

**Decision Note**  
**Office of Women and Gender Equality**

**Title:** 2024-25 Indigenous Violence Prevention Grants Program

s.29(1)(a)

**Decision/Direction Required:**

**Background and Current Status:**

- Since 2005, the Office of Women and Gender Equality (WGE) has provided approximately \$4.2 million in project funding through its Indigenous Violence Prevention Grants Program ('the Program') to more than 180 culturally appropriate Indigenous-led violence prevention projects in the province.
- In June 2024, the Minister Responsible for the Office of Women and Gender Equality issued a call for proposals for the Indigenous Violence Prevention Grants Program through a news release (issued on June 3, 2024) and via letter to leaders of Indigenous groups and organizations. The official deadline for applications was June 28, 2024.
- Based on knowledge shared from Indigenous women's groups and organizations, the Program acknowledges that there are many culturally appropriate approaches to preventing violence in Indigenous communities including, but not limited to, the following:
  - Increasing awareness, education, and training;
  - Investing in leadership development;
  - Building community capacity; and
  - Enhancing opportunities for healing.
- Through Budget 2024, WGE allocated \$271,000 to the 2024-25 Indigenous Violence Prevention Grants Program. Additional funds (up to \$100,000 in 2024-25) are available through the provincial agreement for the Federal National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence (GBV-NAP) to provide 100 percent funding for all right-sized budget requests.

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**Analysis:**

- As outlined in grant program funding criteria and guidelines, there is a funding cap of \$30,000 per project.

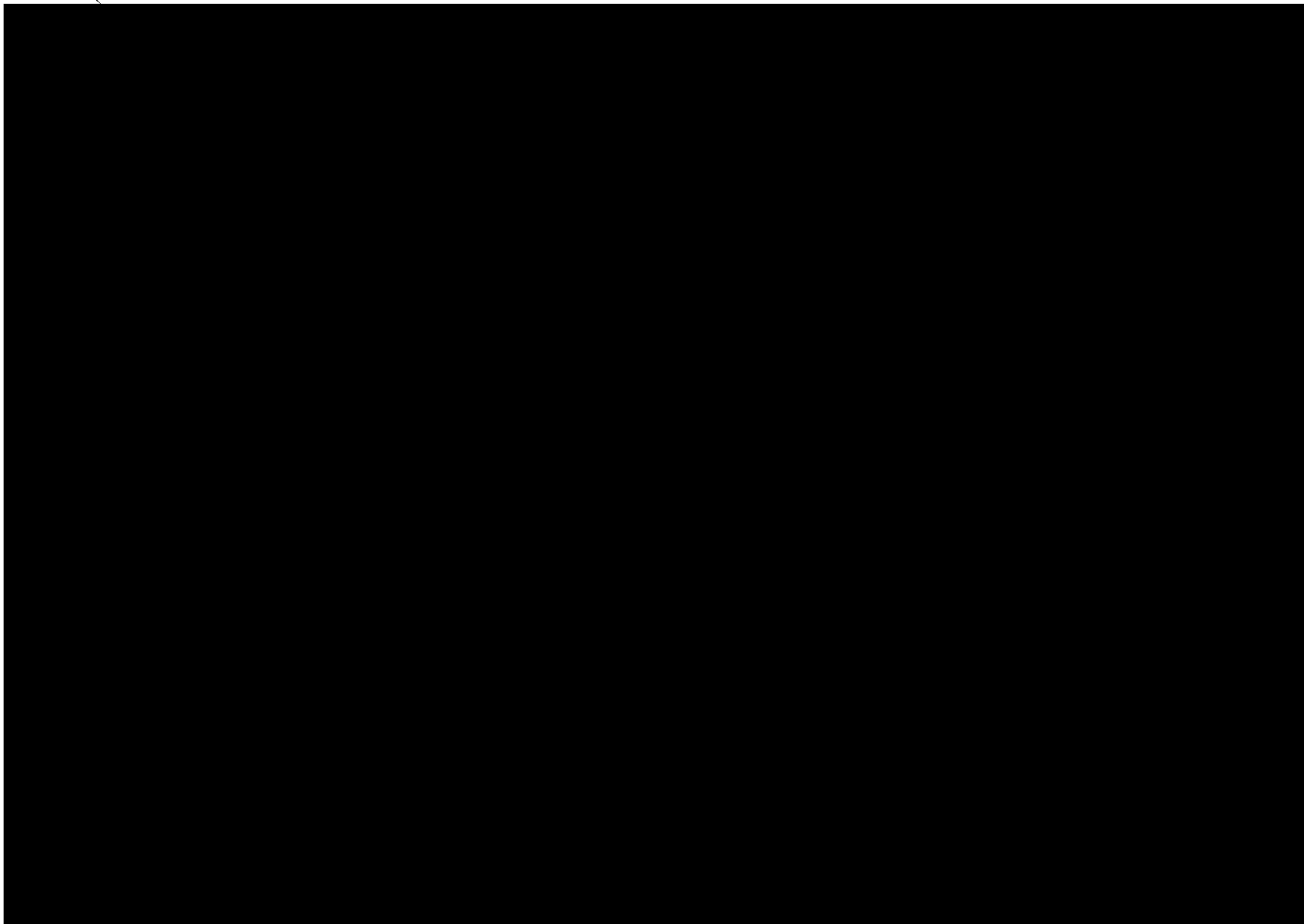
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- Recommended amounts were determined based upon grant program criteria, as well as the identification and right-sizing of inflated budget lines. Consideration was given to precedents from past projects, trends found in 2024-25 proposals, and project scopes.
- Some specific considerations for 2024-25 included:
  - The high cost of living in Labrador, which affects travel, accommodations, and food;
  - The average salary of \$25/hour for similar positions based on historical analysis of past grant proposals;
  - The projected length of the project, ensuring that it is within the Program guidelines; and
  - The degree to which the proposals directly focused on violence prevention.
- IAR has reviewed WGE's proposal analysis for the 2024-25 Program and has no concerns.

s.29(1)(a)

**Alternatives:**



**Prepared/Approved by:** J. George/S. Furlong/C. Ennis-Williams  
**Ministerial Approval:** Received from

September 9, 2024

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**Decision/Direction Note**  
**Office of Women and Gender Equality**

**Title:** 2024-25 Crisis Hotline Agreement Funding for End Sexual Violence NL and Transition House Association of NL

**s.29(1)(a)** **Decision/Direction Required:**

**Background and Current Status:**

- To support crisis hotlines during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Canada, through Budget 2021, announced \$30 million over five years, starting in 2021-22, “so that crisis hotlines can serve the urgent needs of more Canadians and offer more robust services, resources, and supports to prevent the escalation of gender-based violence (GBV)”.
- This funding is part of the \$601.3 million over five years allocated in Federal Budget 2021 to advance the National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence (NAP-GBV) that was officially launched by the Federal-Provincial/Territorial Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women at their 40<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in November 2022.
- The Government of Canada, through Women and Gender Equality (WAGE), has entered into bilateral contribution agreements with provincial and territorial (PT) governments to distribute \$23.9 million in funding over three years to organizations operating existing crisis hotlines. This funding is subject to WAGE’s Women’s Program Terms and Conditions and its provision on exceptional situations re emergency events of national scope or beyond (e.g., COVID-19).
- The Provincial allocation under the Crisis Hotlines agreement is \$700,000 (i.e., 2023-24: \$275,000; 2024-25: \$240,000; 2025/26: \$170,000). Based on PT information shared in 2021, Indigenous Services Canada and WAGE identified 296 crisis hotlines for potential funding, including the ESVNL helpline and the Domestic Violence Helpline delivered in partnership with THANL.
- The Office of Women and Gender Equality (WGE) provides core funding to ESVNL, which operates an anonymous, confidential, 24-hour toll-free crisis, support, and information line, with text/chat services 20 hours per week. The line is accessible province-wide by individuals impacted by sexual violence. The service continues to see an increase in repeat callers.

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- WGE also provides funding to THANL to offer the Domestic Violence Helpline service. This province-wide, 24-hour toll-free line directs calls to the applicable region where the caller is located and immediately connects them with one of THANL’s ten transition houses. The caller speaks with a trained professional who will assist them directly or connect them to the appropriate service or organization in the community, including women’s centres, violence prevention organizations, government departments, or medical and policing services. This helpline is also fully text enabled, providing an additional means to reach out for assistance.
  - THANL has noted that distress calls to its organizations have risen about 56 per cent in the past year and additional HR resources are needed to support staff.

**s.29(1)(a)** **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, people with disabilities, children and youth, 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals, and seniors, experience excessively high rates of GBV.

- The 2024-25 allocation for WGE through the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Crisis Hotline Agreement is \$245,000.

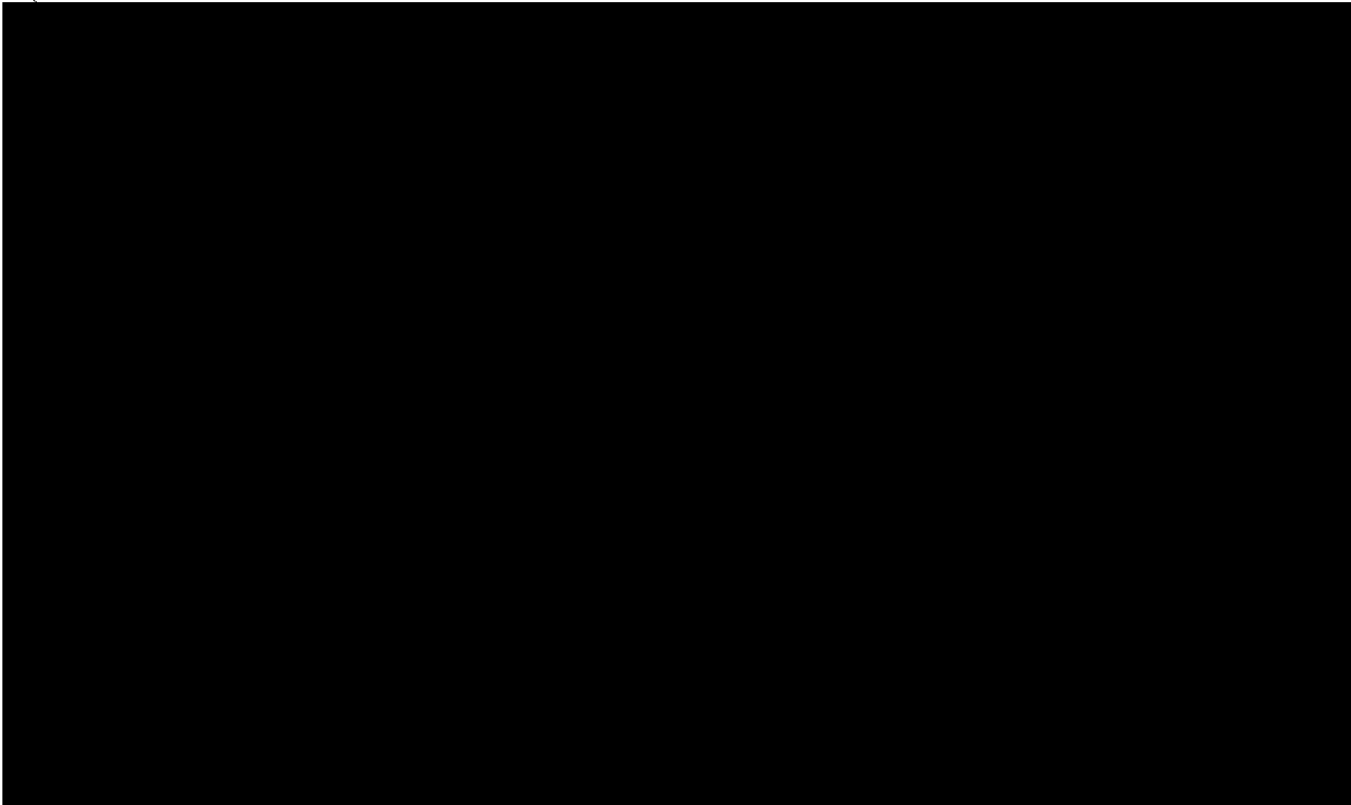


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- As a funding condition, WGE will ensure collection of performance (impact) data, acquired by organizational reporting requirements, and program evaluation. This will specifically include the types of support provided each year, by hotline and the number of calls received. Both WAGE and WGE will use this information to report on how eligible organizations operating crisis hotlines responding to GBV are addressing, adapting, and preparing for service delivery post-pandemic.

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**Alternatives:**



Prepared/Approved by: N. Collins/E. Christy/C. Ennis-Williams

Ministerial Approval:

September 13, 2024

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**Decision/Direction Note**  
**Office of Women and Gender Equality**

**Title:** 2024-2025 Pillar Four 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 Four focuses on Working with victims, survivors and their families, Indigenous governments and partners, non-governmental organizations, provinces, and territories as well as working horizontally across federal institutions will help ensure a coordinated approach that supports sustainable progress towards ending GBV against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people, no matter where they live.

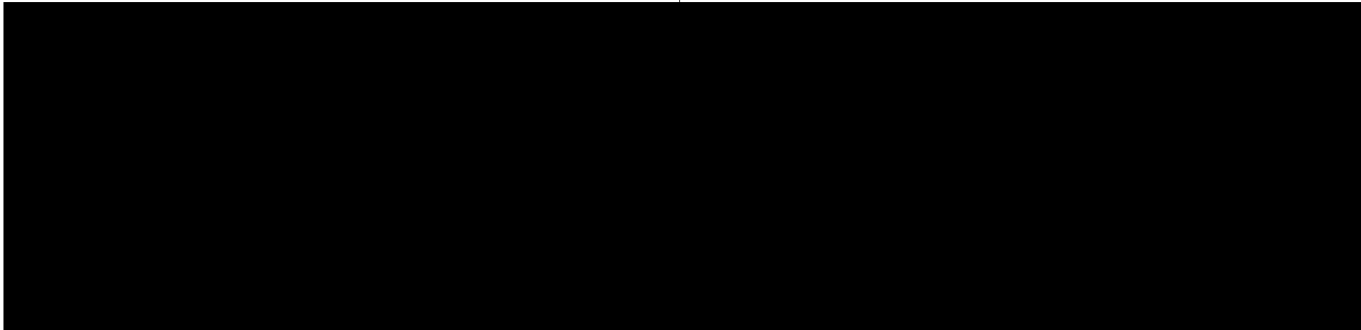
**Analysis:**

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- 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, 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals, and seniors, experience excessively high rates of GBV.

- The formation of the Provincial Indigenous Women's Reconciliation Council was a recommendation of the "Hear Our Voices: MMIWG Policy Recommendations of the First Women of Newfoundland and Labrador" report brought forward by the Provincial Indigenous Women's Steering Committee. Pillar Four priorities are rooted in the 196 recommendations in this report as a further commitment from the Provincial Government to work collaboratively and in partnership with Indigenous Governments and Organizations to prevent violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQA+ people.

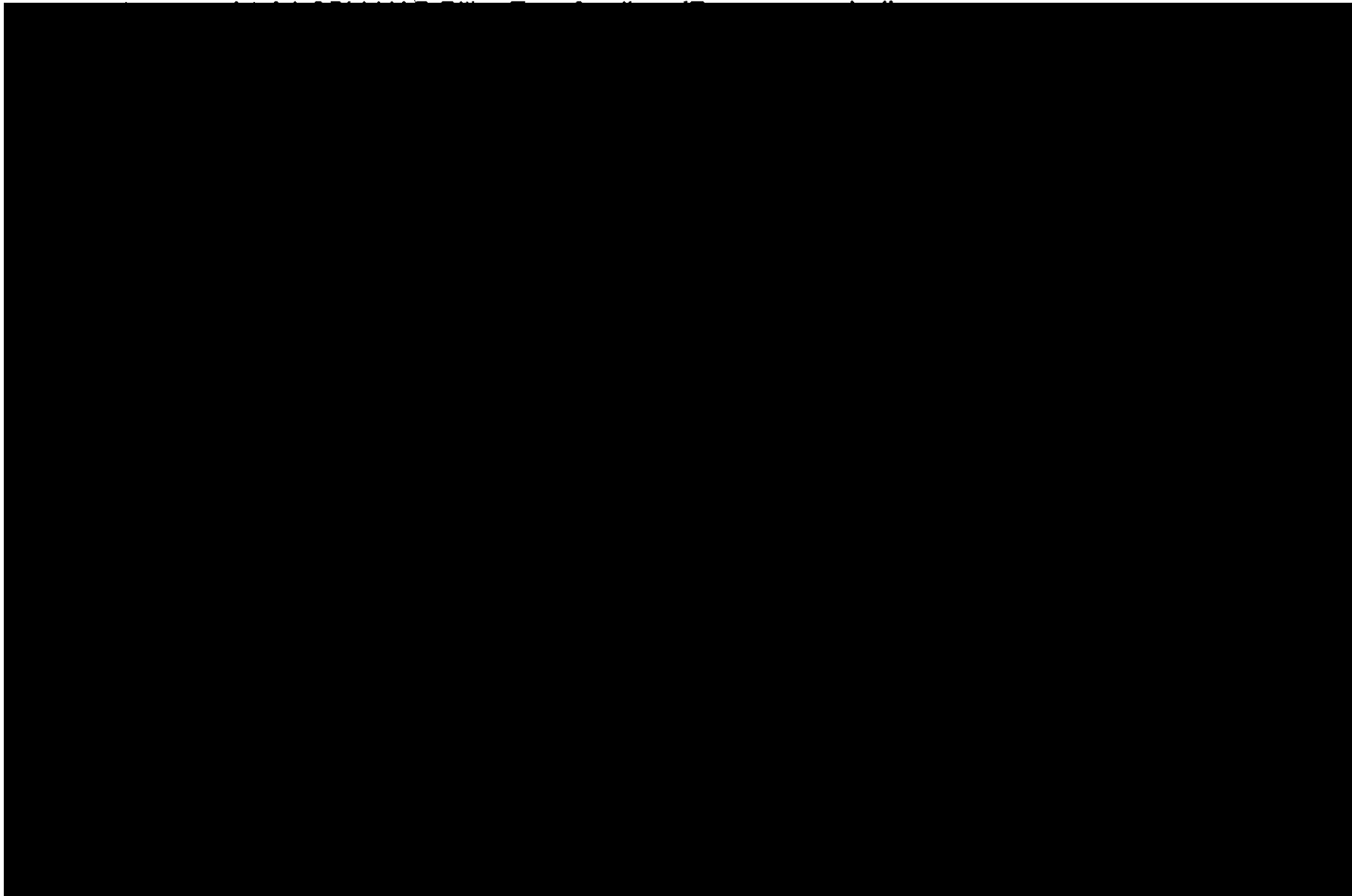
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- This proposed funding allocation will help to ensure the continuation of enhanced programming and supports made available through the GBV-NAP in 2023-24. It will also support the creation of provincial/regional baseline data that will inform the impact of continuous programming and services over multiple years to assist in future GBV-NAP capacity and budget planning.

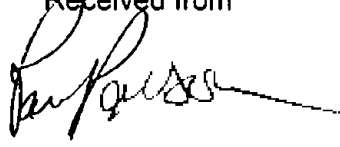
**Alternatives:**

s.29(1)(a)



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

September 13, 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Ennis-Williams", written over the text "Received from".