

Highlights of Response to Commission on First Nations and Métis Peoples and Justice Reform



A number of provincial government departments have directed significant funding to a broad range of initiatives in 2005-2006 that respond to the Commission's recommendations.

For 2005-2006, more than \$48 million in new funding will be invested in responding to the recommendations. While some of this new funding is directed to new initiatives, some will be directed to enhancing or expanding existing programs. A number of the initiatives outlined in the Action Plan are targeted specifically to First Nations and Métis peoples, while others, though not targeted, will have a significant positive impact on Aboriginal people.

Dealing with the underlying causes of crime

- Public education to encourage racial harmony will help eliminate racism and encourage mutual understanding and respect.
- Projects will provide Aboriginal youth with leadership training to build stronger communities for the future.
- The provincial Alcohol and Drug Strategy will be targeted to youth, Aboriginal people, street people and northern residents. Initiatives to combat the use of Crystal Meth are important components of the strategy.
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder programs will be strengthened to provide more prevention, diagnosis and support services for individuals and families.
- The development of shared educational standards between provincial and First Nations schools will support smoother transitions for students that move between First Nations schools and provincial schools.
- To enable young people to acquire the skills they need in tomorrow's job market, 1,000 new training opportunities will be provided under Career Start.
- Aboriginal post-secondary students will receive support through the Aboriginal Bursary Program, Gradworks, the University of Saskatchewan Math and Science Enrichment Program, and the Aboriginal Apprenticeship Program.
- The Education of Youth in Custody program will help ensure young people are successful in learning once they are released from custody and return to school.
- 600 new housing units will be added in 2005, with the goal of 2,000 new units by 2008, to ensure safe, affordable housing for families.
- The new Saskatchewan Rental Housing Supplement will help ensure low-income families and households of people with disabilities have adequate places to live.
- 500 new child care spaces will be created and families with children with special needs will no longer wait for child care.
- Crime reduction strategies will be implemented in Meadow Lake and Prince Albert.



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Increasing the involvement of Aboriginal people and groups in justice processes

- 49 new police positions will be added over three years, with a focus on recruiting Aboriginal officers.
- 18 new police positions will be added in 2005-2006.
- An Aboriginal Provincial Court Party will be established in Meadow Lake, with a full-time translator, to travel to communities in northwest Saskatchewan.
- Cree and Dene speaking Justices of the Peace will be appointed in two northern communities.

Using alternatives to court and incarceration

- Victims services programs will be expanded to serve Stony Rapids and Black Lake.
- Funding is being provided to enable the North Battleford Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court to enhance counseling, provide child counseling, and offer prevention information.
- A Domestic Violence Court will be created in Saskatoon.
- Justice will develop a community safety plan for dealing with family and interpersonal violence in one or more northern communities.

- The number of adult alternative measures referrals will be increased by 1,000 across the province.

Improving justice system responses

- A new independent police public complaints commission will be created in 2005.
- Replacement of the 1913 portion of the Regina Provincial Correctional Centre is underway, to be completed by 2008.
- A program to reduce violence and re-offending will be introduced in correctional centres to ensure a positive transition from custody to the community for inmates.
- The coroner's system will undergo significant growth and development over the next three years.
- The number of offenders remanded into custody due to bail violations, failure to appear in court or escaping custody will be reduced, enabling people to remain in their communities with adequate supervision and support while they await trial.