing connectivity to Indigenous communities to strengthen Indigenous participation in the economy.

Wood River Controls was the first provider to sign on as a partner and used the program to bring improved service to a number of Indigenous communities in the province including Peepeekisis Cree Nation and Muscowpetung Saulteaux First Nation. More recently, a majority Indigenous owned internet provider, the Beaver River Broadband, was launched through the program. This was made possible by a partnership between SaskTel and Meadow Lake Tribal Council Resource Development Inc. This enterprise provides

more reliable internet connectivity to Indigenous and rural households and the economic and financial benefits are returned to the nine Nations under the Meadow Lake Tribal Council.

SaskPower is also improving service access for First Nations. SaskPower has the Indigenous Customer Care program which focuses on interactions with Indigenous customers regarding billing, new connects and advanced metering deployment. The program launched in 2022 as a pilot and has been made permanent in its work with northern First Nations, some of which have the highest power bills in the province due to geographic challenges. Through the program, consultants improve understanding of power bills and usage among northern residents and speak with students about careers with SaskPower.

Since 2017, SaskPower has been certified at gold standing through the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business' Progressive Aboriginal Relations Program, recognizing SaskPower's leading efforts in Indigenous relations. The Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business advertises program certification as a signal that a company is committed to advancing and fostering the economic prosperity of Indigenous communities. To be certified gold, SaskPower was evaluated on its Indigenous relations and its support for and long-term relationships with Indigenous communities, among other criteria. This gold standing will be in place until the next certification process in 2027.

Through Priority Saskatchewan and Stakeholder Relations, the Ministry of SaskBuilds and Procurement communicates and engages regularly with Indigenous economic development organizations, businesses and industry associations. This engagement ensures that Indigenous businesses have awareness and access to information and training to be equipped to do business with the government through procurement. The Ministry of SaskBuilds and Procurement also encourages opportunities for Indigenous subcontracting, employment and partnerships with Indigenous businesses both through infrastructure projects and in the purchase of goods and services for government ministries and agencies.

Beginning in 2021, the Ministry of Highways worked with the Ministry of SaskBuilds and Procurement to identify and develop Indigenous businesses for Engineered Seal Coat delivery, a preventative maintenance activity used to protect the surface of a highway. In 2023-24, the ministry procured Engineered Seal Coat contracts with two First Nation companies and their road work began in 2024. The partnerships will represent approximately 50 per cent of the kilometres treated under the ministry's annual Engineered Seal Coat program over a five-year period. The ministry endeavours to increase Indigenous engagement in the engineering, construction and management areas of roadway maintenance.

The Ministry of Highways has targeted hiring Indigenous workers for roving crews since 2006. This initiative involves hiring term Indigenous equipment operators and labourers through partnerships with Tribal Councils, First Nation organizations, Métis organizations, community employment centres and First Nation post-secondary institutions. This initiative provides skillsets required to be successful within the heavy construction industry both within and outside the ministry. The ministry has had more than 220 participants in the program, some for multiple years. Approximately 40 per cent of participants have received permanent employment or job referrals.

Ministry of SaskBuilds and Procurement, on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan, entered into an agreement with the Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation to build an Urgent Care Centre in Saskatoon. Ahtahkakoop will own the land and the building for the Urgent Care Centre, which will be operated by the Saskatchewan Health Authority under a long-term lease. Construction is expected to be completed in fall 2026.

Guided by Saskatchewan's Labour Market Strategy, the Ministry of Immigration and Career Training is prioritizing Indigenous workforce development by investing in targeted programs, funding opportunities and strategic partnerships. These efforts aim to increase Indigenous participation in the economy and ensure individuals benefit from the province's growing job market and economy. Many

programs and services are designed with employers and delivered by post-secondary institutions or community-based organizations. This includes the Northern Skills Training program, the Essential Skills program, Skills Training, Apprenticeship and Workforce Development programming.

The ministry partners with Indigenous organizations such as the Saskatoon Tribal Council, George Gordon Development Corporation, Battlefords Agency Tribal Chiefs, Gary Tinker Federation and the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies to deliver employment readiness initiatives to prepare Indigenous people for in-demand jobs. An example of an innovative partnership is the ministry's partnership with Prairies Can, Prince Albert Grand Council, Cameco, Orano Canada, SSR Mining, Rise Air and Ya'thi Néné Land and Resources to deliver the Dziret'ai Pilot Training Program to address the growing shortage of airline pilots across the Athabasca Basin and Saskatchewan's north. This collaboration will help the industry grow, provide employers with a workforce from the region and support strong and resilient communities with increased jobs. Air transportation is essential for connecting remote and northern communities and supporting the economy.

The ministry also co-chairs the Northern Labour Market Committee to help facilitate important labour market discussions and ongoing engagement among government, northern Indigenous agencies and industry and educational/training institutions. The mandate of the group is to initiate actions which will enable residents of northern Saskatchewan to benefit from training, employment and economic activities in their region.



Students of the Dziret'ai Pilot Training program. Photo credit: Rise Air

Dziret'ai Pilot Training Program — Advancing Reconciliation Through Aviation

The Dziret'ai (Dene for “flying” or “soaring” or “plane”) Pilot Training Program is a transformative initiative that directly responds to the TRC CTA by addressing the systemic barriers faced by Indigenous peoples in northern Saskatchewan. This fully funded program empowers Indigenous candidates, particularly from the Athabasca Basin, with the skills, qualifications and support needed to pursue careers as professional pilots. It represents a meaningful step toward reconciliation by fostering equitable access to education, employment and cultural inclusion.

The program emerged in recognition of the barriers that northern and Indigenous residents face in accessing specialized training and professional careers, particularly in the aviation sector. High costs, limited access to training centres and systemic discrimination have historically excluded Indigenous peoples and women from the aviation industry. Dziret'ai removes these barriers through comprehensive training, wraparound supports and guaranteed career opportunities while centring Indigenous culture and identity throughout the process.

The program aligns with the CTA that urges institutions to eliminate educational and employment gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians. By offering mentorship, technical training and guaranteed employment with Rise Air, Dziret'ai creates a pathway to success for Indigenous youth. The program also emphasizes culturally appropriate education and the integration of Indigenous knowledge and perspectives.

In September 2024, 15 candidates from the Athabasca Basin began the Elevated Skills Program, a preparatory phase that focuses on upgrading, mentorship and readiness. From this group, 12 students were selected to continue into the pilot training program in January 2025 at Mitchinson Flight Centre in Saskatoon. The curriculum is rigorous and comprehensive, providing participants with private and commercial pilot licenses, multi-engine and instrument ratings and either a King Air or Twin Otter type rating.

The program is designed with cultural safety and community connection at its core. Students receive transportation and housing support while training in Saskatoon and scheduled breaks allow them to return home for cultural and family events. Elders and Knowledge Keepers are involved throughout and students are invited to participate in cultural celebrations such as the FSIN Powwow and Friends and Family Day at Rise Air.

Additional support includes uniforms, supplies and assistance with living expenses through partnerships with Ya'thi Néné and the Prince Albert Grand Council. This holistic approach ensures students are supported in both their careers and personal journeys.

The Dziret'ai Pilot Training Program is reconciliation in action, creating space for Indigenous excellence in aviation. By investing in Indigenous youth, the program contributes to community development and economic empowerment.

In January 2025, the Saskatchewan Research Council launched its Indigenous Action Plan, based on four pillars: Leadership, Employment, Business Development and Community Relationships. The Employment Pillar is defined as the commitment of resources to achieving equitable representation of Indigenous persons in the workplace. Through opportunities such as summer student and internship opportunities, Project CLEANS (Cleanup of Abandoned Northern Sites), micro-credential pilot training programs and the Accelerated Site Closure Program, Indigenous people gain skill development and work experience in the science, technology, engineering and math fields of study.

The Saskatchewan Research Council has also reimagined its former Aboriginal Mentoring Program as kiskiyihta (Cree for “to learn” or “to know”). This program aims to recruit and retain Indigenous post-secondary students in STEM and corporate disciplines to help students take their education and experience to the next level. kiskiyihta includes one-on-one coaching and mentoring along with meaningful paid summer employment and opportunities to help students develop skills and gain experience that will further their studies and future careers.



Dayagen Togada Mani

The 10th anniversary of the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final report provides the Government of Saskatchewan the opportunity to reflect on the efforts to advance reconciliation and renew the commitment to Truth and Reconciliation.

Over the past decade, the Government of Saskatchewan has undertaken numerous initiatives through ministries, Crowns and agencies to foster reconciliation. In considering these actions, it is apparent that reconciliation is incorporated into the Government of Saskatchewan's culture and informs how public servants and policymakers work with First Nations and Métis communities and organizations.

The Government of Saskatchewan's efforts to further reconciliation do not end with this report. Responding to the Calls to Action requires not only policy but individual action through the daily work of creating programs, delivering services and serving all people of this province. The Government of Saskatchewan will continue many of the initiatives started in the first decade and look for new opportunities to maintain and strengthen existing partnerships with Indigenous communities and organizations in the years to come.

Residential schools left a dark legacy on Canada and the Government of Saskatchewan encourages all residents of this province to take steps toward meaningful reconciliation. Implementing the Calls to Action takes considerable work, determination and desire for change but each act can have a lasting impact. Through reconciliation, all residents of this province are working together to build a strong, safe and secure Saskatchewan.

