

2023-2026

ACTIVITY PLAN

**Office of Indigenous Affairs
and Reconciliation**



MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

It is my pleasure to present the Activity Plan for the Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation for the period of April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2026.

The Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation, guided by my Ministerial Mandate Letter, is committed to fostering strong relationships with Indigenous Governments, Organizations as well as Indigenous peoples, families and communities based on mutual respect and trust. The Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation's goal is one of increased Indigenous well-being and a more inclusive society.

In order to achieve this, the Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation, and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, works collaboratively with Indigenous Governments and Organizations, individuals and communities as well as Provincial and Federal government departments to affect positive change.

As the Minister Responsible for Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation, I am accountable for the preparation of this plan and the achievement of its goals and objectives. This plan was prepared in consideration of the strategic directions of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, and was prepared in accordance with the **Transparency and Accountability Act** requirements for a category three entity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Dempster". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Hon. Lisa Dempster

Minister Responsible for Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation

Table of Contents

Overview	3
Mandate	3
Lines of Business	3
Primary Clients.....	4
Budget.....	5
Issue One: Advancing Reconciliation with Indigenous Governments, Organizations and Peoples and Enhancing Relationships	6
Goal	7
Indicators	7
Objective 1	8
Indicators	8
Objective 2	8
Objective 3	8

Overview

Mandate

The Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation focuses on fostering strong relationships with Indigenous peoples, characterized by mutual respect. This approach is the foundation for sound Government policies and programs which support vibrant and prosperous Indigenous communities.

Lines of Business

The Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation is responsible for the following Lines of Business:

- Reconciliation
 - Work with Indigenous Governments and Organizations, Provincial and Federal Government departments and agencies and other stakeholders with respect to issues of importance to Indigenous peoples to advance Reconciliation.
- Policy, Planning and Consultation
 - Support the development and delivery of Provincial Government policies and programs that are culturally sensitive, meaningful, and appropriate.
 - Provide advice to Provincial Government departments and agencies on the conduct of Indigenous consultations.
- Negotiation of Land Claims, Self-Government and Other Agreements
 - Negotiate and implement land claims, self-government and other agreements to promote the self-sufficiency, self-government, and autonomy of Indigenous peoples and to provide clarity and advice on Indigenous rights in Newfoundland and Labrador.

For more information on the Office, please visit our web page at

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/exec/iar/>

Primary Clients

The Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation works collaboratively with many stakeholder organizations throughout the province to advance the social and economic aspirations of Indigenous people in the province. The primary clients of the Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation include:

- Indigenous Governments and Organizations in the province, including:
 - Innu Nation, as well as Sheshatshiu and Mushuau Innu First Nations
 - Miawpukek First Nation
 - Nunatsiavut Government, as well as the five Inuit Community Governments
 - NunatuKavut Community Council
 - Qalipu First Nation
- Indigenous Women's Organizations:
 - AnânauKatiget Tumingit Regional Inuit Women's Association
 - Newfoundland Aboriginal Women's Network
 - Newfoundland Native Women's Association
- Friendship Centres:
 - First Light St. John's Friendship Centre, located in St. John's
 - Labrador Friendship Centre, located in Happy Valley-Goose Bay
 - People of the Dawn Indigenous Friendship Centre, located in St. George's and Stephenville
- The Provincial Government and its departments/agencies/boards/commissions
- The Federal Government and its departments/agencies/boards/commissions
- National Indigenous Organizations:
 - Assembly of First Nations
 - Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami
 - Métis National Council
 - Congress of Aboriginal Peoples
 - Native Women's Association of Canada
- Indigenous Organizations in Quebec with claims or interests in Labrador

ACTIVITY PLAN 2023-2026

Budget

Division	# of Employees	Budget
Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation	15	\$2,220,900 (2023-2024)

The Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation is located in the Confederation Building in St. John's.

Issue One: Advancing Reconciliation with Indigenous Governments, Organizations and Peoples and Enhancing Relationships

The Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation works to advance Reconciliation and enhance relationships with Indigenous Governments and Organizations.

To achieve this, the Office:

- works with Indigenous Governments and Organizations and Provincial and Federal Government departments to advance Reconciliation and enable access to programs and services designed for and provided to Indigenous people in the province;
- works with Indigenous Governments and Organizations and Provincial Government departments and agencies to provide advice on policies, programs, and legislation to better meet the needs of the diverse Indigenous peoples and communities of Newfoundland and Labrador;
- provides leadership and advice with respect to the Duty to Consult Indigenous Governments and Organizations; and
- leads all Provincial Government negotiations of land claims and self-government agreements, and supports Provincial Government departments and agencies in their implementation of those agreements.

Goal

By March 31, 2026, the Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation will have continued to advance Reconciliation and enhance the Provincial Government's relationship with Indigenous Governments, Organizations, communities, and people.

Indicators

Collaborated with Indigenous Governments and Organizations and Provincial and Federal Government departments and agencies to ensure the unique interests of Indigenous peoples are considered in public policy, programs, services, and legislation.

Led the province's response to the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Supported the Provincial Government's fulfillment of its Duty to Consult.

Continued to negotiate and implement land claims, self-government and other associated agreements.

Objective 1

By March 31, 2024, the Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation will have continued to support initiatives to advance Reconciliation and build positive relationships with Indigenous Governments, Organizations, communities, and people of the Province.

Indicators

Provided advice and support to Provincial Government departments and agencies relating to public policy, programs, legislation and consultation obligations.

Participated in committees and forums with Indigenous Governments and Organizations and other partners to advance the priorities of Indigenous peoples and communities.

Worked with Indigenous Governments and Organizations and Provincial Government departments to advance the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action.

Objective 2

By March 31, 2025, the Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation will have continued to support initiatives to advance Reconciliation and build positive relationships with Indigenous Governments, Organizations, communities, and people of the Province.

Objective 3

By March 31, 2026, the Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation will have continued to support initiatives to advance Reconciliation and build positive relationships with Indigenous Governments, Organizations, communities, and people of the Province.

