

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

**For the purposes of
Increasing Cross-Border Collaboration and Sharing of Best Practices in responding to
the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-spirit+
People/Missing and Murdered Indigenous People**

BETWEEN:

GOVERNMENT OF YUKON

As represented by:
the Minister responsible for the Women and Gender Equity
Directorate and
the Minister responsible for the Department of Justice
("Yukon")

AND:

THE STATE OF ALASKA

As represented by:
The Commissioner of Public Safety
("Alaska")

1. BACKGROUND:

WHEREAS the Governor of Alaska and Premier of Yukon signed an Intergovernmental Relations Accord on February 9, 2024 pledging to continue to work together on matters of joint concern and mutual interest, and agreeing that officials may negotiate jointly cooperative agreements to the Intergovernmental Accord;

WHEREAS the Government of Yukon and the State of Alaska each recognize the urgency of addressing the crisis of missing and murdered indigenous women, girls, and Two- spirit+ people/missing and murdered Indigenous peoples;

WHEREAS Yukon and Alaska share a border and transportation corridors;

WHEREAS the unique nature of rural/remote communities impacts delivery of programs and services in both Yukon and Alaska;

WHEREAS the governments of Yukon and Alaska share a recognition of the diversity of partners and stakeholders involved in leading and supporting actions to prevent

and respond to gender-based violence including but not limited to Indigenous and Native women's organizations, Indigenous governments, child advocacy centers, victim advocacy organizations, non-governmental organizations, and law enforcement; and

WHEREAS the government of Yukon and Alaska recognize the effectiveness and importance of Indigenous-led practices, particularly in addressing historic and intergenerational trauma.

THEREFORE, the parties intend as follows:

2. PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THIS MOU:

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to foster collaboration between partners and to share expertise and promising practices between jurisdictions in responding to issues of public safety generally, and specifically gender-based violence and missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and Two-spirit+ people/ missing and murdered Indigenous people.

This Memorandum of Understanding will not replace or contradict existing laws or protocols regarding sharing of information and intelligence between law enforcement agencies in Yukon and Alaska.

3. DEFINITIONS:

In this MOU:

"MMIWG2S+" means missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, Two-spirit+ people, a term utilized commonly in Yukon.

"MMIP" means missing and murdered Indigenous peoples, a term utilized commonly in Alaska.

"Gender-based violence (GBV)" means **violence** perpetrated against someone based on their gender, gender expression, gender identity, or perceived gender. It takes many forms, including physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, and financial abuse as well as technology-facilitated violence.

"Sexual exploitation/sexual victimization" means any non-consensual sexual activity, whether or not such activity is forced, induced, or compelled, including non-forcible sexual assault, sexual abuse of children, sex-trafficking of adults and children, and commercialized sexual conduct, regardless of whether exploitation is sexually, financially, gender motivated, or age of the victim.

4. INITIATIVES:

The parties agree to:

- A. Increase the sharing of best and promising practices, and the professional and societal connections and networks, related to MMIWG/MMIP, more specifically:
 - 1. Strategies and structures, including but not limited to:
 - a. The development of Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy and Implementation Plan, including the Yukon Advisory Committee on MMIWG2S+;
 - b. The implementation of the State of Alaska's MMIP response plan and Senate Bill 151;
 - 2. Sexual exploitation/sexual victimization, including but not limited to:
 - a. Understanding the realities of sex trafficking, both reported and under-reported;
 - b. Prevention of sexual(ized) assault;
 - c. Sexual(ized) Assault Response Teams (SART); and
 - d. Child Advocacy Centers.
 - 3. Rural and remote crime prevention and response initiatives such as:
 - a. Village Public Safety Officer and Tribal Liaison Program in Alaska;
 - b. Navigation services for victims and witnesses of violence; and
 - c. Community safety planning program in Yukon.
 - 4. Monitoring and data collection, specific to gender-based violence, such as:
 - a. Alaska Victimization Survey (AVS)
 - b. Department of Public Safety's Felony Sex Offense Report
 - 5. Other areas of interest as they arise.
- B. Foster connections between third parties in Alaska and Yukon respectively, including but not limited to, Indigenous and Native women's organizations, with the permission of all parties, in order to further the commitments of this MOU.
- C. Participate in a minimum of one annual gathering, either in person or virtual, first to share best and promising practices, then to discuss progress on any of the above commitments, based on a mutually agreed agenda.

5. OTHER TERMS

This MOU forms an annex to the Alaska-Yukon Intergovernmental Relations Accord.

The MOU will remain in effect until the expiry or non-renewal of the Alaska-Yukon Intergovernmental Relations Accord, or on termination by mutual consent of both parties with 30 days' notice.

This MOU is not legally binding and does not create a right or cause of action enforceable by the parties or third parties.

This MOU may be amended by mutual agreement of the Parties in writing.

6. SIGNATURES:

Signed on this day, the 12th of August, 2025 in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Canada.

For Government of Yukon

For Government of Yukon

For the State of Alaska



Jeanie McLean
Minister responsible for the
Women and Gender Equity
Directorate



Tracy-Anne McPhee
Minister of Justice



James Cockrell
Commissioner of Public Safety