

**CONFIDENTIAL - Not for Circulation**

**Provincial Committees to  
End Violence Against Indigenous Women**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**PURPOSE**

This Terms of Reference outlines the scope of the Provincial Committees to End Violence Against Indigenous Women

**BACKGROUND**

These Terms of Reference represent a culmination of the work of the Joint Working Group on Violence Against Indigenous Women (JWG) and will continue building on the foundation established by the *Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women*.

On February 23, 2016, 'Walking Together: Ontario's Long-Term Strategy to End Violence Against Indigenous Women' (the Long-Term Strategy) was publicly launched. Under this strategy, the Ontario government and Indigenous partners will work together on initiatives to end violence against Indigenous women by focusing on six key areas:

- supporting children, youth and families
- community safety and healing
- policing and justice
- leadership, collaboration, alignment and accountability
- prevention and awareness
- improved data and research

Implementation of the Long-Term Strategy represents a phase of the implementation of the *Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Indigenous Women* and will involve the creation of Provincial Committees to address these areas of action. This document defines the terms of the Provincial Committees.

**MANDATE**

The Provincial Committees to End Violence Against Indigenous Women (the Provincial Committees) will act as a forum to inform and support the implementation of the Long-Term Strategy.

The Provincial Committees will also act as a forum for identifying emerging and priority areas for action to address violence against Indigenous women.

**The Provincial Committees**

The Provincial Committees will support a cross-government approach to ending violence against Indigenous women while not duplicating efforts and work being undertaken by other tables (see Appendix A for a list of the initiatives that will be the

focus of each Provincial Committee). However, linkages to initiatives and outcomes of other engagement tables will be communicated back to relevant Provincial Committees (see Appendix B for a list of other provincial engagement tables).

## **Membership**

Membership on the Provincial Committees will include:

- Ministries responsible for the Long-Term Strategy Initiatives and other ministries as appropriate.
- Indigenous organizations that reflect Ontario's diverse population, and endorse the *Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Indigenous Women*.

New members can be added with the consensus of the existing government and Indigenous members of the Provincial Committee.

## **Meeting Chairs**

- Each Provincial Committee will be co-chaired by an Indigenous representative and a ministry representative.
- The ministry co-chairs will be selected by the ministry members and will have the appropriate decision making authority.
- The Indigenous co-chairs will be selected by the Indigenous Provincial Committee Members.

## **Elder/Traditional Knowledge Keeper**

An Elder or Traditional Knowledge Keeper will be invited to attend meetings to provide culturally safe practices, support members and to guide the work of the Executive Committee.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

### **Co-Chairs**

The Co-Chairs will:

- Work cooperatively and respectfully with the Provincial Committee members and provide leadership to the Provincial Committee and coordinate its' activities.
- Track and delegate follow-up actions as recommended by the Provincial Committee members.
- Advise Provincial Committee members of the results of all actions taken.
- Be responsible for meeting administration and logistics, including:
  - Convening meetings with Provincial Committee members (this includes overseeing all meeting logistics such as date setting, catering, booking space, invitations, as applicable)
  - Ensuring that meeting agendas are drafted and input is sought from Provincial Committee members on other issues requiring discussion.



- Ensure all required material is provided to members with adequate time for review in order to support their participation in the meeting discussion.
- Ensure minutes are taken and circulated to Provincial Committee members in a timely manner.
- Make every effort to coordinate meeting schedules with other Provincial Committee Co-Chairs to alleviate travel time and expenses for members participating on several or all committees.

*Provincial Committee Members:*

All members of a Provincial Committee will:

- Demonstrate commitment to continually building Indigenous cultural competency and anti-oppressive practice.
- Understand the legacy of historic policies and laws, which result in ongoing impacts and systemic violence experienced by Indigenous women, girls and their families.
- With respect to the specific topic of the Provincial Committee, members are expected to be knowledgeable in the relevant subject matter, current context, and history.
- Work cooperatively and respectfully with Provincial Committee membership.
- Attend each meeting or send an alternate with working knowledge of the topic, prepared to actively participate at the meeting.
- Provide recommendations and feedback on draft documents, reports and/or policy proposals provided to Provincial Committees for review.
- Seek direction and/or approvals on decision items/recommendations prior to attending meetings.
- Keep their respective organizations informed of progress on Provincial Committee initiatives.
- Maintain confidentiality related to all discussions, meetings and documents that may be circulated.

**Reporting and Accountability**

- The Provincial Committees will establish work plans that outline the priorities, deliverables, evaluation, and timelines for the Long-Term Strategy initiatives that fall within their purview.
- Each ministry and organization will provide periodic reports to their senior management, official, or appropriate political leader(s).
- Provincial Committees will review and inform the annual public progress reports which will be approved by the Executive Committee.
- A Ministerial Steering Committee will be established to oversee the implementation and accountability of the Long-Term Strategy.

## **Meetings**

Meetings will take place at least four times a year, with increased frequency at the discretion of each specific Provincial Committee.

## **Decision-Making Process / Issue Resolution**

Decision-making at meetings will be made by consensus.

Resolutions will be reached in a process that each party consents to, which may include a 3<sup>rd</sup> party mediator.

## **Amendments to Terms of Reference**

The Terms of Reference must be reviewed annually.

## Appendix A: Scope of Provincial Committees

The following chart identifies the main initiatives that will be the focus of each Provincial Committee. The ministries noted are those that have been designated as the leads and will be overseeing the funding allocation of each program / policy initiative. The list of initiatives should not be considered exhaustive and the structure of provincial committees will allow for emerging issues to be addressed as the Strategy evolves and progresses. New initiatives may be delegated at the discretion of the Executive Committee. Engagement on initiatives through a Provincial Committee does not constitute meaningful engagement or consultation with Indigenous communities.

<b>PREVENTION AND AWARENESS</b> Indigenous and Ministry Co-Chairs: (TBD) Initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural competency and anti-racism training for OPS (MIRR, MCYS, MSW, TBS)</li> <li>• National prevention and awareness campaign (MIRR)</li> <li>• Engaging with Indigenous partners to examine the role schools play in violence prevention, and support the development of prevention resources for Indigenous students attending high school outside their home communities (MEDU)</li> <li>• Other ministries TBD</li> </ul>	<b>COMMUNITY SAFETY AND HEALING</b> Indigenous and Ministry Co-Chairs: (TBD) Initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indigenous-specific pilot program for offenders (MAG)</li> <li>• Provincial counselling helpline for Indigenous women (MCSS)</li> <li>• Sustain and Enhance Indigenous Victims' Programs (MAG)</li> <li>• Community Safety and Well-Being Framework (MCSCS)</li> <li>• Other ministries TBD</li> </ul>
<b>POLICING AND JUSTICE</b> Indigenous and Ministry Co-Chairs: (TBD) Initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual community of practice for police on violence against Indigenous women (MCSCS)</li> <li>• Next steps regarding research on best practices in police response to sexual violence and harassment (MCSCS)</li> <li>• New missing person's legislation (MCSCS, MAG)</li> <li>• Other ministries TBD</li> </ul>	<b>IMPROVED DATA AND RESEARCH</b> Indigenous and Ministry Co-Chairs: (TBD) Initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance Measures to monitor progress and results (MIRR)</li> <li>• Research on prevalence, promising practices and other JWG priorities (MSW, MIRR)</li> <li>• Other ministries TBD</li> </ul>
<b>CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES</b> Indigenous and Ministry Co-Chairs: (TBD) Initiatives:	<b>HUMAN TRAFFICKING</b> Indigenous and Ministry Co-Chairs: (TBD) Initiatives:



- Family Well-Being Program (via the Engagement and Leadership Tables under MCYS)

- Provincial human trafficking strategy (MSW, MCSCS, MCSS, MAG)
- Other ministries TBD

## APPENDIX B: List of Other Provincial Engagement Tables

(To be developed)

Exhibit: *National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*

Location/Phase: Parts 2/3 St. John's

Witness: Juanita Dobson

Submitted by: Julian Roy

Add'l info: P02-03 P04 P0101

Date: OCT 15 2018

Initials

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I/D

Entered

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