

INFO BULLETIN

INFORMATION FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

National

Issue 133

September 23 to October 6, 2024

Apply now – National Council for Reconciliation Board of Directors

The Transitional Committee and the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations are seeking diverse, highly qualified candidates to serve on the first board of the National Council for Reconciliation. Interested candidates should have the following qualifications:

- extensive experience advancing reconciliation efforts in Canada
- strong existing networks and relationships in the area of reconciliation
- experience on a national board of directors
- experience related to the impacts of the realities and histories of Indigenous Peoples in Canada

Selection will be based on individual merit and the overall composition of the first board. The board will be comprised of 9 to 13, with at least two-thirds being Indigenous, and will take into account the requirements in the [National Council for Reconciliation Act](#).

The deadline to submit your application is October 27, 2024 at 11:59 pm Pacific Time. For more information, including [required documents](#), [eligibility criteria](#) and [how to apply](#), please visit [About the National Council for Reconciliation](#).

Canada, Manitoba and Giganawenimaanaanig partner to develop Red Dress Alert

Every day in this country, Indigenous families, relatives, friends and communities mourn the loss of their [missing and murdered loved ones from violence against Indigenous women, girls, Two-Spirit and gender-diverse people](#). On October 4, 2024, [Sisters in Spirit Day](#), the Government of Canada highlighted the latest [progress towards advancing the Red Dress Alert pilot](#), welcoming the announcement that Manitoba will work under the guidance and leadership of Giganawenimaanaanig for the pilot. The pilot has been funded by a \$1.3 million investment from the federal government.

The federal government is working closely with Indigenous partners at the national, regional and grassroots levels, families and survivors, and provincial and territorial counterparts, to [ensure an alert system reflects the needs of Indigenous Peoples](#) across the country. Under Giganawenimaanaanig, this important work will remain rooted in cultural competency, community empowerment, and holistic approaches to healing and justice.

For more information, please visit the [news release](#).

Funding for First Nations Guardians now managed by world's first Indigenous-led national stewardship network

On September 27, 2024, the Government of Canada announced an investment of up to [\\$27.6 million to support 80 First Nations Guardians initiatives](#). This investment will [support 18 new and 62 existing initiatives](#) to safeguard the land, water, and wildlife within First Nation territories while also creating meaningful employment opportunities in remote areas. This announcement marks a significant milestone, as it is the first time First Nations Guardians' funding has been independently managed by the [National Guardians Network](#), the world's first Indigenous-led national stewardship network.

The [Indigenous Guardians](#) initiative is an important pathway for Indigenous peoples to continue to exercise their rights and responsibilities in stewardship of their traditional lands, and a key component of Canada's commitment to and implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

For more information, please visit the [news release](#).

**HELP IS AVAILABLE
WHENEVER YOU
NEED IT.**

**Immediate support is available 24/7
for all Indigenous people in Canada.**

Hope for Wellness Help Line and Chat
1-855-242-3310 or www.hopeforwellness.ca

Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line
1-866-925-4419

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women
and Girls Support Line
1-844-413-6649

FOLLOW US     



Ready for a career where your lived experiences and knowledge can be applied to delivering programs that truly matter?

We're all about collaboration, team spirit, and advancing reconciliation with Indigenous communities. With work-life balance, hybrid work, and tons of support like access to Elders and Indigenous career counsellors, we've got you covered.

Curious to learn more? Join our information sessions or [apply now!](#)

Government of Canada announces over \$5 million for Indigenous child maltreatment and youth dating violence prevention projects

On September 26, 2024, the Government of Canada [announced an investment of over \\$5 million](#) in funding over 5 years for [5 Indigenous focused projects](#) aimed at promoting child development and preventing, recognizing and responding safely to child maltreatment and youth dating violence. These projects will serve over 1,270 Indigenous children, youth and their families across Canada.

This funding will support the development, deliver, and testing of health promotion interventions that promote resilience, healthy relationships and cultural connection. The funded projects will provide Indigenous children, youth and their families, as well as service providers, with the tools and knowledge to build safe, supportive relationships and reduce the prevalence of violence in their lives. This investment aligns with Canada's broader efforts to advance reconciliation and promote the health and well-being of Indigenous Peoples.

For more information, including the [list of 5 projects](#), please visit the [news release](#).

Launch of Canada's Action Plan on Combatting Hate

The Government of Canada [unveiled Canada's Action Plan on Combatting Hate](#). The rise in hate incidents has disproportionately affected Indigenous Peoples; Black, racialized, religious minorities and 2SLGBTQI+ communities; women; and persons with disabilities. The [Action Plan](#) represents Canada's first-ever comprehensive cross-government effort to combat hate. It brings together 20 key federal initiatives grounded on 3 pillars:

- empower communities to identify and prevent hate
- support victims and survivors, and protect communities
- build community trust, partnerships and institutional readiness

The Action Plan invests \$273.6 million over 6 years, and \$29.3 million ongoing, to tackle hatred from multiple angles. It includes increasing support to victims and survivors, helping communities prevent, address and protect people from hate, enhancing research and data collection, providing greater resources for law enforcement, and raising public awareness.

For more information, please visit the [backgrounder](#) and [Combatting hate in Canada](#).



Regional

Federal investment announced for revitalization and economic reconciliation in downtown Winnipeg

On September 27, 2024, the Government of Canada announced [\\$10 million in federal support for the creation of retail, food and community spaces within the broader redevelopment of Portage Place](#). The funding will support the Manitoba government's [historic agreement with True North Real Estate Development \(TNRED\)](#) for the revitalization of Winnipeg's downtown. Portage Place represents a significant opportunity to address Winnipeg's housing needs while advancing Indigenous reconciliation and creating welcoming spaces which are essential for healthy communities.

The full scope of the project includes a multi-story Health Care Centre of Excellence, an affordable housing complex, community spaces and support for local businesses. This project complements the vision for the new Portage Place and [Wehwehneh Bahgahkinahgoohn](#) and aims to transform the former Hudson's Bay Company building into a social and economic housing complex and cultural hub that honours Indigenous Peoples and welcomes all.

For more information, please visit the [news release](#).

Recruitment for Prairie Green Landfill search team announced

The Manitoba government is partnering with the [Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs \(AMC\)](#) to [recruit team members for the Prairie Green Landfill search](#). Multiple full- and part-time term positions are available for general search technicians, forensic anthropology search technicians and forensic anthropology search assistants. AMC will oversee recruitment for general search technicians with funding support from the Manitoba government. In honouring Grand Chief Cathy Merrick's legacy, both AMC and the Manitoba government have agreed to include a quote that was written for this issue prior to her passing.

"We are deeply committed to working in partnership with the families of Morgan Harris, Mercedes Myran, and Mashkode Bizhiki'ikwe, alongside the province, in securing skilled search technicians to ensure the safe and respectful return of their loved ones," said Grand Chief Cathy Merrick, Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, before her sudden passing. "The significance of this work cannot be overstated, as it marks a vital step towards healing for the affected families, Nations, and communities. Our efforts will continue to be guided by a First Nations-led approach, ensuring their loved ones are brought home and honoured in ceremony with the respect and dignity they so rightfully deserve."

For more information, please visit the [news release](#).

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Strategy renewed

The Manitoba government [recently released its renewed 5-year Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder \(FASD\) Strategy](#), which includes immediate investments and ongoing funds for timely and effective supports for Manitobans affected by FASD and alcohol use in pregnancy. This includes a \$172,000 budget increase for the [InSight Mentoring Program](#), which provides 3 years of mentorship to help pregnant people stop or reduce alcohol use during pregnancy.

The additional funding will support expanded programming at sites in Winnipeg, Portage la Prairie, Dauphin, The Pas, Flin Flon and Thompson including three Indigenous-led service providers offering culturally grounded services. This investment will enable the Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre in Winnipeg to support an additional 15 families and offer Indigenous cultural and spiritual support services for participants. The Manitoba government currently invests \$15.5 million annually in the FASD Strategy.

For more information, please visit the [news release](#).

Expanded access to addictions treatment through virtual walk-in

Manitobans can now get addictions treatment through [Rapid Access to Addictions Medicine \(RAAM\)](#) clinics virtually and without an appointment using any smartphone, tablet or computer. The Manitoba government provided more than [\\$450,000 to support the development of the Digital Front Door health services platform](#), which enables existing RAAM clinics to offer virtual drop-in clinics led by nurses. Using the platform, individuals can virtually "walk in" to RAAM clinics without an appointment.

RAAM clinics are drop-in clinics for people looking for help with substance use and addictions including those who may want to try medical assistance to reduce or stop their substance use. RAAM clinics can also treat substance-related health issues such as hepatitis, pancreatitis or infections. There are currently 3 RAAM clinics in Winnipeg and clinics in Brandon, Thompson, Selkirk and Portage la Prairie.

For more information, including [how to access digital services](#), please visit the [news release](#).

Manitoba government on track to hire 1,000 net new healthcare workers

The Manitoba government is over [halfway to its goal of hiring 1,000 net new healthcare workers](#). Premier Wab Kinew noted the staffing means Manitoba is making progress on the government's commitment to hire hundreds of specific professions over the 4-year term. From April 1 to August 31, 873 net new healthcare workers have been added, of which:

- 116 are physicians
- 304 are nurses
- 290 are healthcare aides
- 87 are allied health

Staff has come into the system across the province, with increases in staffing in every region and at CancerCare Manitoba. This announcement is part of the government's investments in retaining, recruiting and training more healthcare workers, including adding new training seats, streamlining licensing for internationally educated health-care workers and emphasizing community recruitment.

For more information, please visit [the backgrounder](#) and [news release](#).

Dr. Marcia Anderson appointed chair of Winnipeg Regional Health Authority board

The Manitoba government has [appointed Dr. Marcia Anderson as the new chair along with 3 new members](#) to the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA) board of directors. Dr. Anderson is the vice-dean of Indigenous Health, Social Justice and Anti-Racism at the University of Manitoba's Rady Faculty of Health Sciences. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she led the provincial public health response for Manitoba's First Nations. She was recently honoured with the province's highest honour, the Order of Manitoba.

3 additional board members have been appointed for 3-year terms:

- Mary Jane Brownscombe (vice-chair)
- Tessa Blaikie Whitecloud
- Mala Sachdeva

The WRHA board is accountable to the Manitoba health minister and responsible for the mandate, resources and performance of the organization. For more information, please visit the [news release](#).

Manitoba government partners with Yellowquill University College to recognize education degrees

The Manitoba government has [partnered with Yellowquill University College to provide degree granting status](#) for its First Nations bachelor of education program, recognizing the institution's 40 years of excellence in delivering Indigenous-led advanced education across Manitoba. As of July 5, a new regulation under the *Degree Granting Act* permits Yellowquill to grant provincially recognized degrees to students who successfully complete the program, certifying graduates to teach in every school across Manitoba.

Established by the [Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council](#), Yellowquill has specialized in First Nation-led education since 1984, preparing students to work in First Nation communities. The government will also work nation-to-nation with First Nation communities and engage with other education stakeholders to recognize other Indigenous post-secondary providers and advance reconciliation in the education system.

For more information, please visit the [news release](#).



MB Emergency:	mb.emergency@sac-isc.gc.ca
ISC 24/7 duty officer:	1-855-850-4647
Report a wildfire:	1-800-782-0076
Report a hydro outage:	1-888-624-9376
Highway closure info:	511
Medical transportation: (Non-Insured Health Benefits)	1-877-983-0911