



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE COMMUNITY INITIATIVES FUND POLICY

1. Statement of Policy

The Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs, through the Gender Equity Division, may provide funding for community-based initiatives across the Northwest Territories that support the implementation of the National Action Plan to End Gender Based Violence.

2. Principles

The Department will adhere to the following principles when implementing this policy:

- (1) Be trauma- and violence-informed
- (2) Be adaptable to regional circumstances and encourage cross-jurisdictional cooperation
- (3) Respect Indigenous government's jurisdictional powers and facilitate Indigenous-led initiatives
- (4) Foster community-based and community-focused strategies
- (5) Support evidence-based, creative, and responsive policies and initiatives
- (6) Be healing-focused and open to organizations to develop anti gender-based violence programming for survivors, seniors, families, children, young persons, 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, and to those who use violence in their relationships
- (7) Recognise survivors' experiences and be culturally appropriate and accessible
- (8) Acknowledge that community organisations may offer services and assistance for gender-based violence that are fundamental to furthering gender equality
- (9) Acknowledge and support the significant role of boys and men in preventing and combating gender-based violence.

3. Scope

This policy applies to community governments, Indigenous governments, and non-government organizations, in good standing, undertaking community-based projects to support survivors, and their families to prevent and end gender-based violence in the Northwest Territories.

4. Definitions

The following terms apply to this Policy:

- (1) 2SLGBTQQIA+: is an acronym for two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and additional sexually and gender diverse people.
- (2) Community-based Project: a specific, usually short-lived event or undertaking in a community, geographical location or region.
- (3) Community Government: a municipal corporation established under territorial legislation.
- (4) Contribution Agreement: a conditional and accountable transfer of funds to a third party to fulfill a statutory obligation or other Government objective within a specified time frame.
- (5) Indigenous Government: includes Indigenous governments that have, or are in the process of negotiating, a self-government agreement with the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada.
- (6) Non-Government Organization (NGO): any non-profit citizens' group that is not directly part of the structure of government.
- (7) Special Project: a specific, usually short-lived, event or undertaking.

5. Authority and Accountability

(1) General

This policy is issued in accordance with Financial Management Board (FMB) direction to delegate to Ministers authority to establish grants and contributions programs. Authority and accountability are further defined in Financial Administration Manual policies 805 and 810 and as follows:

(a) Minister

The Minister Responsible for the Status of Women (the Minister) is accountable to the FMB for the implementation of this Policy.

(b) Deputy Minister

The Deputy Minister of Executive and Indigenous Affairs (the Deputy Minister) is accountable to the Minister and responsible to the Minister for the administration of this Policy.

(2) Specific

(a) Minister

The Minister may:

- (i) Approve changes to this Policy; and
- (ii) Approve grants or contributions according to the terms and conditions outlined in this Policy; and
- (iii) Delegate authority to administer this Policy to the Deputy Minister.

(b) Deputy Minister

The Deputy Minister may:

- (i) Conduct periodic evaluations of the effectiveness of this Policy;
- (ii) Have the following authority and accountability, which may be delegated:
 - a. Approve grants or contributions according to the terms and conditions outlined in this Policy;
 - b. Accept and review applications for grants and/or contributions made under this Policy; and
 - c. Monitor compliance with the provisions of this Policy.

6. Provisions

(1) Eligibility

The Policy applies to community-based and special projects that work towards supporting the survivors and perpetrators of gender-based violence (GBV), and their families in the Northwest Territories including seniors, women, men, boys, girls and 2SLGBTQQA+ people. Community-based and special projects eligible for funding will address one or more of the following objectives to:

- (a) Support anyone who is experiencing, or witnessing, gender-based violence with prompt, dependable access to resources and protection that are both culturally appropriate and accessible;

- (b) Support direct services and programs that provide prevention and healing activities, advocacy and support to improve the outcomes of gender-based violence survivors' health, social, economic, and legal situations;
- (c) Support and recognise that perpetrators of gender-based violence need healing and have the capacity to contribute meaningfully to their families and their relationships;
- (d) Endorse the development and capacity of organizations to effectively modify social attitudes, norms, and behaviours that lead to the elimination of GBV in the Northwest Territories;
- (e) Encourage greater public understanding, education, and community involvement in the effort to eliminate GBV and furthering gender equality;
- (f) Advance the National Action Plan to End GBV through research and policy development;
- (g) Promote complementary actions under Reclaiming the Capable Person - the GNWT's Family Violence Strategic Plan and "Changing the Relationship" - the GNWT's Action Plan in Response to Calls for Justice on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) and 2SLGBTQIA+ people.

(2) Criteria

When assessing a funding application, the Minister or delegated authority will consider the extent to which the proposed project:

- (a) Demonstrates the potential to effectively support survivors of GBV and their families, as well as those who use violence in their relationships in the Northwest Territories
- (b) Is a community-based project carried out in the Northwest Territories;
- (c) Results in a final project (e.g., report, presentation) that can be shared with project participants and the broader community;
- (d) Commits to submitting data in accordance with the reporting requirements outlined in the contribution agreement;
- (e) Has community support;
- (f) Is financially feasible; and
- (g) Fits other criteria listed within the specific call for applications.

(3) Condition

Total contributions will not exceed the amount appropriated for the Gender-Based Violence Initiatives Fund in a given fiscal year.

(4) Applications

A call for applications will be issued annually. Applicants shall submit a completed Gender Based Violence Initiatives Fund Application Form to the contact listed in the call for applications, by the designated time. Applications submitted after the application deadline may be considered, provided there is funding available.

(5) Review and Determination

Applications will be reviewed and prioritized based on how well the proposed project meets the objectives and criteria set out in this Policy. Partial amounts of requested funding may be provided.

Late applications will be processed after all other submissions have been assessed.

Decisions on contribution awards will be made and communicated in writing to all applicants no later than sixty (60) days after the application due date.

7. FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Financial resources required under this Policy are conditional on approval of funds in the Main Estimates by the Legislative Assembly and there being a sufficient unencumbered balance for the appropriate activity in the fiscal year for which the funds would be required.

8. AMOUNT OF CONTRIBUTION

The maximum amount of funding per community-based project is \$125,000. The amount awarded will be based on the provisions in this Funding Policy.

9. POLICY REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed by the Department of Finance every three years.

10. PREROGATIVE OF THE MINISTER

Nothing in this Policy shall, in any way, be construed to limit the prerogative of the Minister to make decisions or take actions respecting contributions in support of initiatives to end gender-based violence. In this regard, the Minister may make an exception to the rules set out in this Policy.