

2022-2023
Annual Report

Office of Indigenous
Affairs and Reconciliation





MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

As Minister Responsible for the Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation (the Office), I am presenting the Annual Report for 2022-23. I am accountable for the Report and the results reported. This Report outlines the Office's activities between April 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023 in achieving the goals and objectives outlined in the 2020-23 Activity Plan. This Report was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the **Transparency and Accountability Act** under which the Office is a Category 3 entity.

This Report highlights important work completed during 2022-23, and identifies opportunities and challenges for the upcoming fiscal year. The Office is committed to advancing Reconciliation through continued collaboration with Indigenous Governments, Organizations, communities, and people. The Office works to build principle-based relationships grounded on the value of mutual respect. The Office will continue to strengthen our relationships based on respect, co-operation, and partnership.

I would like to thank Indigenous Governments, Organizations, communities, and people for their collaboration and work over the past year, as well as Office staff. I look forward to continued progress into 2023-24.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Dempster". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Hon. Lisa Dempster

Minister Responsible for the Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation

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Departmental Overview

Organizational Structure

The Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation supports the Premier and Minister in advancing Reconciliation and building principle-based relationships with Indigenous Governments, Organizations, communities, and people.

The Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation works towards advancing Reconciliation with Indigenous people in Newfoundland and Labrador and has three core functions: Policy and Planning, Consultations, and Negotiations.

For more information on the Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation, please see our website at <https://www.gov.nl.ca/exec/iar>

Staff and Budget

Division	# of Employees	Budget
Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation	12	\$2,155,800

As of March 31, 2023, the Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation had a staff complement of 12.

The Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation is located on the sixth floor of Confederation Complex, East Block, in St. John's.

Vision

The vision of the Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation is to advance the social and economic aspirations of Indigenous people in the province.

Mandate

The Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation focuses on a principle-based relationship with Indigenous peoples, characterized by mutual respect. The Office is specifically mandated to:

- collaborate with Indigenous Governments and Organizations, and the Federal Government to advance Reconciliation;
- support the Provincial Government's efforts to provide cultural training to elected officials and public servants to ensure understanding of and respect for the cultures, values, and histories of Indigenous peoples;
- host the Premier-Indigenous Leaders' Roundtable;
- advance work on land claims and self-government;
- support Provincial Government apologies to residential school survivors;
- collaborate with other Provincial Government departments to establish a public inquiry into the treatment, experiences, and outcomes of Innu in the child protection system; and
- collaborate with other Provincial Government departments to develop a process under which provincial monuments, symbols, and observances are anti-racist and better reflect the diversity, cultures, and traditions of Indigenous people.

Lines of Business

The Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation has three core functions: Policy and Planning, Consultations, and Negotiations.

- The objective of the Policy and Planning function is to develop policies that promote the aspirations of Indigenous people, and provide advice to Provincial Government departments and agencies on programs and services that are culturally sensitive, meaningful, and appropriate. The Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation strives to achieve this objective through a respectful, principles-based relationship with Indigenous people, communities, Governments and Organizations.
- The Office is also responsible for the development of Indigenous consultation processes and providing advice to Provincial Government departments and agencies on the conduct of Indigenous consultations.
- Negotiations focus on the assessment, negotiation, and implementation of land claims, self-government and other agreements to promote the self-sufficiency, self-government, and cultural autonomy of Indigenous peoples, and to provide advice on Indigenous rights in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Highlights and Partnerships

Highlights and Partnerships

The following outlines the Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation's Highlights and Partnerships for the reporting period.

On-going Engagement: The Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation continues to facilitate regular calls between the Premier and the Minister Responsible for the Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation with the Leaders of Nunatsiavut Government, Innu Nation, NunatuKavut Community Council, and Miawpukek First Nation and Qalipu First Nation. These calls support and promote on-going communications and help to ensure the priorities of Government are aligned with the priorities of Indigenous peoples.

Premier-Indigenous Leaders' Roundtable: On November 27-28, 2022, the Premier-Indigenous Leaders' Roundtable met in Happy Valley-Goose Bay to discuss common interests and shared goals. In attendance were Indigenous leaders, as well as representatives from the Indigenous women's organizations, and the Friendship Centres. Following Roundtable discussions by Indigenous leaders, representatives from the Department of Health and Community Services and the Department of Children, Seniors and Social Development delivered presentations on Mental Health and Addictions Programs, and the Social Economic Well Being Plan to the Roundtable.

Innu Roundtable: The Innu Roundtable is an Innu-led initiative that includes the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, and the Federal Government, and is mandated to address Innu community health and healing initiatives. The Innu Roundtable and its subcommittees met regularly during the reporting period to advance Innu priorities.

Consultation and Engagement: Throughout the reporting period the Office continued to provide consultation advice on resource developments, mineral exploration, environmental assessments, and other matters to Provincial Government departments and project proponents.

Public Service Training: The Office continued to work with Indigenous Governments and Organizations to co-develop training modules on Indigenous peoples in the province for the core public service.

Land Claims: The Office continues to lead provincial negotiations on the Innu land claim, and the provincial implementation of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement.

MOU with NunatuKavut Community Council: The NunatuKavut Community Council, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Province's English School District signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen ties on education and curriculum changes in September 2022.

Day for Truth and Reconciliation: On September 30, 2022 the Provincial Government encouraged all residents to remember and reflect on the Day for Truth and Reconciliation in Newfoundland and Labrador. The Day for Truth and Reconciliation is dedicated to honouring the survivors, families and communities who were impacted by residential schools. This year, Minister Dempster attended events in Happy Valley-Goose Bay and North West River to observe this sombre occasion.

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People: The Minister attended the Indigenous Women's Gathering in North West River in November 2022 where the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador announced the formation of a Provincial Indigenous Women's Reconciliation Council as recommended in the **Hear Our Voices MMIWG Policy Recommendations of First Women of Newfoundland and Labrador**. Membership of the recently announced Reconciliation Council has been identified and planning is underway for the Council's inaugural

meeting. **Hear Our Voices** included 196 provincially-based, culturally appropriate recommendations that align with the National Indigenous Calls for Justice. The Office continues to work in collaboration with the Department of Justice and Public Safety and the Office of Women and Gender Equality to advance actions in response to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People.

International Indigenous Tourism Conference:

Minister Dempster attended the International Indigenous Tourism Conference held in Winnipeg, MB in March 2023. The Conference is an annual event that brings together people from around the world to advance and grow the Indigenous tourism industry. During the Conference, Minister Dempster had an opportunity to meet with Senator Murray Sinclair, Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (2009-2015).

Report on Performance

Enhancing Collaborative Relationships with Indigenous People

This issue supports the Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation's objective of enhancing collaborative relationships with Indigenous people by working to provide advice and support to Provincial Government departments about Indigenous Governments and Organizations, and ensuring that the consultation obligations of the Provincial Government and project proponents are met.

Goal

By March 31, 2023, the Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation will have continued to enhance the Provincial Government's relationship with Indigenous Governments, Organizations, communities, and people.

As the Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation's core work remained consistent over three years, the Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation has reported on the same objectives and indicators for the three years captured by the 2020-2023 Activity Plan.

2022-23 Objective and Indicators

By March 31, 2023, the Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation will have continued to support initiatives to build positive relationships with Indigenous Governments, Organizations, communities, and people.

Results Achieved:

The following details the Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation's progress toward the achievement of the planned results for 2022-23 with respect to enhancing collaborative relationships.

Indicator 1: Advanced Reconciliation by having worked to complete land claims and self-government agreements with Innu Nation, and continued to implement the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement.

The Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation continued to negotiate land claims and self-government agreements with the Innu Nation and Federal Government, as well as worked with the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement Implementation Committee.

Indicator 2: Supported the Provincial Government's efforts to provide cultural sensitivity training to elected officials and public servants to ensure understanding of and respect for the cultures, values, and histories of Indigenous peoples.

The Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation is working with Indigenous Governments and Organizations in Newfoundland and Labrador, and the Centre for Learning and Development, to co-develop training modules that will be applicable to all core public servants and elected officials. This training will provide a foundational knowledge of Indigenous peoples, communities, Governments and Organizations.

Indicator 3: Continued to provide support as the Provincial Government works towards delivering apologies to residential school survivors and their descendants.

The Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation continued to engage in collaborative planning with affected Indigenous Governments and Organizations to support the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador in making meaningful apologies to former students and survivors of residential schools in this province.

Indicator 4: Advised Provincial Government departments and entities on consultation obligations with Indigenous Governments and Organizations.

The Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation worked to ensure the consultation obligations of the Provincial Government and project proponents were met. This included a variety of projects, including providing advice on Indigenous consultation in energy, forestry and mining projects.

Indicator 5: Provided advice and support to Provincial Government departments and agencies regarding Indigenous interests relating to public policy, programs, and legislation.

The Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation worked with Indigenous Governments and Organizations, various Provincial Government departments, the Federal Government, and other provincial and territorial governments to promote Indigenous interests in policy development.

Indicator 6: Established an NL-Innu Anti-Racism Working Group, mandated to ensure elected officials and public employees have an understanding and appreciation of Innu culture, values and history; via measures developed for all government programs and services such as health, justice, and corrections.

This Group will develop measures to ensure Provincial Government programs and services are delivered in a way that ensures Innu people are treated with dignity, equality, and respect. This remains a priority for both parties; however the Working Group did not meet during the reporting period.

Indicator 7: Continued to organize and sit on the annual Premier-Indigenous Leaders' Roundtable to establish priority areas and build stronger relationships with Indigenous peoples in the province.

The 2022 Roundtable occurred in-person in Happy Valley – Goose Bay. Leaders from the province’s Indigenous Governments, as well as representatives from the Women’s Indigenous Organizations and Friendship Centres participated. The Premier and Minister’s for the Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation, and Children, Seniors and Social Development were also in attendance.

Indicator 8: Continued to lead the Innu Roundtable, a forum where the province, Federal Government, and Innu Nation discuss issues of mutual importance.

The Innu Roundtable is an Innu-led initiative that includes the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, and the Federal Government, and is mandated to address Innu community health and healing initiatives. Multiple working group meetings were held throughout the year and the Innu Roundtable formally met three times during the reporting period.

Indicator 9: Continued to work with the Department of Justice and Public Safety, Innu Nation, and the Federal Government to establish an Inquiry into the Treatment, Experiences, and Outcomes of Innu in the Child Protection System.

The Inquiry launched in April 2022.

Indicator 10: Supported the establishment of the Muskrat Falls Monitoring and Health Oversight Committee.

This action was completed in 2021-2022.

Indicator 11: Continued to lead the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador on new federal action to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People.

The Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation continued to engage in discussions with the Federal Government, provincial and territorial governments, and other departments within the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, with regard to federal legislation implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People.

Indicator 12: Supported the Department of Children, Seniors and Social Development on Innu action to avail of Indigenous jurisdiction under the federal **First Nations, Inuit and Metis Children, Youth and Families Act**.

This item was completed in 2021-2022.

Indicator 13: Continued to support the Office of Women and Gender Equality, and the Department of Justice and Public Safety, as they lead the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's assessment of the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

The Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation continued to work in partnership with the Office of Women and Gender Equality, and the Department of Justice and Public Safety in advancing work related to the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, in particular, working with the Provincial Indigenous Women's Steering Committee to establish a forum to review and address recommendations in the Hear Our Voices Report.

Indicator 14: Continued to work with Qalipu First Nation on issues within provincial jurisdiction, and communicate on and provide support to Qalipu with regard to enrollment issues.

The Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation continued to support Qalipu First Nation with respect to enrolment issues and communicated with the Federal Government on this subject.

Indicator 15: Supported the province's response on national Indigenous initiatives including the implementation of Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and recommendations from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

The Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation continues to advance implementation of the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in collaboration with other Government departments. Activities related to the recommendations from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls are outlined in response to Indicator 13.

Indicator 16: Worked with Provincial Government departments, Indigenous Governments and Organizations, and others to review provincial monuments, symbols, and observances.

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador continues to engage in a review of public monuments, as well as holidays/observances to ensure Indigenous culture and history are respected, and that monuments and holidays are culturally sensitive.

Opportunities and Challenges

In the 2020-23 Strategic Plan, the Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation committed to enhancing the Provincial Government's relationship with Indigenous Governments, Organizations, communities, and people. Actions to meet these commitments presented a number of opportunities and challenges.

Collaborative relationships with Indigenous governments and organizations provide an opportunity to listen, understand and advance the priorities of Indigenous peoples in Newfoundland and Labrador. The Office continues to engage with Indigenous Governments and Organizations to strengthen these relationships and better support the advancement of Indigenous priorities. The formation of the Provincial Indigenous Women's Reconciliation Council and the co-development of public service training with Indigenous Governments and Organizations are examples of these relationships in action.

The Office has continued work with Indigenous Governments and Organizations and the Federal Government to negotiate land claims, self-government agreements, and other agreements on matters of mutual importance. These negotiations provide an opportunity to support Indigenous communities on their path to self-determination.

Delivering provincial services to remote Indigenous communities and ensuring policies and programs are reflective of the unique needs of Indigenous peoples and communities remains challenging. The Office will continue to work with Indigenous Governments and Organizations, Provincial Government departments, the Federal Government and other stakeholders to make advancements in these areas.

Financial Information

Expenditure and revenue figures included in this report are based on public information provided in the Program Expenditures and Revenues of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 2023.

REPORT ON THE PROGRAM EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES OF THE CONSOLIDATED FUND			
DEPARTMENT OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (CONTINUED)			
	Actual	Estimates	
		Amended	Original
	\$	\$	\$
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL			
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS AND RECONCILIATION			
<i>CURRENT</i>			
2.6.01. MINISTER'S OFFICE			
01. Salaries	193,162	199,300	199,300
Operating Accounts:			
<i>Employee Benefits</i>	4,515	-	-
<i>Transportation and Communications</i>	56,120	128,800	128,800
<i>Supplies</i>	1,061	2,500	2,500
<i>Purchased Services</i>	4,122	1,800	1,800
<i>Property, Furnishings and Equipment</i>	-	500	500
02. Operating Accounts	<u>65,818</u>	<u>133,600</u>	<u>133,600</u>
Total: Minister's Office	<u>258,980</u>	<u>332,900</u>	<u>332,900</u>
2.6.02. INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS AND RECONCILIATION			
01. Salaries	865,360	1,069,500	1,099,500
Operating Accounts:			
<i>Employee Benefits</i>	3,216	4,300	4,300
<i>Transportation and Communications</i>	77,611	97,800	92,800
<i>Supplies</i>	8,877	10,000	10,000
<i>Purchased Services</i>	166,798	175,700	10,500
<i>Property, Furnishings and Equipment</i>	14,520	1,000	1,000
02. Operating Accounts	<u>271,022</u>	<u>288,800</u>	<u>118,600</u>
10. Grants and Subsidies	<u>591,357</u>	<u>611,200</u>	<u>604,800</u>
Total: Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation	<u>1,727,739</u>	<u>1,969,500</u>	<u>1,822,900</u>
TOTAL: INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS AND RECONCILIATION	<u>1,986,719</u>	<u>2,302,400</u>	<u>2,155,800</u>

