

Decision/Direction Note
Office of Women and Gender Equality

Title: 2024-2025 Pillar Two Funding under the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence

Decision/Direction Required:

s.29(1)(a)

Background and Current Status:

- In 2023, Newfoundland and Labrador negotiated a \$13.6 million four-year bilateral agreement with the Government of Canada through the GBV-NAP (2023-24: \$2.60M; 2024-25: \$3.65M; 2025-26: \$3.65M; 2026-27: \$3.65M).
- The Province is required to match the Federal contribution annually, which means in 2023-24 over \$5.2 million was spent on gender-based violence. For the duration of the bilateral agreement, more than \$27.2 million will be spent by the Province to end gender-based violence.
- Built on existing Federal-Provincial/Territorial (FP/T) approaches and strategies, GBV-NAP is the first FP/T strategic framework for action, within and across jurisdictions, to support GBV victims, survivors and their families, no matter where they live. It affirms a common vision, principles, and goals for GBV response, foundationally rooted in engagement, data mobilization and research, and frontline expertise that support evidence-based policy and program development.
- The GBV-NAP's five pillars identify existing challenges and opportunities for action where FP/T governments can advance work: **Pillar One:** *Support for victims, survivors, and their families*; **Pillar Two:** *Prevention*; **Pillar Three:** *Responsive justice system*; **Pillar Four:** *Implementing Indigenous-led approaches*; and **Pillar Five:** *Social infrastructure and enabling environment*.
- Pillar Two emphasizes primary prevention approaches that address the root causes of GBV in order to stop violence before it occurs. Prevention work must occur in a range of contexts – in private spaces; public spaces; community spaces; workplaces; educational settings of all types, including post-secondary institutions; and online settings.

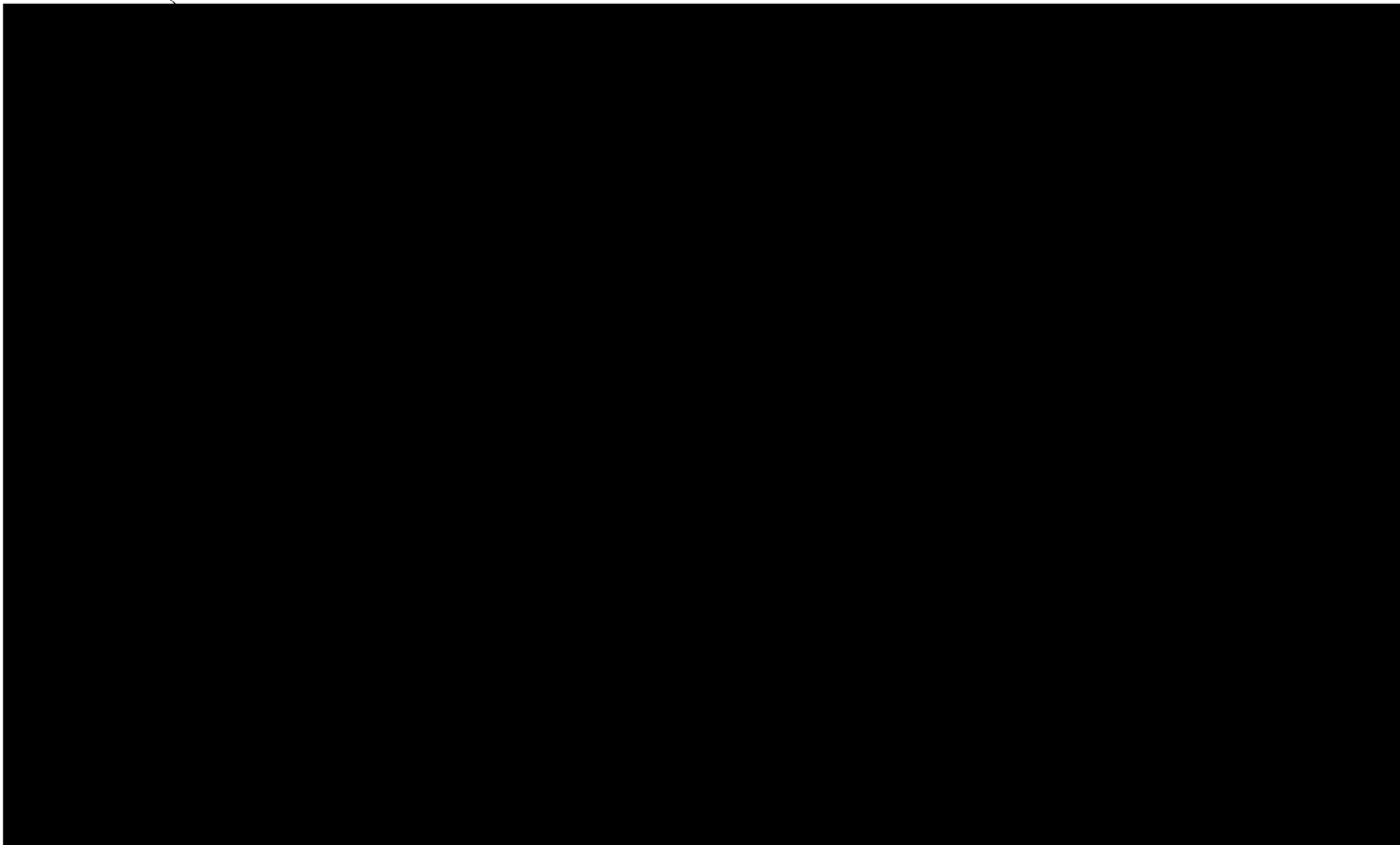
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Analysis:

- GBV disproportionately affects women and girls. Certain populations, such as Indigenous women and girls, Black and racialized women, women living in Northern, rural, and remote communities, non-status and temporary status migrants, immigrants and refugees, individuals, people with disabilities, children, and youth, 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals, and seniors, experience excessively high rates of GBV.
- The Provincial Action Network on the Status of Women (PANSOW) released a report, "Seeds of Change: Community Perspectives on Gender-Based Violence Advocacy and Action in Newfoundland and Labrador", on March 8, 2024, that provides 88 recommendations for action including violence prevention initiatives [Redacted] s.29(1)(a)

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Prepared/Approved by: E. Christy/C. Ennis-Williams
Ministerial Approval: Received from

August 20, 2024

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Decision/Direction Note
Office of Women and Gender Equality

Title: Newfoundland Aboriginal Women's Network Coordination Grant for a Reconciliation Council meeting in Labrador

Decision/Direction Required:

s.29(1)(a)



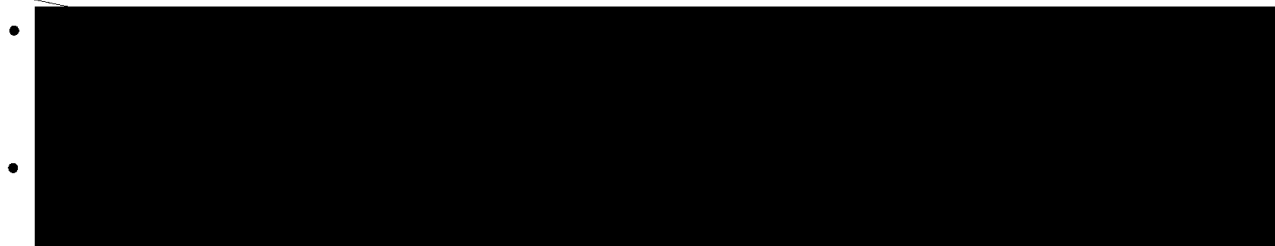
Background and Current Status:

- Announced in November 2022, the Reconciliation Council (the Council) is a collaboration between Indigenous women and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. The Council is composed of eleven members, including five Provincial Government representatives and six Indigenous women representatives.
- The overall goal of the Council is to coordinate and lead meaningful action on implementation of the 196 recommendations in the areas of Indigenous culture, health and wellness, justice, and human security, leading to lasting changes in legislation, regulations, government directives, policies, and procedures.
- According to its Terms of Reference, the Council must meet at least four times a year. Since its formation, the Council has met a total of four times. The locations of these meetings have purposefully rotated and have included three in-person meetings, St. John's (June 2023 and May 2024) and Corner Brook (September 2023), and one virtual (February 2024).
- In April 2024, WGE provided NAWN with a grant of \$100,000 to support the hiring of a Technical Lead position on behalf of the Reconciliation Council through **Pillar Four** of the National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence Plan (GBV-NAP): **Implementing Indigenous-led approaches**.
- This Technical Lead position, which was filled in April 2024, is to coordinate Reconciliation Council activities as well as to provide research and policy development support to members and particularly, the Indigenous co-chairs.

Analysis:

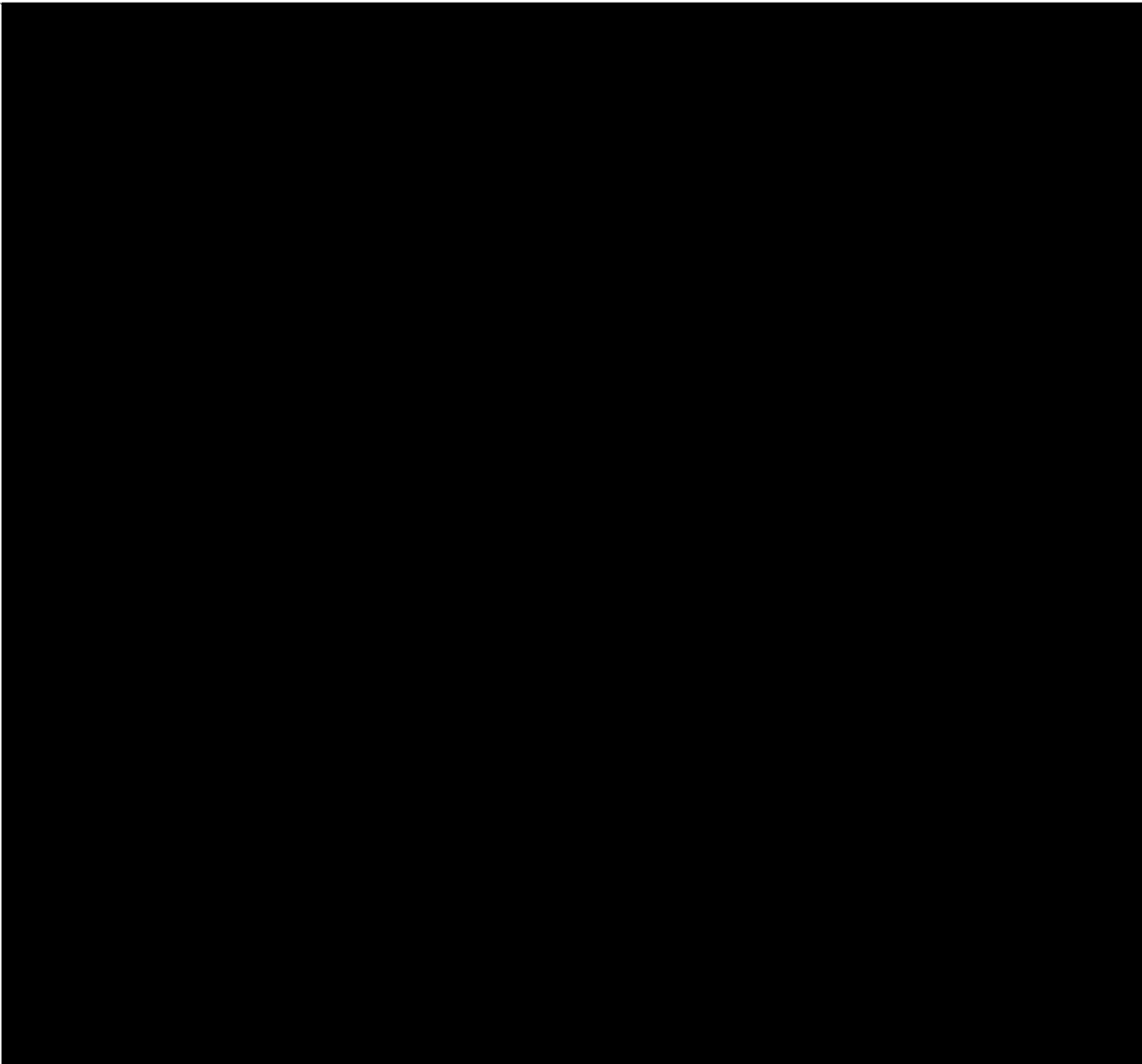
- Indigenous members of the Reconciliation Council have expressed the importance of holding an in-person meeting in Labrador and specifically, coastal Labrador. Holding a meeting in Coastal Labrador would also respond to Hear Our Voices recommendations including:
 - 48. *Build collaborative and mutually respectful relationships with Indigenous communities by taking time to appreciate Indigenous culture and the worth of people's time. For example, extend time in engagement; not just fly in, fly out.*
 - 106. *Ensure that people making decisions about programs should experience Indigenous focused land-based programming.*

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Prepared/Approved by:
Ministerial Approval:

S. Furlong/C. Ennis-Williams
Received from Hon.

August 22, 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Furlong', is written over the printed name and extends slightly to the right.