



Winnipeg Indigenous Executive Circle

112-181 Higgins Avenue

Winnipeg, Manitoba

R3B 3G1

T: (204) 989-6380

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The Winnipeg Indigenous Executive Circle (WIEC) is comprised of over 30 Indigenous organizations working collectively to enhance the quality of life for the urban Indigenous community in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Our Strengthening Families Working Group has undertaken research and formulated an "Action Plan to address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada." We present this brief to advocate for the implementation of an emergency alert system, known as the Red Dress Alert, to aid in locating missing Indigenous women, girls, and individuals who identify as 2SLGBTQQIA+.

WIEC's strategy aims to catalyze meaningful actions to address MMIWG2S+ over the next five years, aligning with broader initiatives in this regard.

The Winnipeg Indigenous Executive Circle (WIEC) has outlined a comprehensive action plan to address the issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People (MMIWG2S+) in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. The action plan comprises seven pillars that are deemed essential for providing a strong foundation for addressing this crisis. These pillars include:

1. **Recognizing and Centering the Voices of MMIWG2S+ Families:** This involves involving MMIWG2S+ families at every stage of the work and following their leadership. Additionally, funding should be provided for the participation of MMIWG2S+ families in all efforts to address violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.
2. **Forming a Provincial Cabinet Committee on MMIWG2S+:** Establishing a dedicated committee of relevant Cabinet Ministers with a mandate to address violence and invest in transformative solutions for addressing the crisis continually.
3. **Recognizing and Addressing Systemic Racism Towards Indigenous Peoples:** This pillar involves deploying reviews, reforms, and training for all institutional actors serving urban Indigenous peoples. It also advocates for adopting an Indigenous-led definition requiring a minimum of 75 percent Indigenous staff within an organization.
4. **Adopting a Rights-Based Framework:** Recognizing the inherent, constitutional, and human rights of Indigenous peoples and respecting these rights in all work with urban Indigenous peoples. This includes listening to the priorities identified by urban Indigenous peoples and collaborating with Indigenous-led organizations to develop meaningful responses.
5. **Shifting Resources to Indigenous-led Organizations:** Prioritizing investments into Indigenous-led organizations, allocating funding based on the proportion of Indigenous peoples requiring service, and investing in the formation of tailored Indigenous-led organizations where they do not yet exist.
6. **Providing Long-Term Investments into Indigenous-led Organizations:** Committing to long-term sustainable funding for Indigenous-led organizations to deliver transformative programming to urban Indigenous peoples.



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7. **Establishing a Centre for Oversight and Research:** Funding an independent center to provide oversight of the implementation of each Call For Justice and collect data on the experiences of violence of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQA+ people.

Furthermore, WIEC emphasizes the importance of embracing these pillars in each area requiring government action and calls for Manitoba to work with them in determining which priorities identified will be implemented first. They stress the need for co-development and co-management with Indigenous peoples and Indigenous-led organizations in all programming and initiatives related to addressing MMIWG2S+. Finally, WIEC commits to ensuring that survivors of violence and MMIWG2S+ families are always included and centered in this work. They propose a series of calls to action directed towards the Government of Manitoba, calling for support from municipal and federal governments where jurisdictions overlap.

The creation of the Red Dress Alert is pivotal and strongly aligns with the initiatives outlined in WIEC's action plan. This emergency alert system is a critical tool in addressing the urgent need to locate missing Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQA+ individuals. By advocating for the implementation of the Red Dress Alert, WIEC emphasizes its commitment to supporting the safety and well-being of Indigenous communities in Winnipeg and beyond.

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D Olivence".

Dawn Olivence
WIEC CEO