

Update for Families

What happened 2024-25 under
Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy



About this document

This update provides an overview of actions taken during the 2024–25 reporting period under Yukon’s MMIWG2S+ Strategy. It summarizes the full Annual Report, which includes detailed submissions from partners identified as leads for specific milestones in the Implementation Plan.

During the reporting period, partners shared updates on work across all areas of the Strategy. This included support for families and survivors, as well as work related to healing, prevention, housing, transportation, safety, education, culture and inclusion.

Together, these actions show the important work that is happening. They also show where further progress is needed. Some areas are moving forward, while others still require focus on meeting the identified milestones.

The full Annual Report, previous reports and related materials are available at yukon.ca/missing-murdered-indigenous-women-girls-2-spirit-people.

Families and loved ones were supported and honoured

Several partners reported their continued work to support the families; honour loved ones and help people navigate complex systems. Here are some examples:

The Victim Services Branch's family information liaison position continued to support family members of MMIWG2S+ people. This position helps families seek information about their loved one's case and navigate government systems.

The Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council focused on building stronger connections with British Columbia, Alaska and the Northwest Territories, as some families are dealing with justice, safety or support systems across borders in different jurisdictions.

Carcross/Tagish First Nation hosted family feasts, Red Dress Walks, engagement sessions and community barbeques. RCMP members participated in some of these events, including serving meals and building relationships with community members.

Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation also reported RCMP participation in family gatherings, including National Aboriginal Awareness Week and health team family week events.

The Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council continued collecting articles and adding names to the MMIWG2S+ family tree so loved ones are remembered and connected in the public record. They also supported a commemorative bench in Watson Lake and continued its Annual Sisters in Spirit Vigil walks.

The Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council also met with the RCMP Historical Case Unit in 2024. This work is expected to continue, with a focus on supporting families and First Nation leadership with aftercare connected to historical cases and justice processes.



"Memories of Loved Ones" by Violet Gatensby

Healing and wellness remained central to the work

Land-based healing continued to be one of the most meaningful areas of work reported by partners. These programs help people reconnect with culture, land, language, family roles and community responsibilities while creating space for healing from trauma and violence. Here are some examples:

Kluane First Nation hosted two week-long land-based camps, one for men and one for women. Participants learned from Elders and cultural leaders about traditional roles and responsibilities, parenting, women's well-being, self-defence, protector roles of young men, harvesting, food preparation and healing from gender-based violence and trauma.

Carcross/Tagish First Nation continued using Skookies Camp, Jack Pine Camp and Racine Camp for land-based programming. Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation continued long-standing Northern Tutchone land-based camps and expanded its camp at Victoria Creek to support future hunting and cultural practices camps.

In early 2025, Teslin Tlingit Council, the Government of Yukon and the Government of Canada finalized an agreement for Teslin Tlingit Council's corrections and community services model. A major part of this model is a permanent, year-round land-based healing camp. The agreement includes \$2.95 million in one-time federal funding and \$2.05 million in ongoing annual federal funding.

Health and Social Services (HSS) increased funding for the Land-Based Healing Program by \$4.35 million in 2024–25. HSS also hosted a family camp called "Strengthening family connection" in August 2024.

Mental wellness supports also expanded in some communities. Carcross/Tagish First Nation hired a counsellor in its Health and Wellness department. Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation worked with Yukon government HUB services and hired Northern Focus to provide counselling in Carmacks, Whitehorse and virtually. Ta'an Kwäch'än Council continued providing counselling supports for citizens.

The Council of Yukon First Nations Family Preservation Centre opened in August 2025. The centre provides Indigenous-led programming and temporary housing for Yukon First Nations and Indigenous women and children, including individuals identifying as 2SLGBTQIA+, who may be fleeing abuse, experiencing homelessness, dealing with mental health or addictions.



"Checking the Net with My Sister" by Violet Gatensby

Healthy relationships and prevention work with youth, men and boys

Several partners reported prevention work focused on healthy relationships, cultural connection and reducing violence. Some initiatives supported youth broadly, while others worked specifically with men and boys. Examples include:

The Department of Education approved locally developed courses created with Youth for Dignity. These courses focus on healthy relationships, respect and violence prevention.

BYTE – Empowering Youth Society reported that 42 per cent of its community workshops were from its Healthy Relationships series, where youth learned about consent, boundaries and healthy relationships. BYTE also held its 11th annual Leaders in Training gathering in Dawson. About 90 per cent of participants were female-identifying, and youth took part in land-based and cultural workshops led by Elders and knowledge holders.

Kwanlin Dün First Nation started a program called “The Uncles.” The program is led by three Kwanlin Dün First Nation men who are community role models and carry cultural and traditional knowledge. They worked with vulnerable men and boys through paid land-based projects, including wood harvesting near Mount Sima. The wood harvested is provided to Kwanlin Dün First Nation citizens. The program is also expected to move into work on traplines held by the citizens.

Teslin Tlingit Council planned to expand healing and violence-prevention programming for men and boys. This includes holding camps with cultural activities such as Tlingit history, hunting, fishing, regalia making, dancing, drum making and snowshoe making, along with conversations about healthy relationships, emotional regulation and addictions.

More work supported children staying connected to family, culture and community

Partners also reported working with children, youth and families stay connected to their culture, community and kin. Here are some examples:

Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation completed a wellness plan to guide programs and supports for families. Their family support team works with families who have been separated to assist with reunification.

Family and Children’s Services continued to place children with extended family when children cannot safely stay with their parents. As of July 2025, 94 children were placed with extended family members, and 96 per cent of those children were Indigenous.

In February 2025, Family and Children’s Services expanded funding for youth aged 16 to 18 and young adults aged 19 to 26 who were formerly in out-of-home care so they could attend ceremonies, cultural activities and visits in their home communities.

Community safety, policing and crisis supports moved forward

Some of the reported work focused on improving safety planning, policing relationships and access to crisis supports, especially in communities. Here are some examples:

The Government of Yukon provided funding to five Yukon First Nations for community safety, well-being planning community safety activities. It also connected nine First Nations governments to the federal Aboriginal Community Safety Planning Initiative. There are five First Nations currently working with federal and territorial governments on that initiative.

The Government of Yukon created a dedicated position to oversee the First Nation and Inuit Policing Program. The position focuses on RCMP accountability, transparency and stronger relationships with First Nations. Policing resources were increased for Na-Cho Nyäk Dun First Nation, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, Kluane First Nation and the Ross River Dena Council.

Sexualized assault supports were expanded beyond Whitehorse. Transportation for victims of sexualized violence is now available to people in all Yukon communities, helping reduce one of the major barriers for rural victims and survivors. People in rural communities can also call the 24/7 Yukon-based support line at 1-844-967-7275.

Education, training and employment supports were provided

Education, training and employment supports are also part of long-term safety and independence. Here are what partners reported:

The Department of Education brought the Yukon First Nations Traditional Knowledge, Cultural and Language Learning Policy into effect on September 30, 2024. This helps students receive credit for culturally based learning.

The Joint Education Action Plan was extended from 2025 to 2035. One of its priorities is culture and language, including Yukon First Nations curriculum, K–12 language programs, land-based learning and experiential education.

Yukon University reported that 26 per cent of its student population is Indigenous, meeting its aspiration that 25 per cent of students across programs be Indigenous. Yukon University also continues to provide practicum placements in First Nations communities for students in education, early learning and social work.

The Department of Education provides about \$2.5 million to support apprentices with training. Supports include tuition and seat fees, travel, books, commuting, second residence costs, daycare and living allowances where applicable.

Transportation and access to services improved

Transportation is a major safety issue for many families, victims and survivors, especially in rural communities. Here are what partners reported:

Women and Gender Equity Directorate provided more than \$2 million to 13 organizations to support violence prevention and victim support as of March 2025.

Indigenous Services Canada also provided more than \$4 million in 2024–25 through the Family Violence Prevention Program to Yukon First Nations governments and organizations for shelter operations and community-led safety and wellness projects.

The Dempster Fibre Line reached substantial completion on August 9, 2024. The project adds a backup telecommunications route to reduce service outages and improve internet and cellphone reliability in northern and remote communities.



"Checking the Net with My Sister" by Violet Gatensby

Housing work continued

Partners reported progress on housing-related issues, but safe, stable and affordable housing continues to be one of the leading needs for families, victims and survivors.

Indigenous Services Canada worked with Liard First Nation, White River First Nation and Ross River Dena Council to address housing gaps. In 2024–25, about 35 individual projects were supported with a total budget of approximately \$15 million.

The Canada-Yukon Housing Benefit helps with security deposit, moving fees and first and second month's rent, and can also provide a rent subsidy for up to 24 months to for survivors of gender-based violence.

Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council continued providing emergency shelter through an agreement with the Yukon Inn. Women and Gender Equity Directorate also allocated \$76,500 to the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition for program support at 60 Selkirk, Whitehorse Affordable Family Housing, and chairs the program's Oversight Committee.

Indigenous women's organizations and 2SLGBTQIA+ inclusion were supported

Indigenous women's organizations continue to play a central role in this work. They provide frontline support, advocacy, family support, cultural programming and leadership. Here are what partners reported:

Women and Gender Equity Directorate allocated \$347,000 through the Indigenous Women's Equality Fund to support the operations of Yukon's three Indigenous women's organizations. The Directorate also provided funding through the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence to support victim services, prevention work and Indigenous-led responses. Some of this funding supported Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council's Elders-in-Residence and Counsellors-in-Residence programs.

Work also continued through the LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion Action Plan, which involves nine Yukon government departments and ran until March 2026. Women and Gender Equity Directorate provided \$375,000 to support the operations of Queer Yukon Society.

The Community Development Fund also provided \$29,741 to Queer Yukon Society to host an on-the-land camp for women and 2SLGBTQIA+ community members who had experienced gender-based violence.

In March 2024, Yukon advanced its first territorial proclamation of Two-Spirit Day, with community engagement and awareness-building activities.



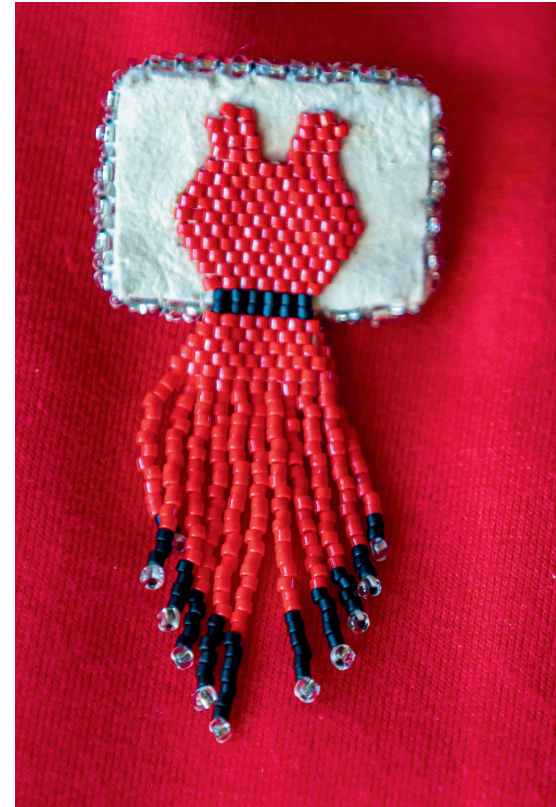
"Little Sister to Forget Me Not" by Violet Gatensby

Looking ahead

The current report shows ongoing progress. As this reporting period covers the second year of the 15-year strategy, the following milestones and actions require additional attention to maintain progress and momentum to ensure the successful implementation of Yukon's MMIWG2S+Strategy:

- establishing the MMIWG2S+ Trust Fund;
- updating the MMIWG2S+ record;
- applying the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) to this work;
- advancing long-term, safe and affordable transportation between communities;
- continuing investments in emergency, transitional and permanent safe housing options for families and survivors; and
- establishing ongoing governance and accountability structures to guide this work.

This update is one step in sharing information about actions taken under the Implementation Plan and reported by partners in the 2024–25 Annual Report.



Support is available

Reading about MMIWG2S+ can bring up grief, anger, fear, trauma or other difficult feelings. You do not need to go through this alone. Support is available.

For immediate emotional support related to MMIWG2S+, call the **Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Crisis Line** at **1-844-413-6649**. This line is free and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

For culturally grounded support for Indigenous people across Canada, call the **Hope for Wellness Helpline** at **1-855-242-3310**. Online chat is also available at hopeforwellness.ca. Support is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

If you are thinking about suicide, worried about someone else, or need immediate emotional support, call or text **9-8-8**. This service is available across Canada 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

If you have experienced sexualized assault, or are supporting someone who has, call Yukon's **Sexualized Assault Response Team** support line at **1-844-967-7275**. This confidential line is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

For support as a victim of crime, or if you need help leaving an unsafe situation because of gender-based violence, travel assistance may be available through **Yukon Victim Services** at **867-667-8500** or toll free at **1-800-661-0408**.

If you are experiencing violence or abuse, you can call or text the **Women's Transition Home / Kaushee's Place** 24-hour support line at **867-668-5733**. Collect calls are accepted.

For counselling and mental wellness support in the Yukon, contact **Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services** at **867-456-3838** in Whitehorse or toll free in Yukon at **1-866-456-3838**.

