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PAUKTUUTIT
INUIT WOMEN OF CANADA

Pathways to Justice for Inuit

Recommendations for Systemic Change



JUNE 2024

PREPARED BY
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PREPARED FOR
The Department of Justice Canada

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PATHWAYS TO JUSTICE FOR INUIT: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGE

The recommendations presented here cover a broad range of actions, from reforming the current justice system to decolonizing it, revitalizing Inuit justice traditions, and restoring Inuit sovereignty. They are designed to work together, with immediate reforms setting the stage for more profound, long-term systemic and structural transformations. The overarching aim of these recommendations is the full restoration of Inuit self-determination.

Our recommendations cover:

1. Infrastructure
2. Improving Access to Justice
3. Policing
4. Corrections
5. Crime Prevention
6. Addressing Root Causes of Crime
7. Supporting Inuit Self-Determination and Jurisdiction and
8. Decriminalization and Decolonization

1. INFRASTRUCTURE

Canada's investment in infrastructure is a critical foundation for creating safe and supportive environments for Inuit. The development of supportive housing, affordable housing, multi-use buildings, and shelters is essential to addressing overcrowding and fostering communities where Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse individuals and their families are safe.

PRIORITY AREAS:

- **Transitional and Supportive Housing**
- **Shelters**
- **Safe, Affordable, and Suitable Housing**
- **Justice Infrastructure**
- **Improving Telecommunications and Connectivity**
- **Recreational Buildings/Activity Centres/Spaces**

1.1 HOUSING ACCESS

Canada shall ensure that all Inuit, regardless of location, have access to housing through the adoption of an Inuit-Inclusive Approach to housing allocations, which includes:

- **Implementing Housing Obligations:** The Federal Government shall fulfill its fiduciary responsibility to provide housing for Inuit, as mandated by Inuit-Crown land claims agreements. The government shall acknowledge and act upon the treaty-like commitments made during the 1950s and 1960s when Inuit were forcibly settled.
- **Federal Housing Funds Allocation:** Federal housing funds will be directed to Inuit organizations through federal budgets, with the establishment of Inuit-specific funding within national housing programs. Funding will address the unique challenges faced by Inuit no matter where they live.

1.2 JUSTICE INFRASTRUCTURE

Canada shall make strategic investments in multi-use buildings that serve as comprehensive justice service points to enhance access to justice services and expedite court proceedings for all Inuit. These facilities shall cater to Inuit communities in both Inuit Nunangat and urban areas, ensuring that justice services are accessible, culturally relevant, and responsive to Inuit needs:

- **Comprehensive Circuit Court Spaces:** Canada will collaborate with Inuit organizations to design and establish circuit court spaces within multi-use buildings. These spaces shall include private and secure areas for consultation, waiting, and preparation.



- **Advanced Videoconferencing and Telecommunication Services:** Multi-use buildings will be equipped with advanced videoconferencing and telecommunication technologies to facilitate remote participation in court proceedings, legal consultations, and other justice-related activities.
- **Culturally Appropriate Legal Consultation:** Legal consultation spaces within these buildings shall be designed to be culturally appropriate and accessible to all Inuit, including those with disabilities. These spaces shall provide a supportive environment for Inuit to receive legal advice and support from culturally competent professionals, including interpreters and legal aid workers fluent in Inuktut and/or familiar with Inuit customs and legal traditions.
- **Integration of Inuit Traditions and Elder Involvement:** Traditional Inuit practices and Elder involvement will be integral

Multi-use buildings will be equipped with advanced videoconferencing and telecommunication technologies

to the functioning of multi-use buildings to support Inuit with cultural guidance, conflict resolution, and access to restorative justice.

- **Support for Survivors:** These multi-use buildings shall house specialized trauma informed services to support survivors, particularly women, children, and gender-diverse Inuit.
- **Training and Capacity Building:** Multi-use buildings shall serve as centers for training and capacity building, offering programs for Inuit community members and justice system workers like, cultural competence, legal literacy, and the integration of traditional Inuit justice practices with the formal legal system.

- **Coordination with Social Services:** Multi-use buildings shall be integrated with other social services, including housing, mental health, and substance use support.
- **Sustainable and Environmentally Friendly Infrastructure:** The buildings shall be designed and constructed using sustainable and environmentally friendly materials and practices, reflecting the Inuit value of respect for the land.
- **Continuous Community Engagement:** The development and operation of these infrastructure projects shall involve ongoing consultation with Inuit communities and regular feedback mechanisms to monitor the effectiveness.

Multi-use buildings shall be integrated with other social services, including housing, mental health, and substance use support.

1.3 HOUSING STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

Canada, in collaboration with Inuit organizations, shall expand the 2019 Inuit Nunangat Housing Strategy to address the diverse needs of all Inuit communities. This expansion shall include:

- **Prioritizing Inuit Women and Gender-Diverse Individuals:** Housing needs of Inuit women and gender-diverse individuals will be prioritized, ensuring safety, cultural appropriateness, and responsiveness.
- **Ensuring Housing for All Inuit:** Tailored housing solutions shall be developed for all Inuit, including youth, Elders, families, and individuals with disabilities, ensuring that their specific needs are met through accessible, affordable safe, and culturally appropriate housing.
- **Addressing Overcrowding and Infrastructure Deficiencies:** Initiatives shall be implemented to reduce overcrowding and improve the overall quality of housing infrastructure across Inuit Nunangat and other areas where Inuit reside, including the renovation and retrofitting of existing homes to meet modern safety and living standards.
- **Climate-Resilient Housing:** Housing shall be designed and constructed to be resilient to the unique environmental challenges faced in Inuit Nunangat, such as permafrost thaw, extreme weather, and shifting landscapes, ensuring long-term sustainability and safety.
- **Supporting Housing Options:** Programs shall be developed to support safe, suitable, and affordable housing options for Inuit, recognizing the importance of providing diverse pathways to secure and stable housing.
- **Ensuring Housing Development:** Specific resources will be allocated to address the housing challenges faced by Inuit communities, where logistical challenges and higher costs often impede the construction and maintenance of adequate housing.
- **Improving Housing Management and Maintenance:** Training and capacity

building shall be provided for Inuit communities to manage and maintain their housing effectively, including the development of local construction and maintenance expertise.

- **Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy:** Energy-efficient technologies and renewable energy sources shall be integrated into housing projects to reduce costs, improve sustainability, and support Inuit-led environmental stewardship.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation: Mechanisms for continuous evaluation and reporting on the housing strategy's implementation will be established.**
- **Cultural and Community Spaces:** Housing developments shall include communal spaces that support cultural practices, social gatherings, and community well-being.

1.4 HEALING SUPPORT

Canada shall make targeted investments in supportive and transitional housing to effectively support healing. These efforts shall ensure that Inuit individuals have access to safe, culturally relevant environments that promote their well-being:

- **Sustainable Funding:** Sustained operational funding shall be provided to ensure that supportive and transitional housing facilities are well-maintained and fully functional, including resources for regular maintenance, repairs, and upgrades to meet health and safety standards.
- **Elder Leadership:** Elders will be provided with the opportunity and support to re-establish community leadership roles. This includes funding for Elder-led initiatives, spaces, and compensation.



- **Staffing and Recruitment:** Staff who understand Inuit culture, values, and the unique challenges faced by Inuit individuals will be recruited and retained. This includes offering competitive salaries, ongoing professional development, and incentives like free post-secondary education.
- **Holistic Care:** Facilities shall be staffed with a multidisciplinary team, including mental health professionals, social workers, and Elders, to provide comprehensive, culturally relevant care.
- **Traditional Healing Practices:** Traditional Inuit healing practices, such as the involvement of Elders and land-based programs, shall be integrated into the programming offered at these facilities.
- **Mental Health and Substance Use Support:** Specialized programs addressing mental health and substance use challenges faced by Inuit individuals shall be provided, incorporating trauma-informed and culturally sensitive approaches, such as talking circles, peer support, and culturally relevant therapy models.



- **Life Skills Development:** Programs focusing on life skills development, including financial literacy, employment training, parenting support, and conflict resolution, shall be offered.
- **Family Reunification Support:** Services facilitating family reunification, where appropriate, shall be developed, recognizing the importance of family and community in Inuit culture. This includes providing family counseling and mediation services.

Services facilitating family reunification, where appropriate, shall be developed, recognizing the importance of family and community in Inuit culture.

- **Continuous Feedback Mechanisms:** Regular consultation processes with Inuit communities shall be established, including community forums, surveys, and open communication with community leaders.
- **Annual Funding Adjustments:** Funding for these programs and facilities shall be indexed to the cost of living, ensuring that available resources are sufficient to meet residents' needs, including provisions for inflation and other economic factors.
- **Research and Evaluation:** Ongoing research and evaluation of the programs and services offered in supportive and transitional housing shall be conducted in

partnership with Inuit organizations and academic institutions.

- **Post-Transition Support:** Aftercare programs shall be developed to provide ongoing support to individuals after they leave transitional housing, including case management services, continued access to mental health and substance use care, and assistance with securing permanent housing and employment.

1.5 RECREATIONAL CENTRES/ ACTIVITY CENTRES

Canada recognizes the importance of recreational and activity centres in promoting the physical, mental, and cultural well-being of Inuit communities. Canada shall ensure that these centres are well-supported, accessible, and culturally relevant:

- **Sustainable Funding:** Ongoing, stable funding shall be provided to cover the operational costs of recreational centres, including repairs, maintenance, utilities, and staff salaries.
- **Child Care Services:** Multi-use buildings shall include on-site childcare services, operated by community organizations or through provincial funding, and staffed by fairly compensated culturally competent caregivers. Where on-site services cannot be provided, alternative measures should be implemented to ensure parents have access to affordable childcare or respite.
- **Seasonal and Outdoor Activities:** Seasonal and outdoor activities that align with Inuit traditions, such as hunting, fishing, and on-the-land programs, shall

Seasonal and outdoor activities that align with Inuit traditions, such as hunting, fishing, and on-the-land programs, shall be offered.

be offered. Centres shall be equipped with the necessary gear and resources to facilitate these activities, and transportation and logistical support shall be provided to ensure broad participation.

- **Routine Maintenance and Upgrades:** A regular schedule for maintenance and upgrades shall be established to ensure that the centres remain in good condition and can meet the evolving needs of the community, including investing in energy-efficient systems, accessibility improvements, and modernization of equipment and facilities.
- **Staffing and Training:** Recreational centres shall be staffed by qualified personnel trained in cultural competence and who understand the unique needs of Inuit communities.
- **Universal Access:** All members of Inuit communities, regardless of age, gender, ability, or economic status, shall have free and equitable access to services and programs offered at recreational centres. Financial barriers to participation, such as membership fees or equipment rental costs, shall be eliminated.
- **Inclusive Programming:** A wide range of programs catering to the diverse interests and needs of the community, including sports, arts, crafts, traditional

Inuit games, throat singing and cultural workshops, shall be developed and offered.

- **Healthy Living Initiatives:** Initiatives promoting healthy living, including fitness programs, nutritional education, and mental health support, shall be implemented.

Initiatives promoting healthy living, including fitness programs, nutritional education, and mental health support, shall be implemented.

- **Community-Led Activities:** Inuit organizations, local leaders, including youth will be supported in developing and implementing programs that reflect the community's interests and needs.
- **Local and Regional Collaboration:** Partnerships with local schools, health centres, and community organizations will be established to expand the reach and impact of recreational centres.
- **Continuous Improvement:** Mechanisms for the regular monitoring and evaluation of the centres' will be established.



2. IMPROVING ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Canada is committed to enhancing access to justice for Inuit communities by addressing systemic barriers, providing culturally relevant services, and ensuring that the justice system is responsive to Inuit needs. This approach shall focus on the following priority areas:

PRIORITY AREAS:

- **Interpretation Services**
- **Access to Legal Aid and Information**
- **Para-judicial Workers/Justice Navigators**
- **Reducing Remand Times**
- **Culturally Appropriate, Community-Based Support Services**
- **Gladue Report Writing and Services**
- **Expanding Awareness of Record Suspensions or Pardons Program**

2.1 CENTRALIZED JUSTICE SERVICES

Canada shall provide long-term funding for Inuit justice supports and services to ensure that Inuit have access to comprehensive justice services. These services shall include:

- **Gladue Report Development:** The development of Gladue reports, with the expansion of these reports by training additional Gladue writers knowledgeable about Inuit culture and the socio-economic factors affecting Inuit communities.
- **Training for Justice Officials:** Extensive training programs for judges, lawyers, and other justice officials to ensure consistent and appropriate application of Gladue principles.
- **Legal Information Outreach:** Outreach efforts will be made to ensure that Inuit communities are informed about their legal rights and the services available to them, including the development of culturally relevant legal education materials and workshops.

Outreach efforts will be made to ensure that Inuit communities are informed about their legal rights and the services available to them

2.2 CULTURALLY RELEVANT TREATMENT

Canada shall promote fair and culturally relevant treatment within the justice system:

- **Community-Based Navigators:** Individuals deeply familiar with the cultural and social context of Inuit



communities will be recruited and trained to serve as justice navigators.

- **Restorative Justice Programs:** Investments will be made in promoting restorative justice programs that align with Inuit values and traditions, focusing on community healing, reconciliation, and the reintegration of offenders into their communities.

2.3 INUKTUT INTERPRETATION AND TRANSLATION

Canada shall ensure that language is not a barrier to accessing justice:

- **Translation and Navigation Services:** Specialized translation, interpretation, and justice navigation services will be tailored to the linguistic and cultural needs of Inuit communities will be made available.
- **Policy Co-Development:** Canada will collaborate with Inuit organizations to co-develop a policy guaranteeing all justice-related services are available in Inuktut, including provisions for sustainable funding agreements to support the recruitment and training of interpreters and translators.
- **Language Access in Court Proceedings:** Inuktut interpretation shall be readily available in all court proceedings involving Inuit individuals, from initial hearings to appeals.



2.4 REDUCING REMAND TIME

Canada shall address the issue of prolonged remand times:

- **Invest in Technology and Infrastructure:** Facilities equipped with videoconferencing and other telecommunications technologies will be developed and funded to allow Inuit individuals to participate in court proceedings remotely.
- **Streamline Court Processes:** Justice system stakeholders will work to streamline court processes, particularly for cases involving Inuit, to minimize delays and reduce the time individuals spend in remand.

2.5 JURISDICTIONAL COLLABORATION

Canada shall overcome jurisdictional challenges that hinder access to justice for Inuit:

- **Collaborate with Provincial and Territorial Governments:** Collaborative frameworks with provincial and territorial governments will be established to ensure that justice services are coordinated and culturally appropriate across jurisdictions.



- **Cross-Jurisdictional Training:** Cross-jurisdictional training programs for justice officials shall be implemented to enhance their understanding of Inuit culture, legal traditions, and the specific challenges faced by Inuit communities.

2.6 ACCESS TO LEGAL AID SERVICES

Canada shall ensure that Inuit have access to the legal representation they need:

- **Expand Inuit-Specific Legal Aid:** Inuit-specific legal aid services tailored to the unique needs of Inuit communities will be developed and funded. These services shall be accessible to all Inuit, regardless of their location with a focus on providing support for both criminal and civil matters.

Inuit-specific legal aid services tailored to the unique needs of Inuit communities will be developed and funded.

2.7 BAIL STAGE SOLUTIONS

Canada shall address delays in the bail process for Inuit accused:

- **Conduct Comprehensive Research:** The causes of delays at the bail stage, including the impact of travel requirements from remote communities and systemic biases in RCMP, Crown, and court policies, shall be investigated.
- **Develop Solutions:** Based on the findings, solutions to reduce delays at the bail stage will be developed and implemented. This may include policy changes, increased use of remote bail hearings, and the provision of transportation or accommodation support.

2.8 JUSTICE-RELATED FUNDING

Canada shall ensure the sustainability and expansion of justice-related services for Inuit:

- **Expand Funding Awareness:** Awareness of available funding sources, such as the Indigenous Justice Program (IJP), will be increased among Inuit communities and organizations, with guidance and support provided to help these groups access and effectively utilize these funds.



- **Sustainable Funding Models:** Sustainable funding models shall be developed to ensure the long-term viability of Inuit-specific justice services, including exploring new funding streams and ensuring that existing programs are adequately resourced.

2.9 ACCESS TO PARDONS/ RECORD SUSPENSION

Canada shall support the reintegration of Inuit individuals into their communities:

- **Promote Access to Pardons:** Inuit individuals will have access to information and support regarding pardons and record suspensions, including assistance with the application process and raising awareness about the availability of these services.
- **Support Reintegration Efforts:** Programs supporting the reintegration of individuals who have received pardons or record suspensions shall be developed, including employment assistance, housing support, and community reintegration initiatives.

Programs supporting the reintegration of individuals who have received pardons or record suspensions shall be developed

3. POLICING

Canada shall create a more equitable and effective policing system for Inuit communities by focusing on the following priority areas. These efforts aim to build trust, enhance accountability, and ensure that policing practices are culturally appropriate and responsive to Inuit needs:

PRIORITY AREAS:

- **Inuktut-speaking Dispatchers and Officers**
- **Development of Inuit Policing Capacity and Community-Based Policing Models**
- **Police Training for Cultural Awareness**
- **Access to Inuit-Specific Programming and Mental Wellness Support**
- **Addressing Police Misconduct**

3.1 RE-IMAGING POLICING

- Canada shall ensure policing practices better align with Inuit values and needs:
- **Collaborate with Inuit Organizations:** Ongoing collaboration with Inuit organizations shall be pursued to reform the RCMP's role in Inuit Nunangat.
- **Focus on Prevention and Support:** The focus of policing in Inuit communities shall shift from enforcement to prevention and support.
- **Inuit-Led Policing Strategies:** Policing strategies led by Inuit shall be developed and implemented, ensuring that community voices are central to decision-making processes. This may involve establishing community policing boards or councils with the authority to influence policing practices and priorities.
- **Community-Based Policing Services:** Community-based policing services shall be developed and promoted, prioritizing collaboration with Inuit leaders and community members which emphasize prevention, early intervention, and restorative justice, reducing reliance on punitive approaches.
- **Capacity Building for Inuit Policing:** Investments shall be made in developing Inuit capacity in policing and policing alternatives by supporting the





recruitment, training, and retention of Inuit through opportunities like scholarships and mentorship programs.

- **Establish Bilateral Agreements:** Bilateral agreements with Inuit organizations shall be developed, outlining specific responsibilities, goals, and performance metrics for policing services in Inuit communities. These agreements shall be regularly reviewed and updated to reflect evolving needs and priorities.

3.2 RCMP ACCOUNTABILITY AND OVERSIGHT

Canada shall ensure greater accountability and transparency within the RCMP:

- **Federal Legislation for Civilian Oversight:** Federal legislation establishing effective civilian oversight of the RCMP shall be pursued, with mandatory Inuit representation in oversight bodies. This legislation shall outline clear roles, responsibilities, and powers for oversight entities, ensuring they have the authority to investigate complaints, monitor RCMP practices, and enforce accountability measures.

3.3 INUKTUT-SPEAKING DISPATCHERS

Canada shall improve communication and service delivery in Inuit communities:

- **Recruit and Train Inuktut-Speaking Dispatchers:** The recruitment, training, and retention of Inuktut-speaking dispatchers and support staff will be prioritized. These dispatchers shall be equipped with the necessary language skills and cultural knowledge to provide effective and respectful service to Inuit communities.
- **Interpreter Availability:** Where Inuktut-speaking dispatchers are not available, qualified interpreters shall be readily accessible to assist in emergency calls and other critical interactions with the police, ensuring clear communication.

3.4 ANTI-RACISM AND CULTURAL COMPETENCE TRAINING

Canada shall address systemic racism and improve the cultural competence of police officers:

- **Mandatory Anti-Racism Training:** Mandatory, ongoing anti-racism training shall be implemented. This training shall focus on recognizing and addressing implicit biases, understanding the impacts of systemic racism, and promoting equitable treatment of all individuals.
- **Trauma-Informed Care:** Training programs will equip police with the knowledge and skills needed to provide trauma-informed care. This will include training on best practices for supporting individuals who have experienced trauma.
- **Inuit-Specific Training Modules:** Inuit-specific training modules developed in collaboration with Inuit organizations will be created. These modules shall cover topics such as Inuit legal traditions, the importance of community in Inuit culture, effective communication strategies, settler colonialism, and the historical and contemporary violence perpetrated by the NWMP/RCMP violence.

Training programs will equip police with the knowledge and skills needed to provide trauma-informed care.

3.5 INUKTUT LANGUAGE POLICIES

Canada shall ensure that language is not a barrier to accessing justice and policing services:

- **Develop Inuit Language Policies:** Inuit language policies shall be developed and implemented in collaboration with Inuit organizations, mandating the provision of Inuktut language services in all policing and justice-related interactions where demand exists. These policies shall be supported by adequate funding and resources to ensure effective implementation.

3.6 ADDRESSING POLICE MISCONDUCT

Canada shall build trust and ensure accountability within the policing system:

- **Independent Investigation of Police Misconduct:** Canada will implement an immediate and independent investigation into police violence and misconduct against Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse Inuit in Canada.
- **Data Collection and Transparency:** Data collection on police interactions with Inuit communities, including incidents of misconduct, use of force, and arrests, shall be enhanced. This data will be shared with oversight bodies and made publicly available to promote transparency and accountability.
- **Eliminate Harmful Practices:** Measures to address and eliminate harmful policing practices, including excessive force, racial profiling, over-policing, and wrongful arrests, shall be implemented. These measures shall include the development of clear policies, regular training, and strict enforcement of standards of conduct.
- **Independent Oversight Bodies:** Independent oversight bodies with a mandate to investigate police misconduct and systemic issues within the RCMP and other police services shall be established. These bodies shall include Inuit representation and have the authority to recommend disciplinary actions, policy changes, and other corrective measures.

Measures to address and eliminate harmful policing practices, including excessive force, racial profiling, over-policing, and wrongful arrests, shall be implemented.



4. CORRECTIONS

Canada must shift away from carceral approaches to Indigenous peoples and focus on restoring Indigenous justice systems grounded in healing, mentoring, and community reintegration.

PRIORITY AREAS:

- **Comprehensive Healing Services**
- **Alternatives to Incarceration and Punishment**
- **Community Re-integration**

4.1 INUIT-SPECIFIC HEALING

Canada will ensure that Inuit individuals in the corrections system receive culturally relevant and effective services. These services will also serve as an alternative to incarceration, rooted in the understanding that the current justice system approach is not effective in reducing rates of incarceration among Inuit.

- **Invest in Infrastructure:** Investments shall be made in the development and maintenance of infrastructure that supports Inuit-specific healing programs and services, including the construction of culturally appropriate facilities and the provision of necessary resources.
- **Allocate Resources:** Adequate resources shall be allocated to support the staffing and operation of Inuit-specific correctional services, including the recruitment and retention of culturally competent professionals.
- **Tailored Healing Programs:** Healing programs specifically tailored to the cultural needs of Inuit individuals shall be developed and implemented, incorporating traditional healing practices, land-based activities, and the involvement of Elders.



- **Access to Services:** All Inuit in the corrections system must have access to legally entitled support services, including mental health care, substance use services, educational opportunities, and skills training. This includes implementing MMIWG Call 14.3, which calls for the elimination of strip searches.
- **Collaborative Agreements:** Agreements with Inuit organizations shall be established to develop and support



culturally relevant correctional services, including community-based alternatives to incarceration and programs focusing on healing rather than punishment.

4.2 CONTINUITY OF CARE

Canada shall provide seamless support for Inuit individuals transitioning from corrections back into their communities:

- **Information-Sharing Agreements:** Information-sharing agreements between federal, provincial, and territorial correctional systems shall be established and enforced to ensure continuity of care for Inuit individuals.
- **Case Management:** A case management approach shall be implemented, following Inuit individuals throughout their involvement with the corrections system and into their re-entry into the community. Case managers shall work closely with community organizations to coordinate services and support.

Canada shall provide seamless support for Inuit individuals transitioning from corrections back into their communities

- **Reintegration Plans:** Financial and logistical support for reintegration plans tailored to the specific needs of Inuit individuals shall be provided. These plans include housing, employment, mental health services, and community support systems to help individuals successfully transition back into communities.
- **Community Based Initiatives:** Investments will be made in Inuit community-based initiatives that facilitate the reintegration of individuals into their home communities, including mentorship programs, community service opportunities, and collaboration with local businesses to provide employment opportunities.

4.3 RESPECTING RIGHTS AND DIGNITY

Canada shall ensure that the rights and dignity of Inuit individuals are respected within the corrections system:

- **Respecting Rights and Dignity:** Address and eliminate the overreliance of Structured Intervention Units (SIU) and develop and fund alternative methods to strip searching.
- **Accountability Measures:** Clear accountability measures shall be established to ensure that corrections staff are held responsible for the fair and humane treatment of Inuit individuals. This includes the creation of complaint mechanisms and oversight bodies that include Inuit representation.
- **Comprehensive Training Programs:** Comprehensive training for corrections officers shall be provided, including modules on cultural competence, trauma-informed care, Inuit legal traditions, the specific needs of Inuit individuals in the corrections system and Inuit rights as outlined in UNDRIP.
- **Ongoing Professional Development:** Corrections officers shall receive ongoing professional development opportunities to stay current on best practices in culturally competent care and corrections management.

Corrections officers shall receive ongoing professional development opportunities to stay current on best practices in culturally competent care and corrections management



5. CRIME PREVENTION

PRIORITY AREAS:

- **Integrating Wraparound and Trauma-Informed Services**
- **Access to Mental Health and Substance Use Support Services**
- **Support for Individuals with Disabilities, Including Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)**

5.1 COMPREHENSIVE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Canada shall address the mental health needs of Inuit communities:

- **Collaborate with Inuit-Led Organizations:** Partnerships with Inuit-led organizations shall be established to provide mental health and substance use services inclusive of all Inuit.
- **Use Holistic and Culturally Grounded Approaches:** Mental health services shall be holistic, trauma-informed, and grounded in Inuit cultural practices. This includes integrating traditional healing methods, community support systems, and culturally relevant counseling.



5.2 DISABILITY RIGHTS AND SUPPORT

Canada shall protect the rights of Inuit individuals with disabilities and provide them with the support they need:

- **Pursue Legislative Action:** New legislation shall be enacted to ensure that Inuit individuals with disabilities, including those with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and other cognitive disabilities, have access to comprehensive diagnostic services, inclusive education, and justice system accommodations.

Canada shall protect the rights of Inuit individuals with disabilities and provide them with the support they need

- **Create Accessible Justice Services:** Justice services shall be made accessible to individuals with disabilities, providing necessary accommodation and support to enable their full participation in legal processes.

5.3 CHILD FIRST INITIATIVE EXPANSION

Canada shall ensure that Inuit children receive the services they need:

- **Expand Services:** The Child First Initiative shall be expanded to ensure that all Inuit children, regardless of location, have access to necessary services, with a focus on providing culturally grounded and trauma-informed services that address the specific needs of Inuit children.

5.4 ACCESS TO HEALING SERVICES

Canada shall support the healing of Inuit individuals and communities:

- **Develop Culturally Appropriate Healing Services:** All Inuit shall have access to culturally appropriate healing services, including the provision of traditional healing practices, mental health support, and substance use treatment.
- **Integrate Traditional Practices:** Traditional Inuit healing practices shall be integrated into mainstream healthcare services, ensuring these practices are recognized and supported by the healthcare system.

5.5 SUPPORTING INUIT FAMILIES

Canada shall support Inuit in strengthening their families:

- **Family Violence Support:** Comprehensive support to address family violence, including counseling, emergency shelters, and legal assistance, shall be provided.



Children in need of care shall be placed with kin whenever possible, respecting the importance of family and community connections in Inuit culture.

- **Kinship Placements:** Children in need of care shall be placed with kin whenever possible, respecting the importance of family and community connections in Inuit culture.
- **Cultural and Educational Training:** Cultural and educational training for schools, mental health services, and healthcare providers shall be offered to improve their understanding of Inuit culture and the challenges faced by Inuit families.

6. ADDRESSING ROOT CAUSES OF CRIME

PRIORITY AREAS:

- **Confront the effects of colonization, including resource deprivation, service denial, and systemic racism.**
- **Promote and fund Inuit-led justice programs that reflect community values.**
- **Support culturally grounded alternatives, including on-the-land programming.**

6.1 NATIONAL BASIC INCOME MODEL

Canada shall address economic disparities and improve community well-being of Inuit:

- **Collaboration on Basic Income:** Canada shall collaborate with Inuit organizations to develop and implement a national basic income model tailored to the unique economic conditions and needs of Inuit.



6.2 DISABILITIES AND MENTAL HEALTH PROTOCOLS

Canada shall ensure that individuals with disabilities and mental health issues receive appropriate support:

- **Screening and Assessment Protocols:** Partnerships with Inuit organizations and provincial and territorial governments shall be established to develop standardized screening and assessment protocols for disabilities, including FASD and mental health issues.

Canada shall ensure that individuals with disabilities and mental health issues receive appropriate support

- **Guidance and Training:** Guidance and training for healthcare providers, educators, and justice system workers shall be provided on the proper identification, support, and accommodation of individuals with disabilities and mental health issues.



6.3 HEALING AND HARMONY PROGRAMS

Canada shall promote healing and harmony in Inuit communities and address the root causes of crime:

- **Investment in Healing Programs:** Investments shall be made in programs that focus on restoring relationships, supporting community-led initiatives, and providing culturally relevant conflict resolution services.
- **On-the-Land Programming:** Support for the development of on-the-land programs connecting Inuit individuals with their cultural heritage and promoting mental and physical well-being.

6.4 ADDRESSING FUNDING DISCREPANCIES

Canada shall ensure equitable funding for crime prevention and justice programs:

- **Equitable Resource Allocation:** Funding shall be distributed equitably and, in a manner, responsive to the specific needs of Inuit communities. This includes addressing historical underfunding.

Canada shall promote healing and harmony in Inuit communities and address the root causes of crime

7. SUPPORTING INUIT SELF-DETERMINATION AND JURISDICTION

PRIORITY AREAS:

- **Legal Jurisdiction over Inuit Members**
- **Modern Treaty Implementation**
- **Collaboration through the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee (ICPC)**

7.1 INUIT JURISDICTION FRAMEWORK

Canada shall recognize and support Inuit self-determination:

- **Framework Legislation:** Inuit-specific framework legislation recognizing the jurisdiction and law-making authority of Inuit will be pursued.



7.2 MODERN TREATY OBLIGATIONS

Canada shall fulfill its obligations under modern treaties:

- **Collaborative Implementation:** Canada shall collaborate with Inuit Treaty Organizations to implement obligations under modern treaties, applying an Inuit Nunangat approach.

7.3 ICPC COLLABORATION

Canada shall ensure effective collaboration on Inuit-specific justice strategies:

- **Periodic Reporting:** Canada shall report periodically to the ICPC on the monitoring and implementation of justice strategies, including progress on commitments and areas for improvement.

7.4 UNDRIP IMPLEMENTATION

Canada shall prioritize the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP):

- **Consultation and Collaboration:** Canada shall consult and collaborate with diverse Inuit, including Inuit women, girls, and gender-diverse Inuit, to support the implementation of obligations under United Nations Declaration Act (UNDA). This shall include consultation with diverse Inuit organizations in all efforts to align Canadian laws and policies with the principles of UNDRIP.



7.5 JUSTICE SYSTEM DATA COLLECTION

Canada shall improve data collection and analysis related to Inuit justice system involvement:

- **Partnerships for Data Collection:** Partnerships with Inuit organizations and justice stakeholders shall be established to enhance data collection and analysis on Inuit justice system involvement. This data shall inform policy decisions and help identify areas where improvements are needed.

Canada shall prioritize the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

8. DECRIMINALIZATION AND DECOLONIZATION

Canada commits to a comprehensive process of decolonizing the justice system and decriminalizing behaviors and practices that disproportionately affect Inuit communities. This approach shall recognize the historical and ongoing impacts of colonization and aim to restore justice systems that reflect Inuit values and traditions.

PRIORITY AREAS:

- **Decriminalization of Survival-Based Offenses**
- **Decolonizing Legal Frameworks and Practices**
- **Empowering Inuit Legal Traditions**
- **Restorative Justice and Reconciliation**

8.1 DECRIMINALIZATION OF SURVIVAL-BASED OFFENSES

Canada shall work to decriminalize offenses that are related to the survival of Inuit communities, acknowledging the context of socio-economic challenges and historical injustices:

- **Review and Repeal of Laws:** Canada shall conduct a comprehensive review of laws and regulations that disproportionately criminalize survival-based activities among Inuit, such as hunting, fishing, and land use practices, and shall work to repeal or amend such laws to ensure they are aligned with Inuit rights and traditions.
- **Support for Alternative Measures:** Canada shall promote and implement



alternative measures to incarceration, including community service, restitution, and culturally relevant education programs.

- **Expungement of Records:** Canada shall establish a process for the expungement of criminal records for Inuit individuals convicted of survival-based offenses, recognizing the historical and systemic injustices that have led to their criminalization.

8.2 DECOLONIZING LEGAL FRAMEWORKS AND PRACTICES

Canada shall undertake a process of decolonizing the legal frameworks and practices that govern Inuit communities, ensuring that they are aligned with Inuit values and sovereignty:

- **Legislative Reforms:** Canada shall work with Inuit organizations to reform existing legal frameworks to remove colonial biases and structures, ensuring that laws and policies reflect and respect Inuit legal traditions and self-determination.
- **Decolonizing Legal Education:** Canada shall reform legal education to include mandatory training on the history of colonization, the rights of Indigenous peoples, and Inuit legal traditions. This shall apply to all legal professionals, including judges, lawyers, and police officers.
- **Elimination of Systemic Barriers:** Canada shall identify and eliminate systemic barriers within the justice system that perpetuate the overrepresentation of Inuit in the criminal justice system, including biased policing practices, discriminatory sentencing, and the lack of culturally competent legal representation.



Canada shall identify and eliminate systemic barriers within the justice system that perpetuate the overrepresentation of Inuit in the criminal justice system

8.3 EMPOWERING INUIT LEGAL TRADITIONS

Canada shall recognize and empower Inuit legal traditions as a legitimate and vital component of the justice system:

- **Recognition of Inuit Legal Traditions:** Canada shall formally recognize Inuit legal traditions as an integral part of the Canadian legal system, ensuring that these traditions are respected and integrated into all relevant legal processes.



- **Support for Inuit Legal Systems:** Canada shall provide funding and resources to support the development and operation of Inuit legal systems, including community courts, traditional dispute resolution methods, and Inuit-led restorative justice programs.
- **Integration with Formal Legal Systems:** Canada shall work to integrate Inuit legal traditions with the formal legal system, ensuring that Inuit practices and customs are given equal weight and consideration in legal proceedings involving Inuit individuals and communities.

8.4 RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

Canada shall prioritize restorative justice approaches that focus on healing, reconciliation, and the restoration of harmony within Inuit communities:

- **Investment in Restorative Justice Programs:** Canada shall invest in restorative justice programs that are led by Inuit which prioritize the repair of harm, the restoration of relationships, and the reintegration of individuals into their communities.
- **Community-Led Reconciliation Initiatives:** Canada shall support community-led reconciliation initiatives that address the historical and ongoing impacts of colonization on Inuit communities. These initiatives shall include truth-telling processes, reparations, and the revitalization of Inuit cultural practices.
- **Healing Circles and Traditional Practices:** Canada shall promote the use of healing circles and other traditional Inuit practices as central components of the justice system, ensuring that these practices are recognized as valid and effective means of resolving disputes and addressing harm.



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