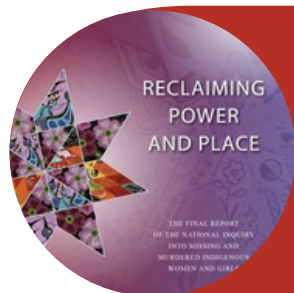


Recreation, Parks, and Justice: Advocating for MMIWG2S+ in Alberta



What is the MMIWG2S+ Movement?

The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit (MMIWG2S+) movement addresses the national crisis of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit people. It seeks to acknowledge the systemic factors contributing to this violence and advocates for transformative changes to ensure safety and equity for Indigenous communities.



The MMIWG2S+ Report

In response to the crisis, a National Inquiry was conducted, culminating in the release of the Final Report titled "Reclaiming Power and Place." This comprehensive document outlines the experiences of survivors and families, providing 231 Calls for Justice directed at governments, institutions, and all Canadians to address and eliminate the root causes of this violence.



[Read the Report!](#)

Connection to Red Dress Day

Red Dress Day, observed annually on **May 5th**, is a solemn occasion dedicated to honoring and raising awareness about the missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit individuals (MMIWG2S+) across Canada. This movement sheds light on the disproportionate violence faced by Indigenous communities and calls for collective action towards reconciliation and justice.



[Learn About Red Dress Day](#)



Case Study: ARPA & ISCA

At ARPA's 2024 Annual Conference, we had the privilege of welcoming Taylor McPherson from Indigenous Sport Council of Alberta (ISCA) to lead a beading session for our delegates. Delegates had the opportunity to learn how to bead either a red dress or orange shirt in honour of two significant reconciliation events in our country: Red Dress Day and Orange Shirt Day.

More than just a hands-on craft, this session provided a meaningful opportunity to learn about the significance of the MMIWG2S+ movement. Through storytelling and conversation, she shared the deep cultural importance of beading in Indigenous traditions and how it connects to honoring missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit individuals.



This experience reinforced our commitment to reconciliation, fostering understanding, and creating inclusive spaces within the recreation and parks sector.



For more information from the Alberta Recreation & Parks Association, visit: arpaonline.ca

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What Can You Do to Support the MMIWG2S+ Movement?

The MMIWG2S+ Movement calls for systemic changes to address violence, discrimination, and the ongoing crisis facing Indigenous communities.

The recreation and parks sector can play a role in advancing the movement through action-driven initiatives that foster healing, awareness, and systemic change. **Here's how you can do it:**

Acknowledge & Educate



- **Land Acknowledgements:** Incorporate meaningful land acknowledgements at events, facilities, and meetings.
- **Training & Awareness:** Provide staff with education on MMIWG2S+, colonial history, and Indigenous perspectives.
- **Public Awareness:** Use park signage, public events, and social media to share information about MMIWG2S+ and its significance.

Create Safe & Inclusive Spaces



- **Cultural Safety in Parks:** Collaborate with Indigenous communities to design and maintain spaces that are welcoming, safe, and culturally relevant.
- **Safety Audits:** Conduct safety audits of parks and recreation facilities to identify and mitigate risks for Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit people.
- **Safe Transportation & Lighting:** Improve access to well-lit pathways, emergency call stations, and public transit options.

Support Healing & Cultural Connection



- **Indigenous-Led Programs:** Offer programs that center Indigenous voices, such as land-based healing, storytelling, and traditional knowledge-sharing.
- **Honoring Ceremonies:** Host events to honor MMIWG2S+, such as Red Dress Day (May 5) and Sisters in Spirit Vigils (October 4).
- **Memorial Spaces:** Dedicate park spaces, murals, or installations that honor MMIWG2S+ and provide a place for remembrance and reflection.



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Strengthen Indigenous Partnerships



- **Community Collaboration:** Work with local Indigenous leaders, Elders, and organizations to co-develop programming and policy.
- **Employment & Leadership:** Increase Indigenous representation in staff, leadership, and advisory roles within the sector.
- **Grant & Funding Support:** Allocate funds for Indigenous-led recreation, cultural events, and safety initiatives.

Advocate for Systemic Change



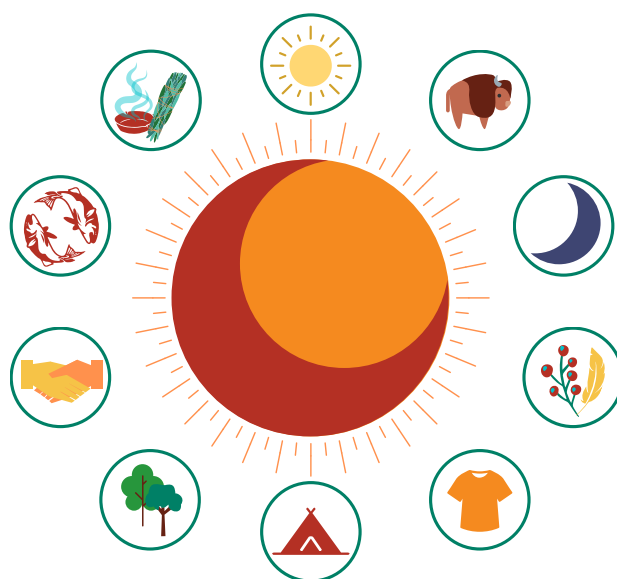
- **Policy & Planning:** Integrate MMIWG2S+ Calls for Justice into recreation and parks policies and master plans.
- **Youth & Leadership Development:** Support Indigenous youth through mentorship programs and employment in recreation.
- **Collaboration with Law Enforcement & Community Services:** Advocate for better protections, crisis response, and resources to prevent violence.

Alignment with the Walking With Indigenous Communities: ARPA's Action Map

The Alberta Recreation & Parks Association (ARPA) created the **Walking With Indigenous Communities: ARPA's Action Map** to support reconciliation and build strong relationships with Indigenous peoples and communities.

This action map identifies 10 key actions that will guide our reconciliation work.

By taking steps like those mentioned above, the recreation and parks sector can help answer the MMIWG2S+ Calls for Justice while aligning with ARPA's commitment to meaningful action and healing.



Visit: [Walking With Indigenous Communities](#)

