

Indigenous Services Canada

Departmental Results Report 2022-23



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From the Minister

In 2022-23, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) continued to make meaningful progress to advance shared priorities with First Nations, Inuit and Métis, improve partnerships and support the self-determination of Indigenous Peoples.

A significant milestone was reached this year to redress the discrimination experienced by First Nations children who had been taken into care. In April, a revised settlement agreement was reached between the Assembly of First Nations, the Moushoom and Trout class actions plaintiffs, and Canada to compensate those harmed by discriminatory underfunding of First Nations child and family services, as well as those impacted by the federal government's narrow definition of Jordan's Principle. The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ruled that the agreement fully meets their compensation orders. The agreement is a meaningful step in the reconciliation journey. Additionally, under Jordan Principle, we are making progress to ensure First Nations children have access to the products, services and supports they need. More than 2.69 million products, services and supports were approved under Jordan's Principle between July 2016 and March 31, 2023.



Joyce Echaquan's tragic death three years ago is a stark reminder of the urgent need to reform health services for Indigenous Peoples and eliminate racism in Canada's health systems. This past January, we published a "What We Heard" report summarizing the feedback we received from broad, Indigenous-led engagement on the development of new, distinctions-based Indigenous health legislation. Our goal is to introduce new legislation in the Winter of 2024.

First Nations have also long called for new safe drinking water legislation that meets the needs of their communities and reflects their priorities. We took an important step last year when we repealed the 2013 *Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act*, in alignment with the Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Class Action Settlement Agreement. Since the repeal, we have been working directly with First Nations, including Modern Treaty and Self-Governing First Nations, and First Nations organizations to advance the development of new proposed legislation, and we will continue to put their voices at the forefront as we work together to ensure all First Nations communities have access to clean, reliable drinking water.

We are also working with First Nations to develop legislative pathways that move away from the *Indian Act* and transform longstanding colonial policies that are rooted in racism and discrimination. Bill C-38, introduced last December, is a crucial step forward on the path to reconciliation, as it aims to further address inequities in the registration and band membership provisions in the Act. It is expected that approximately 3,500 individuals could be newly eligible for registration as a result of the proposed legislation.

As we continue the important work of serving Indigenous Peoples and advancing reconciliation, the principles of honesty, equity and self-determination remain at the core of everything we do. Implementation of the United Nations Declaration Act intrinsically aligns with ISC's mandate, including in the results outlined in this report. Through the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* Action Plan released earlier this year, we will continue to work with Indigenous partners to define a path forward based on the priorities of Indigenous Peoples.

We must continue to push ourselves in every program and in every department to continue transforming the way the Government of Canada responds to and works with Indigenous Peoples and communities. Our work must continue to acknowledge wrongs, both past and ongoing, and the racism, discrimination and colonial policies that have resulted in the gaps in outcomes we see between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. We will continue to engage with Indigenous Peoples to ensure that policies and programs are increasingly designed for and aligned to their vision for a healthier, fairer and safer future.

Original signed by Minister Patty Hajdu

The Honourable Patty Hajdu, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Indigenous Services

Results at a glance

Indigenous Services Canada – 2022-23 Resources Used	
Actual spending	22,556,362,278
Actual full time equivalents	7,278

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) was created in November 2017, bringing First Nations and Inuit health services (formerly with Health Canada) together with education, essential social services, child and family services programs, lands and economic development, housing and infrastructure programs from the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. ISC was established through the *Department of Indigenous Services Act*, which came into force in July 2019.

Since its creation in 2017, ISC has worked in collaboration and co-development with Indigenous partners. When referring to the process of co-development throughout this report, it is important to note that Indigenous partners have articulated expectations around co-development, including principles and best practices, which the department strives to recognize and respect. In all of its efforts, ISC is seeking to ensure that the pursuit of outcomes align with reconciliation aspirations that echo the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission \(TRC\) Calls to Action](#)ⁱ and the [National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Girls \(MMIWG\) Calls for Justice](#)ⁱⁱ, and are grounded in the principles identified in the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples \(UNDRIP\)](#)ⁱⁱⁱ. The specific articles that ISC's commitments support are linked to each core responsibility in the reporting framework at the end of this document.

The foundation of ISC's work is guided by the commitments made to Indigenous Peoples in the areas of health, child and family services, education, infrastructure and environment, economic development, and governance. For 2022-23, the results are presented against the department's four core responsibilities of Services and Benefits to Individuals, Health and Social Services, Governance and Community Development Services, and Indigenous Self-Determined Services. However, during the year, ISC focused internally on its structure and the alignment of its programs to assess how it could more effectively address gaps in policy, programming and data, and better meet the needs to transfer departmental responsibilities to Indigenous communities. Consequently, a renewed Departmental Results Framework that creates a foundation for the systematic improvement in the value and effectiveness of departmental programs and services was developed. The renewed Departmental Results Framework will be introduced in 2023-24, making 2022-23 the last year of reporting under the current framework. The new Departmental Results Framework structure supports the evolution of the Government of Canada's policy agenda and programming with respect to recognizing and advancing priorities of First Nations, Inuit and Métis by moving to a single core responsibility that focuses on Indigenous Well-Being and Self-Determination.

Although the department's Departmental Results Framework structure may have changed, the commitment to advancing its mandate has not. ISC will continue to ensure that eligible Indigenous individuals have access to services, address socioeconomic gaps and social factors having an impact on Indigenous health and well-being, and collaborate and cooperate with Indigenous Peoples and with the provinces and territories to implement the gradual transfer of service delivery to Indigenous organizations in support of self-determination.

Key Results

In 2022-23, due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and its cumulative impact on competing priorities, many First Nations were unable to dedicate staff time and resources to performance measurement activities and the co-development of targets. While this resulted in insufficient data being available for ISC to report on certain indicators, progress was still made towards advancing numerous interconnected priorities. Below are examples as highlighted in the Minister's mandate letter.

- ▶ Continued to support Indigenous communities in their response to COVID-19 with a shift in focus towards recovery. In 2022-23, a total of \$240.5 million was allocated to Indigenous Services Canada for the [Indigenous Community Support Fund](#)^{iv} and the ongoing response to the pandemic, while \$218.0 million was provided for targeted public health responses on reserve through the COVID-19 Public Health Fund.
 - ▶ Worked towards **fully implementing Joyce's Principle** and **addressing anti-Indigenous racism** in Canada's health systems by supporting the co-development of distinctions-based **Indigenous Health Legislation**. This involves addressing the racial stereotypes and bias that continue to harm First Nations, Inuit and Métis individuals and communities. September 28, 2022, marked the second anniversary of Joyce Echaquan's death. Joyce's tragic and avoidable death [while seeking medical care] attests to the urgency to continue this important work. The discussion phase with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis partners concluded in fall 2022, with the aim to introduce new legislation by winter 2024.
 - ▶ Invested in a distinctions-based **mental health and wellness strategy** with \$650 million provided for Indigenous-led, culturally-relevant, and community-based mental wellness programming that allowed funding recipients to have the flexibility to invest in and enhance their mental wellness teams according to their needs and priorities. ISC continued to support First Nation Survivors and families as they heal from intergenerational trauma and the ongoing impact of residential schools.
-
- ▶ Progressed towards the full implementation of *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit, Métis children, youth and families*. This year marked the third of a five-year \$542 million commitment, devoted to supporting Indigenous groups, communities and peoples wishing to explore readiness to exercise jurisdiction under the Act. As of March 31, 2023, \$135 million was invested in 268 capacity-building proposals to support Indigenous governing bodies actively preparing for the exercise of jurisdiction. A total of six coordination agreements and one bilateral agreement related to the exercise of legislative authority over the delivery of child and family services were completed.
 - ▶ Worked towards **reforming the child and family services** system for First Nations, Inuit and Métis children through constructive collaboration and distinctions-based governance engagement mechanisms. Twelve groups were funded to organize governance engagement mechanisms, and by March 2023, 56 sessions had been held. A total of \$3.8 million was provided to support the governance engagement mechanisms in 2022-23.
 - ▶ Advanced the mandate to ensure fair and equitable **compensation for those harmed by the First Nations Child and Family Services program**. A revised final settlement agreement addressing the discriminatory underfunding of First Nations child and family services and those impacted by the federal government's narrow application of Jordan's Principle valued at over \$23 billion was reached in April 2023 between Canada and the Assembly of First Nations, and the Moushoom

and Trout class actions plaintiffs. The First Nations Child and Family Caring Society also supported the settlement.

- ▶ Focused on making progress to close the **infrastructure gap** between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities in Canada by 2030. Since 2016 and as of March 2023, \$9.89 billion in targeted funds have been invested, supporting 9,341 infrastructure projects in First Nations, including:
 - 1,206 water and wastewater projects;
 - construction, renovation or retrofit of 19,613 housing units;
 - 301 schools projects, including 68 new schools;
 - 283 health projects, including construction or renovation of 79 health facilities; and,
 - 1,667 projects to support other community infrastructure, including everything from roads and bridges to fire protection to cultural and recreational facilities.
- ▶ Took a wrap-around approach to eliminating all remaining **long-term water advisories on reserve**, ensuring long-term investments are in place to prevent new water advisories from occurring and short-term ones from becoming long-term. Since November 2015 and as of March 31, 2023, 138 long-term drinking water advisories had been lifted from public systems on reserve. ISC also made advancements on a new legislative proposal for First Nations drinking water and wastewater in consultation with First Nations, and signed the first Indigenous Water Utility agreement in the country for the Atlantic First Nations Water Authority.
- ▶ Focused on strengthening the service delivery and governance of all four pillars of **emergency management**; response, recovery, mitigation and preparedness. Collaborations with partners led to the development of regional specific plans to develop new multilateral emergency management service agreements between the department, First Nations, provinces and territories. Emergency management governance was advanced through the re-signing of the Collaborative Emergency Management Agreement with the Tsilhqot'in National Government in British Columbia, funding provided to Tribal Councils and Indigenous Representative Organizations in Saskatchewan and Manitoba to develop new visions for emergency management, and the launch of a Joint Command Governance Model with First Nation partners in Ontario to streamline decision-making and emergency response processes.

- ▶ Advanced the mandate on helping **build economic prosperity** in Indigenous communities by successfully establishing an ongoing single-window point of entry for all Indigenous entrepreneurs, businesses, and communities to access funding from across the federal family in all sectors of the economy by creating **Indigenous Entrepreneur Navigator** positions. In 2022-23, Indigenous Business Navigator Services received a total of 195 requests.
- ▶ Continued to **invest in capacity building initiatives** like the 10-year grant within the New Fiscal Relationship. Lessons learned are helping to provide for more flexible and stable funding arrangements needed for future transfer initiatives, while work continues towards closing the socioeconomic gaps between First Nations and non-Indigenous Canadians. By the end of 2022-23, the New Fiscal Relationship 10-Year Grant was adopted by approximately 20% of First

Nations, for a total of 130 First Nations communities (from 117 in 2021-22), with more than \$1 billion in transfer payments flowing.

- ▶ Supported First Nations-led processes to **transition away from the *Indian Act*** by introducing legislation to address specific inequities in registration of the *Indian Act*.
- ▶ Helped to **advance the priorities of communities in areas that matter to them**, as demonstrated in the historical signing of the First Nations Education Council Regional Education Agreement in July 2022.
- ▶ Continued to work with partners and communities to improve access to high-quality services, socio-economic conditions, quality of life, and safety for Indigenous communities and the diverse populations within them. The department continued to systemize **Culturally Competent Gender-Based Analysis Plus**, to enhance consideration of program impacts on Indigenous communities and people for all new and existing programs, including the use of disaggregated socio-economic data and other forms of evidence in initiative design, implementation, and performance measurement. Collaboration and information-sharing with Indigenous partners was also key to embedding considerations of diversity factors into program and service design. It is only through collaboration that distinctions-based data strategies that promote responsive and culturally competent policies leading to closing socio-economic gaps and addressing inequalities will be developed.

For more information on ISC's plans, priorities and results achieved, see the "Results: what we achieved" section of this report.

Results: what we achieved

Core Responsibility - Services and Benefits to Individuals

I. Description

These services and benefits are mainly delivered directly to Indigenous Peoples by the department. They include, among other services and benefits, individual First Nations and Inuit clinical care and coverage for health-related benefits such as pharmacy, dental and vision care. The department is also responsible for determining individuals' entitlement to Indian registration and for the issuance of various proofs of registration, including the Secure Certificate of Indian Status (SCIS), which can be used to access various programs and services.

II. Results

In 2022-23, ISC's path was marked by the commitment to achieving two core results concerning the quality and timely services and benefits provided to individuals, as well as the services that contribute to health outcomes, each firmly intertwined with the fabric of Indigenous well-being and recognition. The Government of Canada recognizes that the current state of Indigenous health in Canada is a direct result of past and enduring colonial policies. ISC's activities in 2022-23 aimed to humbly contribute towards redress through results that support reconciliation efforts.

An example of this commitment arose from the government's pledge to fully implement Joyce's Principle and guide the co-development of distinctions-based Indigenous health legislation. Since 2021, ISC has been working with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis partners, as well as provinces and territories (where relevant), to co-develop distinctions-based Indigenous health legislation options in an effort to improve access to high-quality, culturally-relevant, safe, and equitable health services, with attention to the diversity within and between these groups. A "What We Heard" report was released in

January 2023 following engagements with partners summarizing what distinction-based health legislation could entail. Budget 2021 announced \$126.7 million over 3 years to address anti-Indigenous racism in Canada's healthcare systems, aligned with UNDRIP's principles of equal rights for Indigenous individuals and MMIWG's Calls for Justice regarding healthcare services. To date, ISC has funded 148 Indigenous-led projects and initiatives across all regions, distinctions and professions to build capacity, increase cultural safety, improve health system navigation and foster effective relationships to eliminate anti-Indigenous racism in health.

In 2022-23, ISC continued engagement with Indigenous partners and communities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. An amount of \$240.5 million was distributed via the Indigenous Community Support Fund using a combination of three delivery models to allocate funds to eligible recipients: direct allocations to First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation utilizing a funding formula methodology; a proposal, needs-based approach for all distinctions-based groups open to urban and off-reserve Indigenous communities and organizations; and, contingency funding allocations to respond rapidly to acute

WHAT'S NEW

[Bill C-38— An Act to amend the *Indian Act*](#) (new registration entitlements), was introduced in December 2022 as a step forward on the path of reconciliation.

These proposed amendments, along with previous amendments such as Bill S-3 (elimination of sex-based inequities in registration(2019)), respond to the MMIWG Calls for Justice by eliminating gender discrimination and ensuring equal rights for men, women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people. These changes pave the way for true equity and informed consent, as reflected in the UNDRIP.

pressures, such as outbreaks. This Indigenous-led approach allowed for culturally appropriate and holistic responses to the pandemic, and contributed to more successful outcomes in the fight against COVID-19, reflecting the synergy of Indigenous wisdom and modern healthcare.

The department supported MMIWG Calls for Justice and strived to close gaps in health outcomes by providing improved access to primary and oral health services for First Nations and Inuit individuals in remote and isolated communities. Similarly, the Supplementary Health Benefits program's nationwide scope covering essential health-related goods and services, supported TRC's Calls to Action by breaking down jurisdictional barriers and improving accessibility for registered First Nations and recognized Inuit, regardless of where they live.

Departmental Result 1: Quality and timely services are delivered directly to Indigenous Peoples

In 2022-23, there was an increased need for high quality, timely health services for Indigenous Peoples, ISC continued its support to communities in areas of primary care and public health. In response to the essential facet of delivering distinctions-based support, ISC administered \$190.5 million from Budget 2022 through the Indigenous Community Support Fund to help Indigenous communities and organizations mitigate the ongoing impacts of COVID-19. In August 2022, an additional \$50 million in funding was provided to supplement the Indigenous Community Support Fund, bringing the total Budget 2022 funding to \$240.5 million.

In 2022-23, ISC also received \$268 million in public health funding to ensure high quality healthcare in remote and isolated First Nations communities on reserve. As the pandemic evolved, this funding supported First Nations community-led responses to the pandemic, with priority going to vaccine and booster rollouts, testing, and surge capacity for urgent medical needs and outbreaks, including those caused by emerging variants or co-circulating respiratory illnesses.

In pursuit of the overarching goal for the delivery of quality and timely services, the department continued to improve client access to supplementary health benefits through the [Non-Insured Health Benefits Program](#)^v. The department successfully processed 98% of requests for medication coverage within the 24-hour service standard. While external challenges, such as power outages and connectivity issues impacted reaching the 100% target, results point to a positive trend in achieving a high service standard of response over the past three years. While utilization rates of the Program were not expected to change significantly in 2022-23, the department met its target by ensuring that 74% of eligible First Nations and Inuit individuals received at least one non-insured health benefit during the year. ISC will continue to monitor this rate to measure improved access to non-insured health benefits. An additional measure on the quality of healthcare services comes from the First Nations Regional Health Survey. This survey is conducted every 5 years and provides data as identified by First Nations people living on reserve and in northern communities, who have had positive healthcare experiences, leading to better prevention, treatment, and clinical outcomes. The last available data is from 2015, where 55.2% had responded to having positive experiences. ISC will continue to monitor this through future surveys conducted by the First Nations Information Governance Centre to meet the 57% target by March 2028.

Beyond health services, ISC continued its pursuit of quality and timely client services for registration under the *Indian Act*. In 2022-23, there was a significant 53% increase in applications for Secure Certificates of Indian Status, with over 96,000 applications received (63,000 received in 2021-22). ISC processed 87.5% of application requests within the 16-week service standard, however, due to the lifting of measures put in place to manage COVID-19 restrictions, there was a significant accumulation of applications that exceeded the service standard and the ability to meet the 90% target. To help facilitate increased access for clients submitting applications, ISC pursued trusted source partnerships with 20

Indigenous-led organizations in urban settings, such as with the Maniwaki Native Friendship Centre. An additional 12,380 Secure Certificate of Indian Status applications and approximately 9,227 Status cards were processed through this avenue. This will continue to grow as new partners are enlisted. Starting in 2023-24, the department will also continue to make improvements to the service standard by shifting from 16 weeks to 12 weeks.

The department sought to further ensure quality and timely services through:

- Advancement of the Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative and enhancing the quality and consistency of healthcare services provided in First Nations and Inuit communities through training initiatives.
- Support for accreditation in primary care nursing stations through assessments of standards and the development of Indigenous-led Accreditation supports for community health and long-term continuing care organizations.
- Continued dialogue with the Assembly of First Nations on digital health through the First Nations Digital Health Advisory Board, implemented the First Nations Digital Health Framework and recommendations from evaluations, expanded roles of Indian Registration Administrators, and developed the Digital Application Solution.
- The pilot of an Incident Management Tracking Solution that addresses both patient and nurse safety. This electronic solution is expected to decrease redundancy in reporting, eliminate risks of human error, and provide much-needed accurate national data on patient and nursing safety for First Nations communities.

Departmental Result 2: Health services delivered to Indigenous Peoples contribute to health outcomes

In 2022-23, ISC continued to use self-reported health status to measure distinctions-specific progress towards positive health outcomes. Self-reported health statuses are a reliable and valid measure that can be more effective than clinical measures to predict help-seeking behaviours and health service use. The goal is to reach 44% of First Nations and Inuit who report being in very good or excellent health by March 2028. This target was established based on the results of the 2015-16 First Nations Regional Health Survey (37.8%) and the 2017 Indigenous Peoples Survey (36.9%). ISC will continue to monitor this through future surveys conducted by the First Nations Information Governance Centre and through the National Inuit Health Survey.

The quality of health outcomes is closely linked to the quality of health services that are available. In striving to advance ISC's mandate to fully implement Joyce's Principle, and address anti-Indigenous racism in Canada's health systems, a comprehensive engagement process led by Indigenous voices took place from Winter 2021 to Fall 2022 to guide the collaborative development of distinctions-based Indigenous Health Legislation. This included engagement with Indigenous women's organizations and 2SLGBTQI+¹ organizations. In January 2023, the findings were consolidated into a national "[What We Heard](#)" report^{vi} to summarize the valuable input received from Indigenous partners.

ISC also worked to ensure that health services delivered to Indigenous Peoples contributed to health outcomes rooted in cultural safety by convening the fourth National Dialogue on Data in January 2023, and dedicating support to 148 Indigenous-led projects aimed at eliminating anti-Indigenous racism in

¹ Many forms of this acronym are used, but for the sake of consistency, this report will only use the Government of Canada Standard "2SLGBTQI+", with the understanding all other identities that may appear excluded are included within the "+".

health services spanning all regions, distinctions and professions. The department also developed policies aimed at improving the safety and security of healthcare professionals in remote and isolated nursing stations.

III. Gender-based Analysis (GBA) Plus

Gender-based Analysis Plus is a critical component of health programming as it helps identify and address gaps in services that Indigenous Peoples in Canada are experiencing so that improvements can be implemented, resulting in better and more inclusive health outcomes. ISC has incorporated GBA Plus into analyzing or interpreting its results under the core responsibility of Services and Benefits to Individuals in the following ways:

- Provided trauma-informed care training to nurses to recognize clients who may have experienced intergenerational trauma, enabling them to implement treatment and medication management effectively.
- Equipped ISC nursing staff with training to provide culturally informed care to pregnant individuals, as well as postnatal care. This care is provided with the acknowledgement of the difference in cultural traditions around birth and the challenges of having to leave home communities to give birth in an unfamiliar environment. Nursing and health centre staff also support families by incorporating family and kin support and cultural traditions where possible.
- Supported several projects related to midwifery, resulting in:
 - The first midwife-assisted birth in Sturgeon Lake First Nation in Saskatchewan in more than 50 years in February 2022. The community hosts one of the original Budget 2017 funded demonstration projects and now receives ongoing funding. The community also receives Budget 2021 funding which supported pre-capital planning and design for construction of a standalone birthing centre.
 - The successful rollout of two new community based midwifery education programs funded by Budget 2021. Students are in year one of their five year training program (Labrador Innu and James Bay Cree).
 - The expansion of training capacity at two existing community based programs (Six Nations and Nunavik) supported by Budget 2021, allowing for additional apprentices to work alongside Indigenous midwives.
 - The purchase of a Recreational vehicle motorhome through Budget 2021 funding for Six Nations, which has operated a nationally recognized Indigenous midwifery program for decades. The motorhome is being operated as a mobile primary care service delivery site, travelling to communities to be set up as a birthing space so that families have a suitable/safe living environment when they wish to give birth at home.
- Continued to provide coverage of Non-insured Health Benefits for diverse groups of eligible clients, including First Nations and Inuit women, men, and gender diverse people of various age groups. Examples include benefits primarily used by people who identify as women (e.g., case-by-case medications for assisted fertility treatments), age-specific benefits (e.g., specialized feeding bottles and teats for children with complex feeding needs), condition-specific benefits (e.g., 40 new medications for treatment of medical conditions such as asthma, migraine, osteoporosis, psoriasis, diabetes, cystic fibrosis, HIV, cancer, heart disease and Parkinson's disease), and benefits for people living with a disability (e.g., expanded eligibility for a wider range of hearing aids and enhanced coverage for low-vision aids, eye prosthesis, and eye conformers).

Additional results are available in the [Gender-based Analysis Plus Supplementary Information Table](#).^{vii}

IV. United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals

The programs delivered by ISC support Canada's efforts to implement the [United Nations 2030 Agenda](#)^{viii} and the [Sustainable Development Goals](#)^{ix} (SDGs), including the ambitions and targets of the Canadian Indicator Framework (CIF). The health services and benefits provided through this core responsibility supported [SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-Being](#)^x and the CIF ambition “Canada prevents causes of premature death” in the following ways:

- Ensured 24/7 primary care nursing services continued to be provided in 50 remote and isolated First Nations non-transferred nursing stations across Canada.
- Held a National Summit on Indigenous Mental Wellness in September 2022, which served as a forum for sharing best practices and forging new collaborations to improve mental wellness services to Indigenous individuals and is a testament to open dialogue and collaboration.

ISC also contributed to [SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions](#)^{xi} by continuing to collaborate with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis partners to take aim at systemic discrimination in health systems, guided by Joyce's Principle. The department supported 148 Indigenous partner-led projects related to addressing anti-Indigenous racism in health systems, with an emphasis on increasing access to culturally-safe health services, including those directed to Indigenous women, 2SLGBTQI+ peoples, and people who live in marginalizing conditions.

Additional results are available in the [United Nations 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals Supplementary Information Table](#).^{xii}

V. Innovation

ISC implemented innovation in the area of Services and Benefits to Individuals by modernizing the status registration services processes, taking a client-centric approach with enhanced digital capacity. This involved work to concentrate all activities and transactions related to an individual client into a single comprehensive online solution, the Digital Application Services online tool. The beta version of this tool is currently being used by Regional Offices to allow a digital application option for the Secure Certificate of Indian Status with a view to expanding the userbase and functionality in the year ahead.

This tool was initially rolled out in the British Columbia Region in December 2022, followed by Alberta in January 2023, and Quebec in February 2023. Notably, the average processing time for applications since the launch of the new tool has been reduced to under 10 minutes. Continuous enhancements are being made on a monthly basis to refine the system's performance and features. By comparison, prior to the Digital Application Service launch, appointment times were longer, spanning between 30 and 45 minutes.

Through these actions, ISC remains committed in pursuing ongoing enhancements that are client-centred and benefit Indigenous communities and individuals.

VI. Key Risks

In 2022-23, ISC effectively managed risks associated with services and benefits to individuals, focusing on the well-being of Indigenous individuals and communities. ISC successfully mitigated the risk of potential disruptions to health service resumption due to the persistent COVID-19 pandemic. This was achieved through strategic funding allocations to enhance infrastructure, enabling safe business operations despite supply chain challenges and funding delays.

Additionally, through the application of 5 contracts and 11 standing offers, ISC was able to augment its internal nursing workforce by 29,308 days of nursing service and 5,009 days of paramedic service in order to maintain patient services across 50 remote & isolated First Nation communities and avoid the withdrawal of primary care nursing services due to capacity.

ISC addressed the risk of limited access to new technologies for health and registration services, particularly in communities facing infrastructure constraints. The challenge of restricted physical access, limited broadband connectivity, and other barriers was recognized. To mitigate this, ISC introduced the digital application solution for Secure Certificate of Indian Status. The department is working to expand its user base and functionality - including a transition to online applications for registration under the *Indian Act*. The department also provided increased access and technical support to administrators and users, empowering them to utilize digital solutions effectively. Through these efforts, ISC played a role in supporting the well-being of Indigenous communities and individuals by facilitating health services and embracing technology-driven solutions.

In order to alleviate risk in the area of claims, the Non-insured Health Benefits Program worked to confirm that claims comply with accountability requirements as well as the terms and conditions of the Program, by overseeing a claims verification program (managed by its external claims processor). There are five components to these claims verification activities, including:

- The Daily Claim Verification Program, which reviews a defined sample of claims submitted by providers the day following their receipt.
- The Client Confirmation Program, whereby a monthly mail-out is sent to clients to confirm the receipt of services that have been paid on their behalf.
- The On-Site Claim Verification Program, which consists of the selection of a sample of claims for administrative validation with a provider's records through an on-site visit.
- The Desk Claim Verification Program, which also consists of the selection of a sample of claims for administrative validation with a provider's records, but are conducted at a distance.
- The Financial Recovery Program, which consists of a focused recovery assessment.

VII. Results achieved

The following table shows results achieved for Services and Benefits to Individuals, the performance indicators, targets, target dates for 2022-23, and the actual results for the three most recent fiscal years for which actual results are available.

Departmental Result 1: Quality and timely services are delivered directly to Indigenous Peoples

Performance indicators	Target	Date to achieve target	2020–21 Actual results	2021–22 Actual results	2022–23 Actual results
Percentage of First Nations adults who rate the quality of health care services delivered in their community as good or excellent	57%	March 2028	55.2%	55.2%	55.2% ¹
Percentage of prior approval requests for medication coverage completed within 24 hours	100%	March 2023	98.4%	98%	98%
Percentage of eligible First Nations and Inuit population who received at least one non-insured health benefit in a year	74%	March 2023	67.1%	72.1%	74% ²
Percentage of eligible applicants issued a Secure Certificate of Indian Status within 16 weeks from the application date ³	90%	March 2023	92%	95.26%	87.58% ⁴

- 1- Last available data from the 2015-16 Regional Health Survey.
- 2- Includes distinct claimant counts across five Non-Insured Health Benefits: Pharmacy, Medical Supplies & Equipment, Dental Care, Vision Care, and Mental Health. Due to system and data limitations, claimants of the Medical Transportation benefit have not been included in this analysis.
- 3- Indicator service standard was reframed to 12 weeks as of 2023-24.
- 4- In 2022-23, there was a 53% increase in applications received due to the lifting of both COVID-19 health measures and the corresponding temporary departmental measures promoting the acceptance of expired cards during extended closures of regional and band offices. This resulted in an accumulation of applications that exceeded the service standard by the time they were processed and the ability to meet the 90% target.

Departmental Result 2: Health services delivered to Indigenous Peoples contribute to improved health

Performance indicators	Target	Date to achieve target	2020–21 Actual results	2021–22 Actual results	2022–23 Actual results
Percentage of First Nations adults who reported being in very good or excellent health	44%	March 2028	37.8%	37.8%	37.8% ¹
Percentage of Inuit adults who reported being in very good or excellent health	44%	March 2028	36.9%	36.9%	36.9% ²

- 1- Last available data from the 2015-16 Regional Health Survey.
- 2- Last available data from the 2017 Indigenous Peoples Survey.

Performance information for Indigenous Services Canada's Program Inventory is available in [GC InfoBase](#).^{xiii}

VIII. Budgetary financial resources (dollars)

The following table shows the 2022-23 budgetary spending for Services and Benefits to Individuals, as well as actual spending for that year.

2022–23 Main Estimates	2022–23 Planned spending	2022–23 Total authorities available for use	2022–23 Actual spending (authorities used)	2022–23 Difference (Actual spending minus Planned spending)
2,570,793,254	2,570,793,254	2,631,420,587	2,435,713,923	(135,079,331)

Financial information for Indigenous Services Canada's Program Inventory is available in [GC InfoBase](#).^{xiv}

IX. Human resources (full-time equivalents)

The following table shows, in full-time equivalents, the human resources the department needed to fulfill this core responsibility for 2022–23.

2022–23 Planned full-time equivalents	2022–23 Actual full-time equivalents	2022–23 Difference (Actual full-time equivalents minus Planned full-time equivalents)
1,704	1,824	120

Human resources information for Indigenous Services Canada's Program Inventory is available in [GC InfoBase](#).^{xv}

Core Responsibility - Health and Social Services

I. Description

These services are primarily delivered in partnership with Indigenous communities and organizations, provinces/territories and agencies. Together, they focus on health and well-being for Indigenous Peoples. They include health services to strengthen Indigenous communities in areas such as healthy living, communicable disease control, healthy child development and community care. They also include social services with an emphasis on children and families, as well as education services from kindergarten to post-secondary.

II. Results

ISC recognizes that the journey to build a renewed relationship with First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples is based on the recognition of rights, respect and partnership. It is an ever-evolving process that requires ongoing commitment, attention, engagement, and follow-through. In this spirit, ISC sought to advance and weave the principles of reconciliation through its activities aimed at healthier Indigenous communities, agile and responsive social services, and inclusive education.

Throughout 2022-23, ISC remained committed to delivering access to trauma-informed health and cultural support services, acknowledging the ongoing physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual harms caused by residential schools, as well as the devastating impacts of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ People. These services supported numerous individuals and communities on their healing journey, with access to salient cultural supports such as Elders and Traditional Healers, emotional supports such as trained Indigenous health workers and peer counsellors, and access to clinical mental health counselling services, regardless of status or place of residence.

Budget 2022 supported mental wellness initiatives that underpinned the painful process of investigating and locating unmarked burials and commemorating missing children at former Indian Residential School sites. This support demonstrated the ongoing commitment to supporting healing and well-being. New pathways were developed to access services, address barriers, and support community members with accessible and appropriate services. Efforts were channeled into partnerships with Indigenous-led service delivery organizations serving 2SLGBTQI+ people, women, and youth, to develop specialized training for service providers. As of March 2023, over 385 First Nations and Inuit communities had accessed 75 interdisciplinary mental wellness teams (excluding those communities supported by the First Nations Health Authority in British Columbia), as well as 82 opioid agonist treatment sites with wraparound services.

In the realm of family violence prevention, ISC addressed MMIWG's Calls for Justice by supporting Indigenous-led shelters, safe spaces, transition homes, second stage housing, and services for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ individuals. This aligned with the Government of Canada's commitment under the [*United Nations Declaration Act*](#)^{xvi} to safeguard Indigenous women and children from violence and discrimination, promoting a holistic approach to protection. In 2022-23, the [*Indigenous Shelter and Transitional Housing Initiative*](#)^{xvii} supported the development of an additional 22 shelters, transitional housing, and mixed-use projects, including three Inuit-specific projects.

The Pathways to Safe Indigenous Communities Initiative supported the National Inquiry on MMIWG's Calls for Justice by providing support for the self-determination of Indigenous communities to design safety interventions that resonate with their unique needs. The department also assisted Métis communities in response to the Calls for Miskotahâ, by providing tailored programs that enhanced safety and well-being, while encouraging inclusivity and resilience. In 2022-23, the Pathways to Safe

DID YOU KNOW

The Pathways Initiative has funded projects that respond to community-identified needs that would be ineligible under other funding streams, and allowed recipients to pilot new approaches. For instance, the Initiative has funded safety measures for Indigenous women reliant on taxis for transportation in Yukon, and supported broader regional safety planning by Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak.

These projects, among many others funded by Pathways, required a flexible, multi-year funding source which allowed Indigenous recipients to design and implement their own holistic approaches to community safety.

The diversity of projects funded includes after-school programs for youth, safe streets and transportation initiatives, land-based activities, and culture and language programming, as well as initiatives to specifically support the safety and well-being of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQI+ people.

Indigenous Communities Initiative supported holistic Indigenous community safety and well-being initiatives by providing \$23.6 million in funding for First Nations, Inuit, Metis, and urban Indigenous communities to 57 community safety and well-being projects, many of which will continue over the next three years of the Initiative.

In keeping with UNDRIP's participatory approach, the Income Assistance program collaborated with the Assembly of First Nations and other First Nations partners to shape future program changes that meet community-specific needs and support First Nations self-determination. This collaboration laid the groundwork for policy options, which led to the Assembly of First Nations' resolution adopted in November 2022.

UNDRIP's principle of Indigenous control over education and MMIWG's Calls for Justice for equitable access to education are recognized as

fundamental means of protecting Indigenous human rights. Investments in First Nations elementary and secondary education supported progress towards First Nations control of education through regional education agreements and a framework based on First Nations-led funding formula. These investments increased access to full-day kindergarten services by 11% in 2022-23.

Departmental Result 3: Indigenous Peoples and communities are healthier

In 2022-23, ISC continued work to improve health outcomes for Indigenous Peoples and communities through community-driven public health measures. The department continued its efforts throughout the COVID-19 pandemic in support of community-led, distinction-based approaches to the prevention, education, and awareness of sexually transmitted infections and blood borne infections.

The pandemic impacted the availability of health human resources in tuberculosis diagnosis and care settings. It is likely that the pandemic also exacerbated the pre-pandemic tuberculosis burden in both Inuit and First Nations communities compared with the Canadian-born non-Indigenous population. The reallocation of public health resources to focus on mitigating COVID-19 transmission and infection, and public health restrictions, along with pre-existing overcrowded housing conditions, led to delayed diagnosis, late treatment, and prolonged transmission of tuberculosis. Preliminary departmental surveillance reporting for 2021 and 2022 suggest tuberculosis rates have increased in First Nations and Inuit communities, with multiple communities reporting outbreaks.

The Public Health Surge Team helped to respond to tuberculosis outbreaks in First Nation communities by providing in-person surge support and by:

- Maintaining an inventory of rifapentine, a short-course treatment for tuberculosis infection to ensure timely access to Indigenous clients. In 2022, ISC dispensed 242 adult courses of rifapentine to First Nations communities from its inventory.
- Working with Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada, in collaboration with Unitaid, to explore alternatives to improve access to essential tuberculosis medications for First Nation communities and mitigate delays associated with accessing rifapentine.

- Investing in the development of integrative case management, contact tracing and surveillance data tools for tuberculosis in First Nations which will optimize the timeliness and comprehensiveness of tuberculosis care and will assist with bringing tuberculosis outbreaks under control.
- Assisting a remote First Nations community to gain access to Interferon Gamma Release Assay testing, while also working on setting up access to GeneXpert rapid testing.
- Providing enhanced funding for high -incidence communities to support tuberculosis program activities and direct observed therapy programs.
- Participating on the Saskatchewan Pediatric Tuberculosis Working Group, Saskatchewan First Nation Tuberculosis Advisory Committee, and Saskatchewan Tuberculosis Partnership table to support and advocate for tuberculosis work in First Nations communities.

ISC will continue to advance its mandate to support Inuit-specific approaches in improving public health outcomes, and in particular the elimination of tuberculosis in Inuit Nunangat, through collaboration with Inuit and provincial and territorial governments. Future funding through Budget 2023 will extend investments from Budget 2018 by allocating \$16.2 million over three years, beginning in 2023-24, for tuberculosis interventions in Inuit communities. While data on tuberculosis rates was not available at the time of this report, the Communicable Disease Control Surveillance program will continue to track tuberculosis rates for both First Nations and Inuit.

The department continued to focus on supporting Indigenous organizations and communities in the delivery of sexually transmitted and blood borne infections programs and services. The department supported the Native Women’s Association of Canada’s trauma-informed care and strength-based approaches to sexual health, and the Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada’s [Tavva Inuit Sexual Health Strategy](#).^{xviii} In addition, ISC’s “Know Your Status” initiative in Saskatchewan, which includes testing, harm reduction and specialized nursing support, reached 74 communities in 2022-23. The department supported Community, Alliances & Networks to address sexually transmitted and blood borne infections such as HIV and AIDS, and launched a funding callout for HIV self-testing initiatives. While the most recent data for HIV rates in Canada has not been released by the Public Health Agency of Canada at the time of this report, the program will continue to track reductions in new cases for First Nations.

Furthermore, ISC worked towards ensuring Indigenous Peoples and communities are healthier in the following ways:

DID YOU KNOW

Budget 2022 provided \$700,000 over four years to establish a university bursary program for Indigenous students pursuing Environmental Public Health certification.

- The Indigenous Community Support Fund assisted Indigenous communities and organizations in mitigating the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- As the transition to an endemic recovery phase began, the COVID-19 Public Health Fund shifted to focus on essential and urgent public health measures in First Nations communities before ending in March 2023.
- A Recruitment and Retention Strategy was enacted to address the crucial need for Environmental Public Health Officers, focusing on Indigenous People and women.
- ISC provided \$16.97 million to support regions and communities in preparing for and responding to public health emergencies, and health aspects of emergencies caused by natural or accidental hazards. This included supports for pandemic-response plans and regional health emergency management coordinators.

The department continued to fund culturally relevant community-based health promotion and disease prevention programming in Indigenous communities, supporting 97% of eligible First Nations and Inuit communities in 2022-23, with more than 32,000 participants who attended nutrition education activities.

Departmental Result 4: Indigenous Peoples receive social services that respond to community needs

In the delivery of social services, ISC places a strong emphasis on an approach based on substantive equality, co-development with Indigenous leaders, and distinctions-based recognition in a way that serves the specific needs of communities, both on and off reserve.

The department continued to make progress in fully implementing its mandate regarding [*An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children, youth and families*](#)^{xix}, (the Act) and supporting Indigenous communities in developing their own child and family services models. This year marked the third of a five-year \$542 million commitment, devoted to supporting Indigenous groups, communities and peoples in readiness to exercise jurisdiction under the Act.

Child and family services that respond to family needs is a foundational part of distinctions-based social services. During 2022-23, work progressed towards reforming the child and family services system for First Nations, Inuit and Métis children. Distinctions-based governance engagement mechanisms led to recommendations on regulations, governance, capacity building, funding, data, and reporting strategies. Canada continued to implement reforms to the First Nation Child and Family Services Program included in the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal March 2022 order that was made on consent of all parties (2022 CHRT 8), the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal's capital order (2021 CHRT 41), and commitments in the Agreement-in-Principle signed on December 31, 2021. Negotiations towards a final settlement agreement continue.

DID YOU KNOW

The *Act respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children, youth, and families* (2019) represents a pivotal stride toward self-governance in child and family services. In the spirit of the UN Declaration, the Act enables Indigenous communities to assert jurisdiction, and by helping to support the care and protection of Indigenous children and youth while maintaining their connection to family, community, and culture.

As of March 2023, 10 Indigenous laws on child and family services have come into force, allowing communities to assert and exercise their jurisdiction. Six coordination agreements and one bilateral agreement were signed with:

- Cowessess First Nation (Saskatchewan)
- Wabaseemoong Independent Nations (Ontario)
- Peguis First Nation (Manitoba)
- Louis Bull Tribes (Alberta)
- Splitsin (British Columbia)
- Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug Nation (Ontario)
- Founding First Nations (Alberta)

These agreement allow for the coordination of emergency services, mechanisms for Indigenous children to exercise their rights, and the establishment of sustainable, needs-based fiscal arrangements, aligned with the principle of substantive equality.

DID YOU KNOW

By March 31, 2023, 60 Indigenous governing bodies signaled their intent to exercise jurisdiction under section 20 of the Act, representing more than 90 Indigenous groups and communities.

ISC remained committed to its mandate to ensure fair and equitable compensation for those harmed by the First Nations Child and Family Services Program and those impacted by the federal government's narrow application of Jordan's Principle. A revised final settlement agreement was reached in April 2023 between Canada, the Assembly of First Nations and the Moushoom and Trout class action

plaintiffs, valued at over \$23 billion. This comprehensive agreement reflected a collective commitment to address past injustices and fully meet the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal's compensation orders. The agreement includes comprehensive wellness supports for claimants and is a meaningful step in the reconciliation journey. At the time of writing this report, the settlement is expected to be reviewed by the Federal Court of Canada in October 2023.

As ISC continued its work on long-term reform, some of the current means to measure progress have changed. For example, the department had planned to measure the proportion of First Nations communities offering family support services aimed at keeping families together. This indicator was originally developed for the Community Well-Being and Jurisdiction Initiative program, intended to help children and families at risk to stay together and support communities to prepare to potentially assert greater control over the well-being of their children and families. This 5-year program concluded on March 31, 2023, and prevention funding is now in place under the First Nation Child and Family Services Program. While this indicator was planned for 2023-24, the department is reviewing and revising indicators with First Nations partners for the First Nations Child and Family Service Program.

Similarly, the percentage of First Nations children on reserve in care was selected as an indicator due to their over-representation in the child welfare system. While the number of children in care for 2021-22 and 2022-23 was not available at time of publication, results have been determined for 2019-20, with a total of 5.92% of First Nations children on reserve were in care and 6.16% in 2020-21. This rate will be monitored as it aligns with advancing child and family well-being by keeping children together with their families.

WHAT'S NEW

ISC began implementing the January 2022 Canadian Human Rights Tribunal order (2021 CHRT 41) for the purchase or construction of capital assets, such as buildings, to support the delivery of the First Nations Child and Family Services Program and Jordan's Principle services. ISC will support eligible First Nations and authorized services providers through infrastructure phases.

In 2022-23, a total of 415 requests were received under the First Nations Child and Family Services Program, with \$170.5 million in funding approved and an estimated \$1.2 billion forecasted to support the subsequent phases of the projects to completion and projects still under review.

For Jordan's Principle, a total of 133 infrastructure requests were received, \$3.8 million was approved for projects, and an additional \$254 million was provided to carry these projects through to completion.

The department continued working on its mandate to fully fund Jordan's Principle and the Inuit Child First Initiative in order to ensure that First Nations and Inuit children have improved access to health, education, and social services. In 2022-23, both services saw a substantial increase and surge in requests, 103% compared to the previous year for Jordan's Principle, and 180% for the Inuit Child First Initiative.

Work also advanced with the Métis Nation to fund the unique needs of Métis children. This included advancing priorities for this mandate commitment such as the creation of an education working group and collaboration with the Métis National Council and its Governing Members, continued engagements on the co-development of distinctions-based Indigenous Health Legislation, the implementation of *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit, Métis children, youth and families*, as well as the reform of the Child and Family Services.

As part of the ongoing work to support Indigenous Peoples in urban centres, funding was approved for 53 urban infrastructure projects, including 34 Urban Programming infrastructure projects (\$49.9 million) and 19 Indigenous Community Infrastructure Fund projects (\$113 million). While the program has an indicator in place for 2023-24 to measure progress of urban programming, new indicators are under co-development with partners.

Mental wellness support for First Nations and Inuit individuals and families improves overall health outcomes for communities. Driven by the government's commitment to support mental wellness programming, ISC invested \$650 million through its Mental Wellness Program, focusing on Indigenous-led, culturally-relevant, and community-based services such as mental wellness promotion, suicide prevention, crisis response, and substance use treatment and prevention services. ISC continued to provide 24/7 mental wellness support to Indigenous Peoples through three crisis lines: [Hope for Wellness Help Line](#)^{xx}, [National Indian Residential School Crisis Line](#)^{xxi}, and the [Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Crisis Line](#)^{xxii}. These lines responded to a record number of calls and chats in 2022-23, with an average of 7,488 per month, which is higher than the average of 6,987 calls per month in 2021-22. Investments from Budgets 2021 (\$597.6 million over three years) and 2022 (\$227.6 million over two years) resulted in an increase in access to mental wellness team services for First Nations and Inuit communities from 50% in 2019-20 to 81% in 2022-23, surpassing the 55% target.

A distinctions-based, Indigenous long-term and continuing care framework is being co-developed with First Nations and Inuit partners, organizations, and individuals, with consideration expected in Winter 2024. The 2022 Fall Economic Statement announced an additional \$10.1 million for co-development of distinctions-based policy options, including Métis partners. Existing First Nations, Inuit, and Métis partners accessed funding to support short-term capacity building projects. Regional Indigenous-led engagement activities were concluded and more than 30 regional reports from First Nations partners amalgamated into a [national summary report](#)^{xxiii}. A national report summary on behalf of Inuit partners was provided by Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami. Options for the Métis component of the framework will be co-developed in 2024, with finalization expected in 2025. Closely linked to the framework is the need to bolster Indigenous Health System Navigators.

Other ways that ISC worked to ensure Indigenous Peoples receive social services that respond to community needs during 2022-23 included:

- Supporting culturally appropriate enhanced services and violence prevention through \$36 million for over 300 violence prevention projects across Canada.
- Securing \$101.1 million over three years from Budget 2022 to renew its commitment to the urban Indigenous population with additional funding for research and data collection purposes.
- Disbursing \$339 million over two years, beginning in 2022-23, to ensure individuals and families on reserve could participate in post-pandemic economic recovery. ISC also provided two inflation relief benefits of approximately \$289.1 million in essential assistance to individuals and families receiving Income Assistance. While ISC tracks the level of residents living on reserve who are

WHAT'S NEW

In April 2022, Jordan's Principle and the Inuit Child First Initiative implemented a Back-to-Basics approach for these demand-driven services. This placed the focus on ensuring First Nations and Inuit families have simple and timely access to the services and supports aimed at improving the well-being and healthy development of their children.

Requests approved in 2022-23[†]:

- Jordan's Principle: 104,039
- Inuit Child First Initiative: 9,708

[†]Requests included laptops, tablets or other e-learning tools if they met an identified health, education or social need.

supported through income assistance, program reform may alter the performance measures and outcomes, with baseline and targets to be established with First Nations partners by March 2024.

Departmental Result 5: Indigenous students receive an inclusive and quality education

Education is foundational to closing socio-economic gaps between Indigenous Peoples and non-Indigenous Canadians. By ensuring access to inclusive and quality elementary and secondary education, ISC supported Indigenous students in progressing in their education.

Since 2019, the number of First Nations signing regional education agreements has been steadily increasing. There were 177 agreements in place when Education Transformation began in 2019-20. As of March 2023, a total of 206 regional education agreements have been signed. As of April 2023, 50 First Nation organizations across Canada accessed development funding, either through active participation in regional technical tables or through involvement in agreement development discussions. Progress towards these transfers will continue to be tracked as a representation of First Nations control of First Nations education.

In addition to new funding models, a new methodology was introduced to calculate the high school graduation rate of First Nations students ordinarily resident on reserve. This shift was prompted by the 2018 Auditor General's Report on Socio-Economic Gaps on First Nations Reserves, which found the previous methodology to be inaccurate and leading to overstated results. The new methodology accounts for students who had left school in grades 10 and 11, or needed additional time to complete high school. In response to the Auditor General's recommendation, and based on consultation with the Council of Ministers of Education of Canada, the department developed a true cohort-based high school graduation rate methodology that aligns with the Pan-Canadian Education Indicators Program graduation rate methodology. This provides a more comprehensive perspective, following students from grade 10 (or secondaire 3 in Quebec) to their graduation from grade 12 (or secondaire 5 in Quebec) either on-time or after an extended period of time, up to two years beyond the anticipated on-time graduation. This change also reflects comments from First Nations on the need for a more representative story for student graduation. The 2022-23 results show an on-time graduation rate of 26% and an extended-time graduation rate of 44% for the 2021-22 school year. However, it should be noted that the school year and the departmental fiscal year are not aligned, therefore the 2022-23 results reflect the graduation rate for the 2021-22 school year.

WHAT'S NEW

A landmark Regional Education Agreement was signed in July 2022 with the First Nations Education Council in Quebec.

Budget 2022 invested \$310.6 million over five years to support student outcomes. This agreement supports 22 First Nations communities in Quebec, ensuring over 6,000 students are funded based on their communities' vision for education.

DID YOU KNOW

Of the 29,605 students educated under First Nations school boards or other transformative models including Regional Education Agreements, 93.47% of students were provided with culturally-based curriculum or land-based learning services in First Nations administered schools.

In support of early education, ISC monitored the number of First Nations students provided full-day kindergarten services in First Nations-administered schools. This indicator measures the uptake in the implementation of a full-day kindergarten programming for students aged 4 or 5 years old within First Nations-administered schools through student enrollment. Following fluctuations between 2019-20 and 2021-22, over 8,000 students were enrolled in full-day kindergarten in First Nations-administered schools in 2022-23. The department will work to maintain or increase program results year over year.

ISC also continued to focus on services to better reflect student needs by delivering culturally appropriate education. This reflects First Nations' control over the provision of teaching of a school subject in a First Nation language within First Nations-administered schools. First Nations are reporting a regular increase on this indicator since the implementation of Education Transformation in 2019-20, going from 82% to 93.64% in 2022-23.

With respect to post-secondary education, ISC implemented co-developed distinctions-based strategies for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Nation students. Part of this process included revising performance measures. Previously, ISC reported a combined total of students who graduated with a post-secondary degree/diploma/certificate. In 2022-23, ISC worked with partners to successfully establish targets for three disaggregated indicators that measure the number of funded students who graduate with a post-secondary degree/diploma/certificate. The new targets include 4,110 to 4,494 for First Nations students and 50 for Inuit students by March 2025, and maintaining or increasing results year over year for Métis Nation students.

ISC also took actions to ensure that Indigenous students receive an inclusive and quality education in 2022-23 by:

- Collaborating with First Nations partners to support their vision and priorities in First Nations elementary and secondary education on reserve.
- Implementing investments for co-developed transformative funding models that not only respond to education goals set by First Nations, but also advance transfer of service delivery.
- Continuing engagement with First Nations in developing regional post-secondary education models. Early feedback indicates that more time may be needed and that resources that keep pace with funding pressures are critical.
- Working with Inuit and Métis Nation partners who administer the Métis Nation and Inuit Post-Secondary Education Strategies to advance their priorities.
- Continuing to expand access to adult education through the Budget 2021 \$350 million investment over five years.
- Implementing Budget investments for before- and after-school programming, with approximately 40 First Nations administered schools offering this to close to 3,750 students on reserve. (Note that this is based on 35% of reports accepted for 2021-22 as the school year and the departmental fiscal year are not aligned.)
- Supporting collaboration with First Nations, provincial and territorial ministries and departments of education, through the Education Partnership Program. This partnership program focused on capacity development of First Nations organizations to deliver education, and establishing education systems and service delivery agreements responsive to First Nations students and community education needs. In 2022-23, over \$65 million supported approximately 80 First Nations across Canada.
- Focusing on the needs of Métis children by collaborating with the Métis Nation through the Canada-Métis Nation Permanent Bilateral Mechanism to identify and advance education priorities.

III. Gender-based Analysis Plus

Health and Social Services programs have a direct impact on health outcomes and health equity. Poor health arises from various factors including poverty, lack of education, culture loss, inadequate living conditions, exposure to trauma and violence, and lack of social support and resources. The services under the core responsibility of Health and Social Services support the goals outlined in Canada's Gender

Results Framework related to Poverty Reduction, Health and Well-Being, Economic Participation and Prosperity, Education and Skills Development, and Gender-based Violence and Access to Justice. During 2022-23, ISC incorporated GBA Plus into policy development, program implementation, and analyzing or interpreting results in the following ways:

- Prioritized efforts to address COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy and increase uptake of vaccines and booster doses for First Nations children and the elderly.
- Expanded eligibility for community-based trauma informed health and cultural supports to include all Indigenous Peoples under the mental wellness program, in recognition that the impacts of intergenerational nature of trauma from Indian Residential Schools is broad and complex.
- Supported the mental wellness priorities and needs of Métis such as enhancing access to virtual counselling and life skills support, and developing a Métis-specific Strategy/Framework to address and support mental wellness for women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ Métis people.
- Collaborated with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities to continue the co-development of a new holistic long-term and continuing care framework. This included distinctions-based support for people living with disabilities, Indigenous women's groups, 2SLGBTQI+ peoples, low-income individuals, aging-in-place approaches, and improvements to facility-based care.
- Expanded eligible expenditures under the First Nations Child and Family Services Program to include neurodiversity services, non-medical services for children with behavioural problems, sexual and gender identity health supports, and supports to ensure the provision of inclusive and impartial child and family services.
- Significantly increased funding for prevention services and activities under the First Nations Child and Family Services Program, providing First Nations child and family services delegated agencies and First Nations with per capita funding of \$2,500 based on the registered on-reserve population of a First Nation; and in the Yukon, based on the total registered population of a First Nation. With this funding, First Nations can invest in the types of prevention services that they identify as necessary for their communities based on their unique needs, circumstances, and lived realities.
- Began a partnership with Kids Help Phone services to provide youth and young adults access to a 24/7 information line. The goal of this call line is for youth and young adults to access current information about the First Nations Child and Family Services Program's post-majority supports services and provide referrals to organizations that offer support. In addition, Kids Help Phone offers mental health and wellness support through professional counselling, volunteer crisis texting, and self-guided online resources.
- Invested in wraparound supports for post-secondary education students to mitigate barriers to completing their education and gaining associated benefits, such as higher-paying employment opportunities. This included accessibility supports and services for students with disabilities, and enabled students with dependents to cover living expenses and childcare.
- Funded nine projects through the First Nations Environmental Contaminants Program to enhance health and wellbeing in First Nations communities by supporting their capacity to identify, investigate, and reduce impacts of environmental hazards through community-based research, monitoring, knowledge integration and risk communication.
- Prioritized underrepresented groups (i.e. Métis, Inuit, 2SLGBTQI+, etc.) through the Family Violence Prevention Program's call for proposals for violence prevention activities. Eligible expenditures were expanded under shelter operations to cover vehicle-related costs to support increased access to shelters and prevention services for clients in remote/northern communities.

- Expanded data collection within several programs, including Jordan's Principle Case Management System, Family Violence Prevention Program, and Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples to be more inclusive and collect information to support monitoring and evaluation of program impacts for diverse groups.

Additional results are available in the [Gender-based Analysis Plus Supplementary Information Table](#).^{vii}

IV. United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals

The social programs delivered by ISC and its partners provide critical support to people and families while working to reduce gaps and obstacles in service access. These programs contribute to Canada's efforts by offering essential services and level of stability to individuals who have no other options.

- The department provided social services to individuals and communities, supporting [SDG 1 – No Poverty](#)^{xxiv} and the CIF ambition “Reduce poverty in Canada in all its forms”. Funding was provided through Assisted Living and Income Assistance for First Nations individuals and families in response to cost of living increases. Other social supports, such as Jordan's Principle and the Inuit Child First Initiative, experienced a 108% increase in requests (113,747 requests) for educational and social products, supports and services compared to 2021-22.
- In support of [SDG 2 – Zero Hunger](#)^{xxv}, ISC and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) co-chaired the Inuit-Crown Food Security Working Group to advance food security, leading to a report published by ITK, "Understanding the cost of an Inuit Nunangat School Food Program". This report informs the National School Food Policy and supports the CIF ambition “Canadians have access to sufficient, affordable and nutritious food.”
- ISC worked to improve health outcomes in First Nations and Inuit communities by maintaining essential healthcare services. In 2022-23, a total of \$218 million was provided to the ongoing response to the pandemic through the COVID-19 Public Health Fund, while adopting a ramped-down approach and shifting its focus on recovery. These actions contributed to [SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-Being](#) and the CIF ambition “Canada prevents causes of premature death”.
- In support of [SDG 4 – Quality Education](#)^{xxvi} and the CIF ambition “Canadians have access to inclusive and quality education throughout their lives”, elementary and secondary education programs provided funding for over 500 First Nation-administered education programs, supporting approximately 114,150 students attending First Nation-administered schools, as well as provincial, private and federal schools. As of March 2023, ISC signed nine regional education agreements with First Nation partners, improving educational outcomes for approximately 29,600 students.
- ISC’s programs and activities contributed to advancing [SDG 5 – Gender Equality](#)^{xxvii} through its support of the [National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence](#)^{xxviii} (released November 2022 by Women and Gender Equality Canada), along with negotiations with the provinces and territories regarding implementation of the action plan. Through this, and its support of the [Federal 2SLGBTQI+ Action Plan](#)^{xxix} (launched August 2022), ISC supports CFI ambition “Eliminate gender-based violence and harassment”. The department supported emergency shelters, transition (second-stage) homes, and distinctions-based programming to safeguard Indigenous women, children and 2SLGBTQI+ people from gender-based violence.

Additional results are available in the [United Nations 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals Supplementary Information Table](#).^{xii}

V. Innovation

Guided by the insights embedded in traditional Indigenous ways, ISC assumes a responsibility for providing health and social services for Indigenous communities, blending heritage with innovation towards holistic well-being.

An area of innovation in Health and Social Services was the expansion of the First Nations Environmental Contaminants Program to include risk factors such as radon exposure in home environments, a significant threat to human health and the second leading cause of lung cancer. To manage this risk, testing in individual homes is required and mitigation strategies are implemented if radon levels exceed the Canadian Radon Guideline. In many communities, there is a gap in resources dedicated to monitoring radon exposure in on-reserve homes. The program allocated funds for intervention research to ensure public health measures are applied, including mitigation of homes where radon levels exceed the guideline.

Another ongoing area of innovation in Health and Social Services was demonstrated through the Education Program. The Innovation in Education Program, administered through an approach established jointly with the Assembly of First Nations, follows the principle of First Nations community partners and organizations selecting projects that best suit their regional needs. For example, in the Yukon region, the “Honouring Identity, Celebrating Self” pilot project weaves identity, language, culture, and essential skills with research, analysis, reading, and writing in a safe and inclusive space. It brings Kwanlin Dün Families together with elders, traditional knowledge keepers, researchers, language learners and educational practitioners to learn about their familial lineages, cultural origins, and linguistic heritage. These discoveries connect to core competencies and big ideas outlined in the region’s education curriculum.

VI. Key Risks

In the pursuit of Indigenous well-being, the challenge of attracting and retaining health professionals increased during the pandemic due to demanding workloads and conditions. To address shortages in environmental public health officers, ISC worked with the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors to develop a multi-year recruitment and retention strategy that aligns education with culturally appropriate and safe training. Furthermore, the pandemic exacerbated staffing challenges and nursing shortages in remote and isolated First Nations communities. To address this, ISC progressed in the implementation of the Nursing Health Human Resources Framework. Introduced in 2021-22, this framework aims to provide a coordinated and comprehensive approach to recruiting and retaining the nursing workforce. Culturally-sensitive measures have had a positive impact on the level of nurse satisfaction, such as tripling allowances for front-line nurses, the introduction of safety policies, and the creation of services such as the Nursing Services Response Center and Occupational & Critical Incident Stress Management, with 19% of nurses stating access to these services increased their intention to stay.

Budget 2022 also provided funding over four years to retain existing additional resources hired during the pandemic. However, as these challenges are expected to continue for some time, it will also take time to see the impact of this investment. Next steps include exploring concretely how best to incorporate paramedics into the interdisciplinary team, models of care and increasing awareness of nursing career opportunities.

While a range of social distancing mandates remained in place through 2022-23, pandemic-related restrictions diminished, allowing more health programs to resume and provide regular service in Indigenous communities. As a result, the risk of under-reporting of key social metrics and reduced ability to address community needs has also been reduced. Regular reporting from funding recipients is expected

to resume through summer 2023-24. ISC's regional offices are working closely with communities to facilitate the collection of key information.

With respect to Jordan's Principle, there was a risk that the increase in volume of incoming requests may impact the department's ability to process them. In response, ISC secured additional funding, increased staffing levels and introduced process improvements, such as the Back-to-Basics approach which played a pivotal role, streamlining documentation requirements for faster approval times. Despite these efforts, the escalating volume of requests is dramatically impacting the department's ability to meet legally ordered service standards.

In the area of education, elementary and secondary funding levels are influenced by regional funding formulas and external factors such as student data and provincial funding rates, both of which are beyond the department's control. The lack of ability to predict variable provincial rates across the country create the risk that existing funding levels may not meet the demand of the formulas should increases in students or rates be seen, as is the case with the projections for the 2023-24 school year due to unprecedented inflation rates. In response, ISC will continue to work with partners on cost and growth projections over a number of years to inform managing pressures.

First Nations are finalizing engagement activities for regional post-secondary education models. Despite time-limited funding provided through Budgets 2017, 2019, and 2021, as well as COVID-19 emergency funding, partners have called for significant long-term investments in First Nations post-secondary education programming. The rising First Nations populations, rising costs of living, and significant tuition fee increases risk reducing the effectiveness of program funding for current and future First Nations post-secondary students. The department will continue to work with partners to quantify projected costs and pressures to address this risk and support the implementation of regional post-secondary education models.

VII. Results achieved

The following table shows results achieved for Health and Social Services, the performance indicators, targets, target dates for 2022–23, and the actual results for the three most recent fiscal years for which actual results are available.

Departmental Result 3: Indigenous Peoples and communities are healthier

Performance indicators	Target	Date to achieve target	2020–21 Actual results	2021–22 Actual results	2022–23 Actual results
Active tuberculosis incidence rate among Inuit living in Inuit Nunangat	Three-year average of 0 cases per 100,000 population	March 2030	211.2 (2016-2018)	190.1 (2018-2020) 247.3 (2017-2019)	190.1 (2018-2020) ¹
Active tuberculosis incidence rate among First Nations on reserve	Three-year average of 22 cases per 100,000 population	March 2028	24.3 (2016-2018)	17.3 (2018-2020) 18.0 (2017-2019)	17.3 (2018-2020) ¹
Rate of newly reported cases of HIV among First Nations	Three-year average of 19 cases per 100,000 population	March 2028	13.7 (2017-2019)	13.1 (2018-2020)	13.1 (2018-2020) ²
Percentage of First Nations adults with diabetes accessing newer,	30%	March 2023	29.8%	34.5%	42% ³

Performance indicators	Target	Date to achieve target	2020–21 Actual results	2021–22 Actual results	2022–23 Actual results
novel medications and not on insulin					

- 1- The 2022-23 result will be presented in a future report once the latest data is released by the Canadian Tuberculosis Reporting System, led by the Public Health Agency of Canada.
- 2- The 2022-23 result will be presented in a future report once the latest data is released by the National HIV/AIDS Surveillance System, led by the Public Health Agency of Canada.
- 3- Using 2017 as a baseline, five years of tracking has shown success with this target.

Departmental Result 4: Indigenous Peoples receive social services that respond to community needs

Performance indicators	Target	Date to achieve target	2020–21 Actual results	2021–22 Actual results	2022–23 Actual results
Percentage of First Nations and Inuit communities with access to mental wellness team services	55%	March 2023	72% ¹	75% ¹	81% ¹
Percentage of First Nations communities offering family support services aimed at keeping families together	To be established with partners by March 2024	To be established with partners by March 2024	Not available ²	Not available ²	Not available ²
Percentage of First Nations children on reserve in care	To be established with partners by March 2024	To be established with partners by March 2024	6.16% ³	Not available ⁴	Not available ⁴
Percentage of residents living on reserve who are supported through Income Assistance	To be established by March 2024 as part of program reform	To be established by March 2024 as part of program reform	28.3% ⁵	Not available ⁶	Not available ⁶
Number of individuals who received services under Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples	To be established with partners by December 2023	To be established with partners by December 2023	Not available ⁷	Not available ⁷	Not available ⁷

- 1- Results for 2020-21 and 2021-22 were previously unavailable and have since been determined as 72% (2020-21) and 75% (2021-22).
- 2- As part of long-term program reform, ISC is currently working to develop potential new indicators, including those relating to the delivery of prevention services.
- 3- Results for 2019-20 and 2020-21 were previously unavailable and have since been determined as 5.92% (2019-20) and 6.16% (2020-21).
- 4- Recipient reporting and data inputs were not finalized for 2021-22 or 2022-23. These results will be presented in future reports once data becomes available.
- 5- The 2019-20 result was previously unavailable and has since been determined as 28.3%.
- 6- Program reform is underway and indicators and outcomes may change as a result. Baseline and targets will be established with First Nation partners as part of this process by March 2024.
- 7- The existing program performance profile is under review, including targets and indicators. Draft baseline and targets will be established with partners as part of this process by December 2023.

Departmental Result 5: Indigenous students receive an inclusive and quality education

Performance indicators	Target	Date to achieve target	2020–21 Actual results	2021–22 Actual results	2022–23 Actual results
Number of First Nations students who are provided full-day kindergarten services in First Nations administered schools	Maintain or increase results year over year starting in 2023-24 ¹	Maintain or increase results year over year starting in 2023-24 ¹	7,859	7,587	8,446
Percentage of students attending First Nations administered schools who are taught at least one subject in a First Nations language	Maintain or increase results year over year starting in 2023-24 ¹	Maintain or increase results year over year starting in 2023-24 ¹	90.7%	91.69%	93.64%
Percentage of First Nations on reserve students who graduate from secondary school (on-time graduation rate)	Maintain or increase results year over year starting with 2022-23 established baseline	Maintain or increase results year over year starting with 2022-23 established baseline	Introduced in 2022-23	Introduced in 2022-23	26% ²
Percentage of First Nations on reserve students who graduate from secondary school (extended-time graduation rate)	Maintain or increase results year over year starting with 2022-23 established baseline	Maintain or increase results year over year starting with 2022-23 established baseline	Introduced in 2022-23	Introduced in 2022-23	44% ²
Number of First Nations under a transformative model (e.g. regional education agreement or school board)	Maintain or increase results year over year starting in 2023-24 ¹	Maintain or increase results year over year starting in 2023-24 ¹	180	184	206
Number of funded First Nations students who graduate with a post-secondary degree/diploma/certificate	4,110-4,494 ³	March 2025	1,434 ⁴	1,148 ⁴	1,664 ⁴
Number of funded Inuit students who graduate with a post-secondary degree/diploma/certificate	50 ⁵	March 2025 ⁵	Not available	110	277 ⁶
Number of funded Métis Nations students who graduate with a post-secondary degree/diploma/certificate	Maintain or increase results year over year starting in 2023-24 ¹	Maintain or increase results year over year starting in 2023-24 ¹	Not available	1,254	713 ⁷

- 1- Targets were set in March 2023 to maintain or increase results year over year starting in 2023-24 as the baseline.
- 2- A new cohort-based methodology was introduced for 2022-23, resulting in established baselines. This result is not directly comparable to the graduation rates previously reported by ISC due to the different methodologies used. Furthermore, given the fact that the school year and the fiscal year are not aligned,

results can only be reported during the following fiscal year. The graduation rate represents the 2021-22 school year, as First Nations only report whether a student graduated from one school year at the start of the subsequent school year.

- 3- The target for First Nations students (4,110-4,494) was established with partners in 2022-23.
- 4- Results are based on data from reports received from recipients only and represent data from the previous fiscal year. Given the fact that the school year and the fiscal year are not aligned, results can only be reported in the following fiscal year. Only data in the Accepted (Final) state have been used for this indicator. It includes students funded to attend a program as part of the University and College Entrance Preparation Program. For 2020-21, at time of reporting, 42.5% of the First Nations Annual Register of Post-Secondary Education Students Report due or submitted had been moved to the Accepted (Final) state. For 2021-22, 40.39% had been moved to the Accepted (Final) state at the time of reporting. For 2022-23, 41.15% had been moved to the Accepted (Final) state at the time of reporting.
- 5- The target for Inuit students (50 by March 2025) was established with partners in 2022-23.
- 6- At time of reporting, 75% of the Inuit Post-Secondary Education Reports due or submitted had been moved to the Accepted (Final) state. Only data in the Accepted (Final) state have been used for this indicator. Given the fact that the school year and the fiscal year are not aligned, results can only be reported during the following fiscal year. This result refers to the 2021-22 school year.
- 7- Given the fact that the school year and the departmental fiscal year are not aligned, results can only be reported during the following fiscal year. This result refers to the 2021-22 school year and is based on data submitted to ISC by funding recipient partners. 2021-2022 was the first year in which data was reported under the Métis Nation Post-Secondary Education Strategy established through Budget 2019. ISC is engaging partners to discuss the data provided in both years shown in order to better understand implementation and outcomes at the recipient level. Any additional details will be noted in future reporting.

Performance information for Indigenous Services Canada’s Program Inventory is available in [GC InfoBase](#).^{xiii}

VIII. Budgetary financial resources (dollars)

The following table shows the 2022-23 budgetary spending for Health and Social Services, as well as actual spending for that year.

2022–23 Main Estimates	2022–23 Planned spending	2022–23 Total authorities available for use	2022–23 Actual spending (authorities used)	2022–23 Difference (Actual spending minus Planned spending)
28,344,912,699	28,344,912,699	32,304,365,025	10,670,268,361	(17,674,644,339) ¹

- 1- Difference is primarily due to the deferral of \$20 billion from 2022-23 to 2023-24 resulting from the First Nations Child Welfare settlement not having yet been approved by the Federal Court.

Financial information for Indigenous Services Canada’s Program Inventory is available in [GC InfoBase](#).^{xiv}

IX. Human resources (full-time equivalents)

The following table shows, in full-time equivalents, the human resources the department needed to fulfill this core responsibility for 2022–23.

2022–23 Planned full-time equivalents	2022–23 Actual full-time equivalents	2022–23 Difference (Actual full-time equivalents minus Planned full-time equivalents)
1,746	2,045	299

Human resources information for Indigenous Services Canada’s Program Inventory is available in [GC InfoBase](#).^{xv}

Core Responsibility - Governance and Community Development Services

I. Description

These services are commonly delivered in partnership with Indigenous communities and institutions and are focused on strong community governance and physical foundations. They include supports for governance capacity in areas such as community planning and financial management. They also include support for investments in community infrastructure, land and resource management, and economic development.

II. Results

To achieve progress in this area, the department focused on the commitment to the key principles supporting Indigenous reconciliation through the advancement of Indigenous communities' governance capacity, establishment of reliable and sustainable infrastructure, sustainable management of land and resources, and cultivation of economic prosperity.

Acknowledging the historic injustices and enduring impacts of colonization, ISC recognizes the dispossession of lands, territories and resources faced by Indigenous Peoples. In alignment with UNDRIP, TRC Calls to Action, and MMIWG Calls for Justice, the department committed to honouring the right of Indigenous Peoples to improved economic and social conditions in areas such as housing, sanitation, health and social security, and support the transfer of control over land. Additionally, the entirety of the departmental structure, mandate and legislation supports the implementation of UNDRIP through its work on transferring responsibility for departmental services to Indigenous partners and closing socio-economic gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. ISC is committing to a number of transformative measures in this regard as part of the [*United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act \(UNDA\) Action Plan*](#).^{xxx}

In November 2022, the Assembly of First Nations and the department released a co-developed comprehensive costing report titled "Closing the Infrastructure Gap by 2030." Throughout 2022-23, ISC directed funding towards infrastructure projects in First Nations communities, including water and wastewater investments, housing projects and improvements, energy and connectivity infrastructure, community infrastructure, and community development. These actions address critical infrastructure needs while adhering to UNDRIP's conservation and protection of environmental rights, as well as MMIWG Calls for Justice for safe housing and clean drinking water.

In support of UNDRIP's affirmation of the right of Indigenous Peoples to self-determination and self-governance, and in recognition that jurisdiction and increased control over services results in improved outcomes, ISC pursued the gradual transfer of housing and infrastructure service delivery to First Nations organizations. The department also advanced the transfer of water and wastewater services, aligned with the *United Nations Declaration Act* Action Plan and the Safe Drinking Water Class Action Settlement Agreement goals.

Programs like the Emergency Management Assistance Program, Community Development Wrap-Around Initiative, and Reserve Land and Environment Management Program support community resilience and development, enabling First Nations to reassert jurisdiction over reserve lands while helping to advance Indigenous-led institutions in self-determination and economic prosperity. The department's contributions not only aim to reflect the UNDRIP call for self-determination, but also the TRC Calls to Action commitment to Treaty and Indigenous rights, and MMIWG Calls for Justice in pursuit of economic equity and security for Indigenous women.

Other examples of how ISC aimed to make progress towards advancing commitments under the core responsibility of Governance and Community Development Services in 2022-23 include:

- Aligning with TRC Calls to Action to educate federal public servants on the history of Indigenous Peoples and provide intercultural competency training through Indigenous Community Development Training, and collaborating with Indigenous partners to refresh the current curriculum.
- Seeking to uphold TRC Calls to Action to implement strategies and procedures for the ongoing maintenance and protection of residential school sites, focusing on the legacy of former Indian residential school buildings and sites.
- Continuing to strive towards advancing MMIWG Calls for Justice by resourcing measures required to eliminate economic marginalization of Indigenous women and girls, focusing on increasing accessible supports and improving social and economic security for Indigenous women entrepreneurs through the Indigenous Women Entrepreneurship initiative.

Departmental Result 6: Indigenous communities advance their governance capacity

Indigenous governance is key for socioeconomic development and improving living standards in Indigenous communities. Through investments from Budget 2021 and the Fall Economic Statement 2022, the department invested over \$400 million for the development of strong and sustainable Indigenous governments, tribal councils, and capacity-supporting institutions across Canada.

In 2022-23, ISC continued to support Indigenous governments through the [Indigenous Community Development National Strategy](#)^{xxxii} and Community Development Wrap-Around Initiative. A working group provided community-led planning mentorship, regional implementation plans, and Indigenous Planner certification. As of March 2023, 8 First Nation communities were provided with wrap-around support, and 255 First Nation communities (40.3%) achieved completed community-led plans. The program will continue to track this progress to attain 48% by March 2026.

Other areas where investments were made to advance governance capacity included:

- 581 First Nations received Band Support Funding for core governance capacity;
- 80 Tribal Councils received Tribal Council Funding to support aggregate service delivery and capacity development;
- 559 recipients received funding under the Employee Benefits Program to support contributions to benefits and pension plans; and,
- 357 recipients received support under the Professional and Institutional Development for governance capacity development.

The department worked with the Assembly of First Nations and other Indigenous organizations to modernize governance funding programs and establish a Governance Modernization Working Group to conduct a review aiming to determine how governance programs can better support the range of activities and expertise associated with Indigenous governance. Similarly, a Governance and Fiscal Table was established to advance joint work that will support First Nations in self-determination and the transfer of responsibilities.

ISC continued to support First Nations seeking to convert from the *Indian Act* election regime to the [First Nations Elections Act](#)^{xxxiii} or customary code regimes. In 2022-23, three First Nations completed leadership selection conversions and now conduct their elections using legal frameworks that are responsive to their own community needs and aspirations. The department also provided by-law training,

supported pilot projects on enforcement and prosecution of First Nation laws, and sought to modernize regulations by consulting with stakeholders and communities.

Departmental Result 7: Indigenous Peoples have reliable and sustainable infrastructure

ISC supports First Nation communities in their efforts to have reliable and sustainable infrastructure such as on-reserve housing, education facilities, health infrastructure, water and wastewater, and other community infrastructure. The department also enhances the development and delivery of other social and economic programs and services through the provision of funding for infrastructure. This section includes the financial details of the various community infrastructure programs as the funding in this area is sufficiently diverse.

Housing

Access to adequate housing is essential to developing healthier and more sustainable Indigenous communities. Since 2016, and as of March 2023, ISC has supported the construction, renovation and retrofit of 16,999 homes on reserve, of which 7,968 are complete. The Government of Canada has committed more than \$3 billion over 6 years through Budgets 2021 and 2022 to First Nations housing on reserve to accelerate work in closing housing gaps in First Nations communities. In 2022-23, ISC continued to support the construction, renovation and retrofit of housing on-reserve, as well as innovation and capacity-building in First Nations communities. For example, ISC provided additional funding for First Nations to subsidize housing manager positions in support of First Nations-identified priorities for capacity and skills enhancement on reserve. ISC also continued to support the [Indigenous Homes Innovation Initiative^{xxxiii}](#), where 14 projects were in the implementation phase, with three completed by the end of March 2023. The department also continues to work with the Assembly of First Nations and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to advance the First Nations Housing and Related Infrastructure Strategy.

DID YOU KNOW

In February 2023, Muskowekwan First Nation unveiled their Family Healing and Wellness Centre that allows First Nations families to stay together, promoting a culturally responsive approach to healing intergenerational trauma. The Centre has three family log homes with two to four bedrooms, as well as a fourth home for healing program delivery. The First Nation is operating the centre with support from Elders, multidisciplinary counsellors and professional staff. The Centre provides a welcoming, home-like environment where families in crisis referred to the Centre can get the support they need to help heal together.

Housing

2022-23 Planned Spending
\$351,312,917
2022-23 Total Authorities available for use
\$677,208,785
2022-23 Actual Spending (authorities used)
\$667,973,315

ISC measures outcomes of housing assessments reported as adequate based on finalized data from the Community Infrastructure and Housing Annual Report of the previous fiscal year. While the 2022-23 results for the percentage of First Nations housing that is adequate as assessed and reported annually by First Nations were not available at the time of this report, many projects have successfully entered the implementation stage and are on track to be completed by September 2025. Results for 2022-23 will be reported in the 2023-24 Departmental Results Report.

Education Facilities

Education Facilities are an important factor to educational success for students living on reserves, and a component of reliable and sustainable infrastructure in First Nations communities.

In addition to overseeing the progress of targeted funding to support school expansions and new school construction projects in First Nation communities, ISC is specifically mandated to provide funding for First Nations to improve indoor air quality in on-reserve schools. The department invested \$15.8 million (excluding funding for operating expenses) to date for school ventilation improvement projects from 2020 and 2021 Fall Economic Statements.

Education Facilities
2022-23 Planned Spending
\$394,973,865
2022-23 Total Authorities available for use
\$543,906,442
2022-23 Actual Spending (authorities used)
\$542,120,545

WHAT'S NEW

Since 2016, \$1.96 billion has been invested to support 301 school facility projects, with 28 ongoing (43%) and 173 completed (57%), benefiting 342 First Nations communities.

This included the construction of 68 new schools, renovations or upgrades to 145 existing schools, 14 supporting projects and initiatives toward capacity building, and 38 feasibility study and design projects.

Investments in school facilities in First Nations communities create quality, safe and healthy learning environments. In order to determine if investments in educational facilities are resulting in quality physical learning environments for First Nations students, ISC measures the percentage of ISC-funded inspected schools that have a "good" or "new" condition rating. In 2022-23, 55% of First Nations schools had a condition rating of "good" or "new" (ISC-supported, band-operated, federal, private, and self-governing schools, not provincial schools). The department is aiming to achieve a target of 60% by March 2025.

Health Facilities

In 2022-23, ISC continued to support community-driven investments in First Nation health infrastructure to ensure appropriate clinical and administrative spaces can deliver quality and culturally-appropriate healthcare programs and services close to home. This plays an important role in the identification and treatment of many chronic diseases that disproportionately affect First Nations in comparison to other Canadians.

In 2022-23, ISC engaged with communities to ensure progress on health facilities projects such as:

- Improvements to ventilation in relation to COVID-19 mitigation, providing \$4.7 million in 2022-23 to support more than 50 ventilation projects in First Nations health facilities.
- Funding of \$32.7 million for minor capital repairs and building condition inspections for Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care sites on reserve. This allowed communities to conduct inspections at more than 274 locations, capital repair projects at more than 34 sites, and begin pre-capital work on several building replacements.

Health Facilities
2022-23 Planned Spending
\$285,624,952
2022-23 Total Authorities available for use
\$396,084,521
2022-23 Actual Spending (authorities used)
\$368,960,432

- First Nations’ Tribal Councils, which were designed by communities to provide technical and administrative support, managed the delivery of more than 33 health facilities’ ventilation projects and more than 64 initiatives at Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care sites.

To support pandemic response efforts in First Nations communities in 2022-23, ISC supported more than 93 COVID-19 Surge Health Infrastructure initiatives. These included funding mobile structures, identifying community spaces that could be upgraded or re-tooled , and funding smaller building repairs, upgrades and small site servicing projects to create safe and operational spaces.

Health facilities are often the primary point where First Nations interact with the health system. Health infrastructure is recognised as one of several determinants of the satisfaction felt by patients with respect to health care service delivery. In 2022-23, a total of 84% of First Nations health facilities were given a condition rating of "good", surpassing the 75% target. ISC will continue to monitor progress on an annual basis.

Other Community Infrastructure

Throughout 2022-23, ISC in partnership with Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada held distinctions-based engagements with Indigenous partners on infrastructure needs in their respective communities. The goal was to better understand and quantify the infrastructure and housing needs of

Indigenous communities and the work required to close the infrastructure gap with non-Indigenous communities. The result was a collection of community-level infrastructure lists from First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities. ISC was responsible for engaging with First Nations and Inuit partners, while Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada engaged with Métis and Self-Governing and modern Treaty partners.

DID YOU KNOW

Since 2016, and as of March 2023, \$9.89 billion in targeted funds have been invested, supporting 9,341 infrastructure projects in First Nations.

For First Nations, 405 out of 564 (72%) individual communities responded with their detailed lists of infrastructure needs. The department supported the Assembly of First Nations in developing a comprehensive evaluation of the First Nations infrastructure gap, using aggregated and anonymized data.

Inuit regional partners chose to develop a discussion paper and complete an assessment of infrastructure needs in Inuit Nunangat through Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, and ISC contributed funding to that through the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee. It was estimated that \$55.3 billion over 10 years, and \$793.7 million annually, would be needed to fund projects in the areas of connections, energy and environment, and peoples and communities.

DID YOU KNOW

Since 2016, ISC has supported over 167 major capital investments involving more complex planning, design, and construction in health-related infrastructure. These projects typically cost \$1 million or more, require over a year of funding, or involve architectural design work.

As of March 2023, 26 of these major capital projects were in the pre-capital or design phase (16%), 22 were in the construction phase (13%), and 119 had completed construction, renovation or expansion (71%).

Other Community Infrastructure

2022-23 Planned Spending

\$938,317,174

2022-23 Total Authorities available for use

\$919,414,263

2022-23 Actual Spending (authorities used)

\$852,457,312

Water and Wastewater

ISC’s mandate to eliminate all remaining long-term water advisories on reserve remains a priority. As of March 31, 2023, 138 long-term drinking water advisories had been lifted from public systems on reserve since November 2015, with 32 remaining in effect in 28 First Nations. The department supported First Nations to address over 247 short-term drinking water advisories, preventing them from becoming long-term. In 2022-23, 7 long-term drinking water advisories were lifted, while 5 drinking water advisories became long-term. ISC acknowledges that there remains work to do to provide clean drinking water in First Nations communities. The department is committed to achieving this goal as soon as possible in partnership with communities.

Another critical priority is ensuring long-term investments and resources are in place to prevent new water advisories. As of December 31, 2022, ISC had invested \$3.03 billion to support 1,058 water and wastewater projects in First Nations communities, of which 525 projects are complete. These projects benefit 589 communities serving approximately 470,000 people, ensuring reliable and sustainable public water and wastewater systems in communities.

This commitment aligns with the larger context where First Nations communities do not have legally enforceable safe drinking water protections, unlike the protections in provinces and territories. The *Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act*, created in 2013, aimed to establish federal regulations for clean, reliable drinking water and effective treatment of wastewater. However, First Nations expressed concerns about the effectiveness of this legislation, including insufficient engagement on issues that directly affect First Nations. In response, the Government of Canada repealed the Act on June 23, 2022, in line with the Safe Drinking Water Class Action Settlement Agreement. The Government of Canada enhanced engagement with First Nations, First Nations organizations, provinces, and territories to develop new proposed First Nations drinking water and wastewater legislation. A consultation draft was posted online in February 2023 to ensure the legislation reflects First Nation needs and priorities. ISC remains committed to working with First Nations rights holders to develop and implement a new legislative proposal for First Nations drinking water and wastewater.

In addition, ISC continued to support independent public health advice and guidance to communities and monitoring programs for drinking water quality at tap for all systems, to protect the health of the residents and prevent waterborne illnesses. The department continued to work with First Nations partners on co-developing approaches to advance the transfer of community infrastructure services, and supported the Assembly of First Nations’ decision to shift away from the co-development of a long-term strategy to ensure that drinking water systems are sustainable, towards their exploration of how to pivot and align the strategy with broader work on closing the infrastructure gap and drinking water legislation.

DID YOU KNOW

On November 7, 2022, a historical agreement was signed making the Atlantic First Nations Water Authority the first Indigenous Water Utility in the country.

This significant milestone puts control of water and wastewater management firmly in the hands of First Nations, and is supported by a substantial federal investment of \$257 million, including \$173 million over 10 years from Budget 2022 to cover operations and capital programs.

Under this agreement, 17 participating First Nations can become part of this Water Authority, supporting 4,500 households and businesses.

Water and Wastewater

2022-23 Planned Spending

\$3,145,918,431

2022-23 Total Authorities available for use

\$3,187,427,747

2022-23 Actual Spending (authorities used)

\$3,147,395,544

A second component to the government's commitment for infrastructure investments aims to promote the growth of safe, healthy, and prosperous Indigenous communities, including Emergency Preparedness. ISC supports all four pillars of emergency management to improve community capacity and resilience to disasters. In doing so, the program contributes to the development of healthier and more sustainable communities by preventing, mitigating and reducing the disruption that emergency events such as floods and fires bring to the lives of impacted communities and individuals.

In November 2022, the Auditor General completed an audit of ISC's emergency management support services provided to First Nation communities. In response, the department developed a comprehensive management action plan designed to address the findings and recommendations as outlined in the report to improve emergency management practices that will be implemented over the next year.

Throughout 2022-23, ISC focused on community resiliency and response capacities for First Nations to prepare, respond and recover from emergencies and natural hazards. The Indigenous Community Support Fund was introduced in March 2020 to provide funding to Indigenous communities and organizations to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Budget 2022 funds were used to address perimeter security, personal protective equipment, food insecurity, incremental staff costs, mental wellness, cultural, and seniors supports, and preparedness measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Since March 2020, more than \$2 billion has been allocated through Indigenous Community Support Fund including more than \$1.2 billion in allocations to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities, and more than \$846 million in needs-based funding. As part of the "Build Back Better" strategy, this funding has been instrumental in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and building resilience at the community level. Through the Emergency Management Assistance Program, the department allocated \$41.4 million to 182 non-structural mitigation and preparedness projects, 62 FireSmart projects, and 98 notional capacity positions. In addition, \$266.5 million was used for 329 response and recovery projects across Canada.

ISC measures the time it takes for evacuees to return to home. In 2022-23, 89.5% of long-term evacuees returned home or had a scheduled date within two years after their evacuation. While this was an increase from 69.5% from the previous year, the 95% target was not met due to complexities surrounding recovery of some significantly impacted First Nations. Many long-term evacuees who remain displaced from their home/community do not have repatriation dates as it is difficult to predict when recovery/rebuilding projects will be completed. As well, some First Nations in remote and northern areas have a significantly shorter construction season resulting in recovery projects taking longer. The program will continue to monitor these rates to inform how investments towards community-based mitigation and preparedness, response efforts, and recovery activities progressively result in shorter periods of displacement.

Departmental Result 8: Land and resources in Indigenous communities are sustainably managed

Land is one of the most valuable assets for First Nations, both economically and culturally. The Land Use Planning Initiative was devolved to the First Nation Land Management Resource Centre and the National Aboriginal Lands Managers Association in 2018-19, where training hubs were established. As of March 2023, 26.1% of First Nations had community-led plans, but competing priorities like forest fires, flooding, and COVID-19 prevented the 28.5% target from being met. The program will continue tracking land use plans to measure improvements in First Nations communities benefiting from planning.

WHAT'S NEW

On December 15, 2022, the [Framework Agreement on First Nations Land Management Act](#) came into force, replacing the repealed *First Nation Land Management Act*.

This new legislation, co-developed with the Lands Advisory Board, supports First Nations who wish to reclaim jurisdiction over their reserve lands.

In 2022-23, nine First Nations became signatories to the Framework Agreement, and three reasserted jurisdiction over their lands, environment and natural resources outside of the *Indian Act*.

ISC supports First Nations in sustainable development and management of their lands and resources through a variety of program and policies. In 2022-23, the First Nations Waste Management Initiative provided \$79.4 million to support First Nations in developing sustainable waste management systems. As of March 2023, 40.5% of First Nations communities had adequate solid waste management systems, with the goal to reach 65% by March 2028.

The [Contaminated Sites On Reserve Program](#)^{xxxiv} aims to provide \$226.6 million in support to First Nations by 2025. Since 2020, the program has supported assessment, remediation, and closure of 183 sites. In 2022-23, 97 contaminated sites were closed, 62 had assessments, and 85 had remediation activities, resulting in a total of 17.6% of high risk contaminated sites on reserve where clean up or containment

activities occurred. ISC will continue to track progress to reduce the risk to human health and safety. The program is also undergoing an evaluation, with a final report and Management Response and Action Plan expected in early Fall 2024.

During 2022-23, the department continued to support First Nations in achieving sustainable infrastructure and economic development through:

- Engagements with First Nations leaders and organizations to discuss proposed regulatory amendments to the Indian Referendum Regulations, to increase First Nations' control over land use decision-making processes. A "What We Heard" report was published in November 2022 that summarizes the comments that were shared by the dialogue session and survey participants.
- Finalized a \$30 million investment over five years, starting in 2023-24, for the Reserve Lands and Environment Management Program, aiming to help First Nations increase responsibility over their reserve land, resources, and environment under the *Indian Act*.
- Provided operational funding to 102 First Nations to manage their lands and natural resources outside of the *Indian Act*, while 98 First Nation signatories received or remained eligible to receive funding for land codes.
- Approved 40 Additions to Reserve proposals, adding 6,656 acres to reserve for First Nations, enabling community and economic development opportunities and generated own-source revenues. Since November 2015, 446 Additions to Reserves have been completed, adding 265,759 acres of land to reserve.
- Modernized the National Additions to Reserve Tracking System and the Integrated Environment Management System to streamline processes and provide direct access to First Nations proposals with the help of an innovative and modern cloud-based platform.
- Supported First Nations in exercising increased responsibility over their reserve land, resources, and environment through the Reserve Land and Environment Management Program. The program has 131 First Nations participants and 207 land managers trained under the Professional Land Management Certification Program.
- Supported the release of the [first annual report of the Indigenous Centre for Cumulative Effects](#).^{xxxv} In 2022-23, longer-term funding was secured to sustain the Centre's activities to

implement its 2022-23 National Needs Assessment, and the first in-person knowledge forum was held in March 2023.

- Collaborated with Environment and Climate Change Canada and Indigenous partners to address environmental protection gaps among First Nations on reserve, supporting six Indigenous organizations to conduct community engagement and research.
- Continued to fulfill obligations under the *Impact Assessment Act* by applying the Environmental Review Process to nearly 900 projects on reserve lands, enabling sustainable infrastructure development while protecting Indigenous lands and waters, with over 50 assessments to ensure proper assessment of socioeconomic and health impacts to Indigenous communities.
- Supported First Nations to address the painful legacy of former Indian residential school buildings and sites. In 2022-23, the department contacted all First Nations who once had a residential school operating on-reserve to offer support if/when they were ready to proceed. A total of seven projects were supported related to former residential school buildings and sites, including a building demolition, a site remediation, building design and community consultation activities.

Departmental Result 9: Indigenous communities build economic prosperity

To help build economic prosperity in Indigenous communities, ISC continued to work on co-creating and co-developing financial tools that foster self-sustainability and wealth creation, including throughout the pandemic and in the recovery stage.

Budget 2022 provided \$150 million over five years for ISC's [Lands and Economic Development Services Program](#)^{xxxvi} and [Community Opportunity Readiness Program](#)^{xxxvii} to advance shovel-ready economic opportunities in Indigenous communities. The Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency received \$15 million to support Indigenous economic development in the North, and an additional \$35 million was provided to ISC for economic capacity supports, including specialized training opportunities delivered by Indigenous-led organizations.

The Indigenous Business Initiative offered financial support as part of the [COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#)^{xxxviii} through Indigenous Financial Institutions and Métis Capital Corporations. Budget 2022 proposed forgiveness of up to 50% of COVID-Indigenous Business Initiative loans, ensuring Indigenous Business are well-positioned for long-term success. ISC is monitoring repayment progress to ensure that Indigenous businesses remain financially well-positioned.

ISC provided \$36.5 million in ongoing support to entrepreneurs through the two streams of the Aboriginal Entrepreneurship Program, which was devolved in 2015 and now administered by the National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association and five Métis Capital Corporations. The program expanded the [Access to Capital](#)^{xxxix} stream, offering zero-interest loans to businesses when a 10% advance was not possible. The program underwent an evaluation and shifted its focus from a zero equity/zero interest model. The modernization of the program will reflect partners' needs to serve Indigenous entrepreneurs and business clients, ensuring financial health and the continued support of Indigenous-led institutions in economic development programs. The [Access to Business Opportunities](#)^{xl} stream funded five Inuit organizations to build capacity for Inuit businesses and compete for federal government contracts in Nunavut, eight Indigenous organizations to support the ongoing work on the Transformative Indigenous Procurement Strategy, and provided funding to support the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada.

Through funding provided by these Indigenous Financial Institutions, Indigenous entrepreneurs have greater access to capital to create and/or expand businesses in their communities, and thereby generate economic opportunity. ISC is working with partners to determine the percentage increase of Indigenous businesses created and/or expanded in 2022-23. The program will continue to track this as a measure of business development and economic growth in Indigenous communities.

ISC also helped Indigenous communities build economic prosperity in 2022-23 in the following ways:

- Since April 2022, 812 Indigenous businesses have been registered in the Indigenous Business Directory, and 97 outreach sessions have taken place, promoting Indigenous business development and increased participation in federal procurement.
- In response to the National Indigenous Economic Strategy for Canada, which was released in June 2022, the department conducted regional-level planning to identify organizations providing capacity supports for small and remote First Nation and Inuit communities until 2027-28. A research contract on the structures and needs of Métis Nation businesses was put in place for completion in 2023-24.
- The Strategic Partnerships Initiative continued to implement Budget 2021 investments of \$36 million over three years (starting in 2021-22) to build capacity for local, economically-sustainable clean energy projects in First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities. Regional initiatives have been created in Atlantic, Quebec, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia, with additional funding needed for Clean Energy Regional Initiatives in Manitoba and Ontario, to ensure a national impact. A partnership with the national Indigenous Clean Energy social enterprise was also established to support Indigenous communities transition away from reliance on fossil fuel to cleaner sources of green energy.
- ISC is also part of the Wah-ila-toos Initiative, stemming from Budget 2021 \$300 million Off-Diesel funding aimed at reducing fossil fuel use and promoting local renewable energy sources in Indigenous, rural, and remote communities.

Economic prosperity includes the ability to bring in local (own source) revenues to support economic and other forms of development. In 2022-23, 68.2% of First Nations communities had non-government revenues represent 25% or more of their total revenues, surpassing the 40% target. This reflects the impact of business development and economic growth through the ability of communities to generate revenue, which is an important step to self-determination.

III. Gender-based Analysis Plus

The department considers GBA Plus principles to be a core component of renewed, respectful, and inclusive nation-to-nation processes, promoting economic prosperity, healthier communities, and sustainable development through strong community governance and reliable infrastructure. The programs captured under this core responsibility support the goals outlined in Canada's Gender Results Framework

DID YOU KNOW

ISC supported Indigenous businesses and economic development by increasing opportunities through the [Procurement Strategy for Indigenous Business](#), the [Transformative Indigenous Procurement Strategy](#), and the [Strategic Partnership Initiative](#).

To help support all Indigenous entrepreneurs, businesses, and communities to access funding and programs that apply to their situation from all sectors of the economy across the federal family, ISC successfully completed its mandate to establish an ongoing single-window point of entry by creating Indigenous Entrepreneur Navigator positions, receiving 195 requests in 2022-23.

related to Poverty Reduction, Health and Well-Being, Economic Participation and Prosperity and Leadership and democratic participation.

In 2022-23, ISC supported local and community-driven economic and infrastructure projects and Indigenous entrepreneurship to improve the overall social well-being of First Nations communities on reserve and support closing socio-economic and infrastructure gaps between non-Indigenous and Indigenous communities. ISC has incorporated GBA Plus into analyzing its results in the following ways:

- Contracted a specialized GBA Plus Evaluation Consultant to assess internal infrastructure planning processes and integrate GBA Plus considerations into First Nations infrastructure programs. This assessment will improve integration across four main infrastructure areas: Water and Wastewater, Housing, Education Facilities, and Other Community Infrastructure. The assessment will establish reporting tools for evaluating the differential and immediate impacts of infrastructure investments, as well as program-specific analyses that assess direct, indirect, and unintended impacts of infrastructure investments on different demographic groups.
- Utilized eHealth technologies to enhance healthcare service delivery for focus sub-populations in First Nations communities, including women, men, boys, girls, and gender-diverse individuals, based on their specific needs and interactions with health care services in Indigenous jurisdictions. The program explored options to address challenges related to a lack of disaggregated data and worked towards data interoperability with provincial systems. Preliminary work is underway to develop a minimum dataset for programs, while collaborating with other government departments and partners on the Pan-Canadian Health Data Strategy.
- Collaborated with First Nation partners, service providers, and ISC regional coordinators to review policies and address gaps related to emergency management. ISC ensured equitable support for groups facing disproportionate impacts during emergencies, including women and pregnant people in particular, children, 2SLGBTQI+ individuals, the elderly, the ill, and persons with disabilities.
- Supported the National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association's launch of the Indigenous Women's Entrepreneurship initiative in March 2022 to address gender-specific barriers to entrepreneurship.
- Implemented a distinctions-based approach to the Aboriginal Entrepreneurship Program, with Métis Capital Corporations providing targeted supports to Métis entrepreneurs. Reporting requirements are similar to those for the National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association and Indigenous Financial Institutions, but focused on Métis-specific indicators.

Additional examples can be found in the [Gender-based Analysis Plus Supplementary Information Table](#).^{vii}

IV. United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals

Community governance, infrastructure, sustainability and economic prosperity are critical to closing the socio-economic gaps that are faced by Indigenous communities and their people.

- ISC contributed to advancing education facilities infrastructure investments. As of March 2023, \$1.73 billion of \$2.27 billion has been invested in the construction or renovation of 204 schools, benefiting 285 communities and serving approximately 325,000 people and 35,000 students. This supports SDG 4 – Quality Education and the CIF ambition “Canadians have access to inclusive and quality education throughout their lives.”

- ISC is a leading organization in the Federal Implementation Plan for the 2030 Agenda, focusing on [SDG 6 – Clean water and sanitation](#).^{xlii} It aims to address the CIF ambition “Canadians have access to drinking water and use it in a sustainable manner” ([CIF Target 6.1, 6.1.1](#)^{xliii}). ISC works in partnership with communities and remains committed to ending all long-term drinking water advisories on public systems on reserve. Between November 2015 to March 2023, 138 long-term drinking water advisories have been lifted from public systems on reserve, and the department has supported First Nations to address over 235 short-term drinking water advisories, preventing them from becoming long-term.
- ISC contributed to [SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy](#)^{xliii} by working with Natural Resources Canada and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada to reduce dependence on diesel-powered electricity on reserve, with 35 First Nation communities located on reserve relying on ISC-funded diesel for electricity generation in 2022-23. The department will continue monitoring progress with clean energy projects to support CIF ambition “Canadians have access to clean and renewable energy.”
- The Indigenous Women’s Entrepreneur program was launched in February 2022, and aims to address barriers to inclusion and growth for Indigenous women entrepreneurs. This contributes to SDG 5 – Gender equality, [SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth](#)^{xliv} and CIF ambition “Canadians have access to quality jobs”.
- The department supported [SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities](#)^{xlv} and the CIF ambition “Canadians live free of discrimination and inequalities are reduced” by supporting eight Indigenous Representative Organizations to engage with First Nations regarding the environmental protection. These findings will help to address environmental regulatory and capacity gaps on reserve, while providing First Nations with similar protection from environmental, health and safety harms afforded to other areas of Canada.
- ISC supported the construction, renovation, and retrofit of 14,986 homes on reserve since 2016, contributing to [SDG 11– Sustainable Cities and Communities](#)^{xlvi} and the CIF ambition “Canadians have access to quality housing”. The department also supported over 570 emergency management projects, focusing on non-structural mitigation, FireSmart initiatives, capacity building and response and recovery efforts. These projects enabled First Nations communities to reduce risk, and preserve cultural heritage.
- ISC promoted sustainable consumption and production patterns, contributing to [SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production](#).^{xlvii} To date, 75% of First Nations communities have implemented solid waste management improvements, including waste diversion and improved solid waste management systems. Since 2020, funding for contaminated sites has supported the closure of 183 sites, ensuring clean, sustainable communities for First Nations’ health and well-being.
- In support of [SDG 13 – Climate Action](#)^{xlviii} ISC conducts Environmental Reviews on projects on reserve land, evaluating climate change indicators and their impacts on the environment and community well-being. The Indigenous Centre for Cumulative Effects works with Indigenous communities across Canada to address cumulative impacts from development and climate change. In 2022-23, the Centre conducted a National Needs Assessment to identify the needs of Indigenous communities in climate resiliency, human health and well-being, cumulative effects assessment, monitoring, and land and water health.

Additional results are available in the [United Nations 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals Supplementary Information Table](#).^{xii}

V. Innovation

The Emergency Management Assistance Program was established in 2014 to secure funding for emergency management costs on reserve. Bilateral agreements were established with provinces and territories in 2017 to deliver these services. However, in 2019, ISC reviewed these agreements based on concerns raised by First Nations partners, and a strategic plan was developed to include First Nations as full and equal partners. In 2022-23, the department made significant progress in working toward the development of new multilateral emergency service agreements and supporting First Nations-led initiatives. The Collaborative Emergency Management Agreement with the Tsilhqot'in National Government was re-signed in British Columbia, and First Nations Leadership Council supported First Nations' involvement in engagements to advance a new tripartite agreement. Funding was provided to a First Nations, Tribal Councils and Indigenous Representative Organizations in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

A Joint Command Governance Model was launched with First Nation partners in Ontario for the 2022 flood season to streamline decision-making and emergency response processes. Other provinces and territories also undertook steps to engage with First Nations. The transformation of Emergency Management is setting a strong foundation for eventual transfer of departmental responsibility by increasing First Nation capacity to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies and creating a more flexible and comprehensive system to prevent and respond to the evolving nature of both climate and health emergencies.

Broadband connectivity is crucial for digital health and virtual care, but high-speed internet connections are not yet accessible in all remote First Nations communities. ISC partnered with Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada to examine new technology to improve internet connectivity speeds. In 2022-23, low-earth orbit satellites were implemented in health facilities in 22 remote and isolated communities in Manitoba and Quebec, where connectivity speeds were typically less than half the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission standard (50 Mbps download/10 Mbps upload). New connectivity speeds are at or above the standard for high-speed internet. These improvements helped to address service disruptions in community health facilities, public-health surveillance and other eHealth services.

Innovative practices for water and wastewater for First Nations included the lifting of a drinking water advisory in Wawakapewin First Nation in Ontario in April 2022, which had existed since 2004. This involved the drilling of two wells and the installation of a modular water treatment plant in the community. Another innovative practice was Shoal Lake #40's joint partnership between Shoal Lake #40's Kekekoziibih company and Sigfusson Northern Ltd. to build a water treatment plant in their community which won an award from the Ontario Public Works Association for the 2022 Public Works Project of the Year for Small Municipalities and First Nations. The Okanagan Indian Band improved access to clean water for its community by using an innovative approach that brought together all project stakeholders, including the contractor, designer and First Nation, into a process that collaboratively harnesses the talents and insights of all participants to optimize project results that allowed the project to be delivered faster.

VI. Key Risks

In 2022-23, the COVID-19 pandemic was anticipated to negatively impact the momentum and progress on governance enhancements in communities and community-led planning. While this risk did not

materialize, there remains a need for program support and increasing awareness of the wrap-around approach to ensure government programming adequately responds to community development.

ISC implemented measures to mitigate the possibility of delays and increased costs on housing projects and the ability to meet target lift dates for the remaining long-term drinking water advisories due to global supply, equipment and capacity shortages. Actions included improved processes to ensure value for money, the development of tools to improve the quality of feasibility studies, and streamlined approvals. The department also supported First Nations through investments in operations and maintenance to provide a significant and permanent increase to funding based on updated formula costing, as well as funding for capacity building initiatives that support communities' ability to make strategic and forward-looking planning decisions.

The Aboriginal Entrepreneurship Program was at potential risk of increased demand from Indigenous businesses for program support during the pandemic. The COVID-19 Indigenous Business Initiative helped mitigate the impact, but the current economic climate still poses risks. The department is conducting lessons learned to understand the pandemic's impacts and the current status of Indigenous businesses as they repay loans. This increased demand also brought new clients to Métis Capital Corporations and Indigenous Financial Institutions. To address this, ISC is continuing to work with Indigenous partners on modernizing the program.

Emergency management activities face challenges due to the increasing frequency and magnitude of natural hazards, placing strain on emergency management assistance capacities. In 2022-23, 141 First Nation communities on-reserve experienced emergencies, with over 10,552 evacuees. In response, funding was used for the Response and Recovery program to support these evacuees. Additional funds were provided to the Dene Tha' community during the unprecedented flooding event in spring of 2022. Funding was used to support response and recovery activities, including sandbagging, evacuation costs, and infrastructure repairs. The Indigenous Community Support Fund also provided funding to Indigenous communities and organizations in their efforts to prevent, prepare for and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The department implemented a Management Response Action Plan to address recommendations stemming from the November 2022 Auditor General's report on emergency management in First Nation communities. The Emergency Management Assistance Program expanded its capacity to better mitigate risks and enhance resilience in First Nation communities. Dedicated teams were put in place to develop multilateral emergency management service agreements. The program continues to work with other government departments and First Nations-led organizations to identify areas of need in emergency management and ensure its effectiveness in supporting First Nations to prepare for, mitigate against, and recover from emergencies.

VII. Results achieved

The following table shows results achieved for Governance and Community Development Services, the performance indicators, targets, target dates for 2022-23, and the actual results for the three most recent fiscal years for which actual results are available.

Departmental Result 6: Indigenous communities advance their governance capacity

Performance indicators	Target	Date to achieve target	2020-21 Actual results	2021-22 Actual results	2022-23 Actual results
Percentage of First Nations with a completed community-led plan	48%	March 2026 ¹	37%	39%	40.3%

- 1- Date to achieve changed to March 2026 (updated from March 2024) to allow First Nation communities the time necessary to report on community-led plans that were delayed due to the effects of public health restrictions on community engagement.

Departmental Result 7: Indigenous Peoples have reliable and sustainable infrastructure

Performance indicators	Target	Date to achieve target	2020-21 Actual results	2021-22 Actual results	2022-23 Actual results
Number of long-term drinking water advisories affecting public water systems on reserve	0	Initiative underway ¹	53	34	32 ²
Percentage of First Nations housing that is adequate as assessed and reported by First Nations	75%	March 2023	72.7%	72.6%	Not available ³
Percentage of First Nations schools with a condition rating of "good" or "new"	60%	March 2025	53%	54%	55% ⁴
Percentage of First Nations health facilities with a condition rating of "good"	75%	March 2023	84%	84%	84% ⁵
Number of First Nations communities located on reserves that rely on ISC funded diesel for electricity generation	24	March 2025	38	37	35 ⁶
Percentage of long-term evacuees who have returned home or have a scheduled date within two years after their evacuation	95%	March 2023	90%	69.5%	89.5% ⁷

- 1- The Government of Canada continues to work in partnership with communities and remains committed to ensuring clean drinking water advisories in First Nations communities. Initiatives are underway to support remaining long-term drinking water advisories on public systems on reserve. A new date to achieve the target has not been set. ISC continues to actively work with First Nations to address drinking water issues, including by assessing timelines, estimating appropriate target dates, and advancing projects in a way that respects public health measures.
- 2- As of March 31, 2023, there were 32 long-term drinking water advisories in effect in 28 First Nations; during the fiscal year, 7 long-term drinking water advisories were lifted, while 5 became long-term. As of March 31, 2023, a total of 138 long-term drinking water advisories have been lifted from public systems on reserve since November 2015.
- 3- The result for 2022-23 will be based on finalized data from the December 2022 Community Infrastructure and Housing Annual Report. Actual results will be reported in the 2023-24 Departmental Results Report.
- 4- The result is a total of 245 out of 446 schools that were in good or new condition. The classification of school asset data was also corrected.
- 5- The three year reporting period includes 175 inspections between 2019-20 to 2021-22 through the Asset Condition Reporting System process.
- 6- Kingfisher and North Caribou Lake First Nations were grid connected under the Watay project in 2022-23.
- 7- The target was not met due to complexities surrounding recovery of some significantly impacted First Nations. Repatriation dates are difficult to predict when there have significant and widespread impacts on reserve, particularly in remote and northern areas First Nation communities where they have a significantly shorter construction season.

Departmental Result 8: Land and resources in Indigenous communities are sustainably managed

Performance indicators	Target	Date to achieve target	2020–21 Actual results	2021–22 Actual results	2022–23 Actual results
Percentage of First Nations with community-led Land use plans	28.5%	March 2023	24.6%	24.7%	26.1% ¹
Percentage of First Nations communities with adequate solid waste management systems	65%	March 2028	37.3%	34.6%	40.5% ²
Percentage of high risk contaminated sites on reserve where clean-up or containment is occurring to reduce risk	29%	March 2023	29%	34.9%	17.6% ³

- 1- The target was not met due to COVID-19 impacts and other community priorities, including flooding and forest fires.
- 2- A number of communities were added to the calculation to take into account First Nations that have several sites that require separate waste management systems.
- 3- The target was not met due to the inclusion of lower priority sites in the funding eligibility criteria of the Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan, increased project costs due to inflation and supply chain issues, and the addition of Class 1 sites to the inventory.

Departmental Result 9: Indigenous communities build economic prosperity

Performance indicators	Target	Date to achieve target	2020–21 Actual results	2021–22 Actual results	2022–23 Actual results
Percentage increase of Indigenous businesses created and/or expanded	2%	March 2023	-6.92%	-3.9%	Not available ¹
Percentage of First Nations communities where non-government revenues represent 25% or more of total revenues	40%	March 2023	67%	69.7% ²	68.2% ²

- 1- Reporting is dependent on data from the National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association and the Métis Capital Corporations, who administer and deliver the Aboriginal Entrepreneurship Program. The program is undergoing modernization following a program evaluation.
- 2- Data compilation and reporting for this program is typically one year behind the year it covers, with the results only becoming available in the following fiscal year. The 2021-22 result has been adjusted to 69.7% (from 68.20%) as a result of recalculation following the receipt of additional recipient reporting.

Performance information for Indigenous Services Canada's Program Inventory is available in [GC InfoBase](#).^{xiii}

VIII. Budgetary financial resources (dollars)

The following table shows the 2022-23 budgetary spending for Governance and Community Development Services, as well as actual spending for that year.

2022–23 Main Estimates	2022–23 Planned spending	2022–23 Total authorities available for use	2022–23 Actual spending (authorities used)	2022–23 Difference (Actual spending minus Planned spending)
6,277,966,237	6,277,966,237	7,851,328,522	7,418,701,952	1,140,735,715

Financial information for Indigenous Services Canada's Program Inventory is available in [GC InfoBase](#).^{xiv}

IX. Human resources (full-time equivalents)

The following table shows, in full-time equivalents, the human resources the department needed to fulfill this core responsibility for 2022–23.

2022–23 Planned full-time equivalents	2022–23 Actual full-time equivalents	2022–23 Difference (Actual full-time equivalents minus Planned full-time equivalents)
1,649	1,819	170

Human resources information for Indigenous Services Canada's Program Inventory is available in [GC InfoBase](#).^{xv}

Core Responsibility - Indigenous Self-Determined Services

I. Description

These services are designed and delivered by Indigenous Peoples for Indigenous Peoples. They include services for which the control, authority and/or jurisdiction has been formally transferred to Indigenous communities or organizations, as supported through departmental funding.

II. Results

ISC recognizes the responsibility to respect and need to promote the inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples as affirmed in treaties and agreements. It is intent on upholding advancements in political, economic, social and cultural enhancement in support of self-determination for communities and their control of the design, delivery and management of services.

The *Department of Indigenous Services Act*^{xlix} commits to implementing UNDRIP and sets out clear direction on the collaboration and transfer of responsibilities and services to Indigenous partners and institutions. With the passage of the *United Nations Declaration Act*, ISC continued to advance this work toward transferring responsibility of departmental services to Indigenous control and working collaboratively toward closing socioeconomic gaps between Indigenous Peoples and non-Indigenous population in Canada. The department participated in the consultation and cooperation process on sections 5 and 6 of the *United Nations Declaration Act*, and is committed to continuing engagements and supporting co-development processes, including distinction-based fiscal models, communications, data and reporting strategies, capacity-building funding, governance engagement mechanisms, and regulations.

The *United Nations Declaration Act* Action Plan, which was released in June 2023, provides a roadmap of actions Canada needs to take in partnership with Indigenous peoples to implement the principles and rights set out in the UN Declaration and to further advance reconciliation in a tangible way. For ISC, work advanced through the British Columbia Tripartite Framework Agreement on First Nation Health Governance and the First Nations Health Authority on a renewed tripartite health partnership with the Province of British Columbia and First Nations in British Columbia. A renewed 10-year funding agreement was signed, enabling the First Nations Health Authority to continue designing and delivering health programs and services based on community needs. Similarly, an agreement was formally signed in Halifax and the Atlantic First Nations Water Authority became the first Indigenous Water Utility in the country, supporting the transfer of water and wastewater services for as many as 4,500 households and businesses in 17 First Nation communities.

The New Fiscal Relationship Grant is aligned with UNDRIP as it aims to provide First Nations with autonomy in the design and delivery of services. The ongoing work between ISC and its First Nation partners within the New Fiscal Relationship is helping to provide the structure for more flexible and stable funding arrangements needed for future transfer initiatives while working towards closing the socio-economic gaps between First Nations and non-Indigenous Canadians.

The Transformational Approach to Indigenous Data aims to advance Indigenous data capacity, sovereignty, self-determination, and reconciliation. It supports UNDRIP, TRC Calls to Action and MMIWG Calls for Justice by ensuring continued improvement of economic and social conditions for Indigenous Peoples, while establishing measurable goals to close the gaps in health outcomes. The capacity to identify data needs, and to collect, govern, manage and use data is critical for Indigenous governments and organizations to design and deliver effective programs, policies and services, and essential to supporting the transfer of departmental responsibilities to partners. The department recognizes

that, in order to support self-determination, Indigenous Peoples need to have access to robust, distinctions-based, culturally-relevant data to design and effectively deliver services to their communities.

ISC continued to advance its commitment to implementing UNDRIP, TRC Calls to Action, and MMIWG Calls for Justice that support self-determination, self-governance, treaty rights, and increased equity. In 2022-23, ISC participated in various consultations and engagement activities to advance these principles. The Inuit Nunangat Policy was endorsed by federal and Inuit leadership in April 2022, marking the first time the Government of Canada has co-developed an overarching, whole-of-government policy of this nature. The policy recognizes Inuit Nunangat – the Inuit homeland – as a distinct geographic, cultural, and political region, encompassing the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, Nunavut, Nunavik, and Nunatsiavut. The policy is inclusive of urban areas where Inuit reside and will guide federal policies, programs, services, and initiatives that apply in Inuit Nunangat or benefit Inuit. Endorsement of the Policy has been an important step toward supporting Inuit self-determination and ensuring meaningful, Inuit-led solutions to the distinct issues faced by Inuit.

In December 2022, the Métis National Council and Governing Members met with federal cabinet Ministers to reaffirm the commitment to the Canada Métis-Nation Accord. Discussions focused on economic development, health, benefits sharing, principles of co-development, language preservation, education, and best practices for UNDRIP implementation.

Departmental Result 10: Indigenous Peoples control the design, delivery and management of services

Indigenous Self-Determined Services is focused on supporting First Nations-led processes to transition away from the *Indian Act*. In December 2022, Bill C-38 (new registration entitlements) was introduced to respond to specific inequities in registration and membership provisions of the *Indian Act*. It aims to restore status to families who lost it to obtain citizenship or gain other basic rights such as voting. More specifically, it seeks equality in outcomes by ensuring persons with a family history of enfranchisement are treated the same as those without; allowing deregistration for persons those who wish to have their names removed from the Indian Register to apply for deregistration; enabling married women and their direct descendants to seek reaffiliation with their natal band; and removing dated references to offensive language. ISC is partnering with organizations across the country to raise awareness on the proposed legislative changes and encourage newly eligible individuals to apply for registration under the *Indian Act*. While there is more work to do on reforming the *Indian Act*, this bill supports the path of reconciliation and a renewed relationship between Canada and First Nations.

An important part of advancing self-determination are investments in capacity building initiatives. The New Fiscal Relationship Grant, a 10-year grant mechanism, provides long-term, predictable funding for First Nations to build capacity, effectively plan further into the future, and achieve greater autonomy and self-determination in service delivery. To strengthen the ability of communities to design and deliver services based on priorities, a minimum of 2% annual growth funding escalator (based on inflation and community population growth) was applied, providing an additional \$18.7 million in ongoing grant escalation to the 117 eligible First Nation communities that had opted into the grant by 2021-22 (\$32.2 million in cumulative grant escalation).

WHAT'S NEW

In 2022-23, \$1.1 billion was transferred to 130 First Nations through the grant, including 13 First Nation communities which joined in 2022-23.

ISC will continue to track this as this a significant measure in the transition to self-determined service delivery by First Nations.

Progress was made in other areas to gradually advance the transfer of departmental responsibilities to Indigenous control. For health care, ISC supported health service delivery via the First Nations Home and Community Care Program which is designed, delivered and managed by Indigenous organizations. In collaboration with the Assisted Living program, engagement on evolving into a continuum of care inclusive of long-term care services took place in 2022-23. Program reform and vision for a long term and continuing care framework is in co-development with various Indigenous partners.

The department concluded engagements in fall 2022 on Indigenous health legislation through distinctions-based+ co-development processes, which focused on translating what was heard through engagement into proposed legislative options. In January 2023, a national summary report, [What We Heard: Visions for Distinctions-based Indigenous Health Legislation](#)^{vi}, was published and summarizes the input from First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples, outlining their vision for distinctions-based Indigenous health legislation to improve access to high quality, culturally-relevant, and safe health services. During engagement and co-development discussions to date, some Indigenous partners expressed a desire to take over the delivery and design of some health services.

The department worked with First Nations partners to advance Health Transformation efforts that will contribute to increased and improved regional capacity for health governance, and lead to the transfer of the design, delivery and management of federal Indigenous health programs and services. In 2022-23, tripartite discussions on the new Mi'kmaw Health and Wellness Organization, Tajikeyimik, progressed in Nova Scotia with a focus on finalizing a trilateral Memorandum of Understanding committing to transferring the control of the design and delivery of federal health and wellness services and programs to the Mi'kmaq. In British Columbia, a renewed Canada Funding Agreement with the First Nations Health Authority was negotiated and signed. Work also began on drafting Agreements in Principle with partners in Manitoba.

In the area of education, the department continued to develop a Regional Education Agreement framework that includes other ISC and federal programming areas, and national and/or regionally-specific funding enhancements beyond provincial comparability.

Other ways that ISC sought to ensure that Indigenous Peoples control the design, delivery and management of services in 2022-23 included:

- Continuing to advance the gradual transfer of departmental responsibilities to Indigenous control, with options for the replacement of the Default Prevention and Management Policy by collaborating with partners on a proactive approach for capacity development and renewed funding for the reimbursement of the costs of third party managers and recipient appointed managers.
- Approving a strategy to advance the recognition of Indigenous rights to have jurisdiction over their own services, which aligns with the spirit and intent of UNDRIP.
- Carrying out internal planning to engage with Indigenous partners in 2023-24 on the co-development of a Service Transfer Policy Framework, aiming to jointly advance the transfer of responsibility for the design, delivery and management of services from Indigenous Services Canada to Indigenous partners as part of the *United Nations Declaration Act* Action Plan.

Departmental Result 11: Indigenous self-determined services are improving outcomes for communities

ISC supported Indigenous communities in 2022-23 with the flexibility to address specific local needs, helping to close socio-economic gaps and improve quality of life. The Transformational Approach to

Indigenous Data directly contributes to advancing the priorities of Indigenous communities as data governance is an important part of measuring and tracking outcomes in Indigenous communities. This approach will follow three distinctions-based streams reflecting unique First Nations, Inuit, and Métis contexts and their respective journeys in articulating data and data capacity needs. Phase 1 of this Approach was launched, funded by \$81.5 million from Budget 2021, in order to help improve Indigenous data capacity for effective program management and evidence-based decision-making. Contribution agreements were signed with Indigenous Delivery Partners providing:

- \$51.1 million over 3 years to the First Nations Information Governance Centre to support the development of blueprints for future First Nations-led data centres.
- \$4 million over three years to Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami to progress on scoping activities and baseline data needs assessments.
- \$3 million over 3 years to the Métis National Council and its Governing Members to establish planning and governance, and initiate the development of a Métis Nation Data Strategy. Manitoba Métis Federation also received \$1 million over 3 years to support development of a Red River Métis Data Governance Strategy.

The department continued working with First Nations partners on the National Outcome-Based Framework, which will measure socio-economic gaps between First Nations and non-Indigenous Canadians. Engagements with First Nations leaders and organizations began in early 2023 on the Framework, which ultimately will be validated through a resolution of the First Nations-in-Assembly.

To measure progress towards improved outcomes through Indigenous self-determined services, the New Fiscal Relationship Grant's results framework included an indicator on the Community Well-Being Index score. This served as a proxy of overall socioeconomic performance for First Nations communities participating in the ten-year grant. The 2022-23 result was not available at the time of this report as it requires the 2021 Census data to be incorporated in the Community Well-Being Index.

Ultimately, the meaning of Indigenous self-determination and transfer of departmental responsibilities equates to services designed and delivered by Indigenous Peoples for Indigenous Peoples, with control, authority, and/or jurisdiction transferred to Indigenous communities or organizations. Moving into 2023-24, the indicators associated with this core responsibility will be woven into the new Departmental Results Framework and aim to measure progress on service delivery transfer to First Nations across all service areas.

III. Gender-based Analysis Plus

All relations with Indigenous Peoples need to be based on the recognition and implementation of their right to self-determination, including the inherent right of self-government and to design and deliver services as they see fit, in a manner that reflects community priorities. ISC recognizes that Indigenous communities are the best experts to address their needs and priorities. To mitigate colonial barriers to self-determination, the department plays a supporting role with respect to GBA Plus integration for devolved and transferred programs. ISC provides GBA Plus integration recommendations to reduce diversity and inclusion barriers in program design. However, as part of their design, First Nations, Inuit, and Métis will continue defining their own tailored approaches to GBA Plus/intersectional analysis that reflect their unique circumstances, histories, contexts, and intersections that impact the lives of their Peoples in a way that can differ from the Government of Canada.

Based on existing data from self-government agreements, it is reasonable to conclude that self-determination in Indigenous communities leads to fewer barriers to consultation and engagement, greater

investment in diversity and inclusion initiatives, positive social determinants of health outcomes, and greater access to programs and services offered by First Nations, Inuit and Métis governments.

In 2022-23, ISC supported Indigenous Peoples in building data capacity through the Transformational Approach to Indigenous Data Initiative to tell their own stories and design programs, policies, and services that reflect their unique histories and multidimensional lived experiences. Although primarily oriented to supporting Indigenous self-determination, this will also support a stronger, more inclusive national statistical system, and improve Indigenous data availability, including disaggregated data by key factors like gender and distinctions-group.

The department established plans to collect indicators for information sharing in support of the Transformation Approach to Indigenous Data Initiative. This included active Information Sharing Agreements and Indigenous-led assessments of progress towards increased access to data holdings. The ultimate outcomes will measure the percentage of indicators that are co-developed with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis partners, with key performance indicators being flexible for GBA Plus integration. ISC regularly meets with Indigenous Delivery Partners to encourage collaboration and articulate their vision for GBA Plus.

ISC supported the release of the “First Nations Population Health and Wellness Agenda,” a baseline report prepared by the Province of British Columbia and the First Nations Health Authority. The report expanded the Health Authority’s seven indicators to a broader set of 22 indicators. The report and data sets will inform performance indicators as they relate to accessing culturally-appropriate and improved health services for First Nations communities in British Columbia.

Additional examples can be found in the [Gender-based Analysis Plus Supplementary Information Table](#).^{vii}

IV. United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals

ISC recognizes that upholding the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous Peoples can exercise their right to develop and implement priorities and strategies for programs and services affecting them. ISC contributed to SDG 10 – Reduce Inequalities and CIF ambition “Canadians live free of discrimination and inequalities are reduced”, as well as SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions and CIF ambition “Canadians are safe and secure, in person and online.” In 2022-23, the department:

- Prepared an [Annual Report to Parliament](#)^{li}, co-developed with the Assembly of First Nations, the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, and the Métis National Council, outlining measures taken by ISC to reduce the socioeconomic gaps between Indigenous individuals and non-Indigenous people and progress on the transfer of departmental responsibilities to Indigenous organizations.
- Advanced the implementation of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* by aligning departmental legislation with the United Nations Declaration, including in the context of its ongoing work related to the co-development of new First Nations Water and Wastewater Legislation.
- Worked collaboratively with First Nations partners regarding Health Transformation efforts.
- Collaborated with First Nations communities and organizations to examine the possibility of expanding the scope of the New Fiscal Relationship Grant with the goal of enhancing predictability and flexibility of funding.

Additional results are available in the [United Nations 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals Supplementary Information Table](#).^{xii}

V. Innovation

In 2022-23, ISC worked with Indigenous partners on new and progressive approaches to improve services and support Indigenous Peoples to independently determine and deliver high quality services. The Health Transformation Initiative for the Mi'kmaw First Nations, is a trilateral process between Canada, the Province of Nova Scotia, and First Nations in Nova Scotia. It will lead to the transfer of First Nations health operations in Nova Scotia to a new Mi'kmaw Health and Wellness Organization. Tajikeyimik will assume control over federal funding for First Nations health and provide health services grounded in evidence-based decision-making, and rooted in engagement with every First Nation community in Nova Scotia. ISC will manage federal responsibilities related to Health Transformation projects, facilitating negotiations, providing secretariat and analysis support to Chief Federal Negotiators, and where required, managing funding arrangements and reporting. Tajikeyimik has engaged with First Nations health directors and community leadership to ensure that communities continue to approve the transformation process. The outcome indicator for this transformation will be the First Nations perspective on whether the project continues to improve health outcomes for their First Nation communities.

This project aims to improve health outcomes for First Nations in Nova Scotia by enabling them to address socioeconomic gaps in healthcare and support a more integrated and coordinated health system. Trilateral partners expect to work together to generate evidence to inform its successful implementation.

VI. Key Risks

In 2022-23, ISC identified a risk that the long-term planning for communities may be inhibited without access to predictable, sufficient and sustainable funding. The department worked to increase the number of First Nations entering agreements for the New Fiscal Relationship Grant. ISC also explored the feasibility of expanding eligibility of the grant to Indigenous-led organizations that provide services to multiple Indigenous communities.

ISC faced a potential risk of inability to quantify and measure progress towards self-determination due to lack of agreement on shared outcomes and lack of data. To address this, the department formulated agreements with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis partners to establish distinctions-based Indigenous-led statistical institutions or functions through the Transformational Approach to Indigenous Data. To support more immediate data needs, ISC funded Statistics Canada to begin working with federal and Indigenous Peoples on co-developed data and research projects and new data collection to improve the visibility of Indigenous Peoples in Canada's National Statistics.

VII. Results achieved

The following table shows results achieved for Indigenous Self-Determined Services, the performance indicators, targets, target dates for 2022–23, and the actual results for the three most recent fiscal years for which actual results are available.

Departmental Result 10: Indigenous Peoples control the design, delivery and management of services

Performance indicators	Target	Date to achieve target	2020–21 Actual results	2021–22 Actual results	2022–23 Actual results
Number of eligible First Nations communities that have opted in to a grant to support the new fiscal relationship	127	March 2023	111 ¹	117	130

- 1- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many First Nations were unable to dedicate staff time and resources to seek eligibility for the 10-year grant, including developing financial administration laws and bylaws.

Departmental Result 11: Indigenous self-determined services are improving outcomes for communities

Performance indicators	Target	Date to achieve target	2020–21 Actual results	2021–22 Actual results	2022–23 Actual results
Average Community Well-Being index score for First Nations communities in a New Fiscal Relationship funding agreement	To be established with partners	To be established with partners	Baseline to be determined in 2023-24 ¹		
Percentage of British Columbia First Nations adults reporting that their health is excellent or very good	50%	March 2028	33%	33%	33% ²
Percentage of First Nations communities with access to mental wellness team services	In the context of self-determined services such as the New Fiscal Relationship grant, whereby First Nations have the flexibility to design and deliver services based on their own plans and priorities, the establishment of targets for grant recipients would not be meaningful or relevant.		Not available ³	Not available ³	Not available ³
Percentage of residents living on reserve who are supported through Income Assistance			Not available ³	Not available ³	Not available ³
Percentage of First Nations on reserve students who graduate from secondary school (on-time graduation rate)			Introduced in 2022-23	Introduced in 2022-23	Not available ⁴
Percentage of First Nations on reserve students who graduate from secondary school (extended-time graduation rate)			Introduced in 2022-23	Introduced in 2022-23	Not available ⁴
Percentage of First Nations housing that is adequate as assessed and reported by First Nations			Not available ³	Not available ³	Not available ³

- The baseline for this indicator will be calculated in 2023-24 when data from the 2021 Census of Population is incorporated into the Community Well-Being Index.
- Last available data for First Nations (on reserve) is from the 2015-16 Regional Health Survey.
- Insufficient data is available to report on this indicator, partly due to a backlog in First Nations reporting requirements during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the need for additional governance capacity in First Nations.
- As this is the first year of a new cohort-based methodology, data is only available at the national level in 2022-23.

Performance information for Indigenous Services Canada's Program Inventory is available in [GC InfoBase](#).^{xiii}

VIII. Budgetary financial resources (dollars)

The following table shows the 2022-23 budgetary spending for Indigenous Self-Determined Services, as well as actual spending for that year.

2022–23 Main Estimates	2022–23 Planned spending	2022–23 Total authorities available for use	2022–23 Actual spending (authorities used)	2022–23 Difference (Actual spending minus Planned spending)
2,192,779,573	2,192,779,573	1,743,637,399	1,736,060,794	(456,718,779) ¹

1- The difference primarily reflects an allocation of funding to other programs due to lower than anticipated recipients number for the New Fiscal Relationship grant. The unused funding is returned to the programs to be made available to First Nations via other funding mechanisms.

Financial information for Indigenous Services Canada's Program Inventory is available in [GC InfoBase](#).^{xiv}

IX. Human resources (full-time equivalents)

The following table shows, in full-time equivalents, the human resources the department needed to fulfill this core responsibility for 2022–23.

2022–23 Planned full-time equivalents	2022–23 Actual full-time equivalents	2022–23 Difference (Actual full-time equivalents minus Planned full-time equivalents)
0	14	14

Human resources information for Indigenous Services Canada's Program Inventory is available in [GC InfoBase](#).^{xv}

Internal Services

I. Description

Internal services are those groups of related activities and resources that the federal government considers to be services in support of programs and/or required to meet corporate obligations of an organization. Internal services refer to the activities and resources of the 10 distinct service categories that support program delivery in the organization, regardless of the internal services delivery model in a department. The 10 service categories are:

- ▶ acquisition management services
- ▶ communication services
- ▶ financial management services
- ▶ human resources management services
- ▶ information management services
- ▶ information technology services
- ▶ legal services
- ▶ material management services
- ▶ management and oversight services
- ▶ real property management services

II. Results

In 2022-23, ISC aimed to provide high-quality internal services to support programs and regions, aligning with the departmental mandate, including the transfer of departmental responsibilities to Indigenous partners. The department accomplished this by finalizing changes for an enhanced Departmental Results Framework that focuses on Indigenous Well-Being and Self-Determination. The new Framework comes into force in 2023-24, and shifts the organization of the department's programs from service delivery types into those that support outcomes for Indigenous Peoples and communities, as reflected in the 2023-24 Departmental Plan. ISC also finalized a Resource Management Framework to promote greater accountability, transparency and oversight of the department's use of resources.

ISC modernized its Data Management function to improve data stewardship and the utilization of data for decision-making and reporting. It updated internal data development, management, and analytics activities to align with Indigenous-led data strategies and launched the Transformational Approach to Indigenous Data. The department also made digital advancements by modernizing business process, exploring automation, and developing enterprise solutions, such as cloud infrastructure and a data hub.

The department played a key role in supporting First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities through the release of timely and relevant information related to products, services and supports available through Jordan's Principle and Inuit Child First Initiative; recruitment opportunities for experienced nurses to address nursing shortages; and addressing the Respiratory Illness season (COVID-19 & Seasonal Flu), including continued vaccination efforts in the face of a possible surge in cases.

ISC worked to combat racism and remove systemic barriers by drafting policies and guidelines in response to the Clerk of the Privy Council's call for action on increasing diversity and inclusion in the workplace. Additionally, an Employment Equity Action Plan and [Accessibility Plan](#)^{lii} were developed. Executive selection processes were launched to Indigenous candidates, while First Nations, Inuit and Métis employees were supported through recruitment services. The department also addressed anti-Indigenous racism through the work of the Indigenous Employee Champions and enlisted an Ombuds in October 2022 to uphold organizational values that uplift and promote cultural safety and promote ethical

decision-making, inclusive and compassionate leadership, and humility. This role is integral to the success of the department, as it drives critical initiatives, serves as a sounding board for management and staff, and most importantly, reinforces the guiding lights that serve fundamental to ISC's work—values, ethics, respect and dignity. The Ombuds office also established a secretariat to oversee the advancement of inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility initiatives. This includes the leadership council, task force and diversity and inclusion networks. This innovative approach allows the department to drive meaningful change based on real-time trends and issues identified by ongoing engagement with employees.

The department implemented a clear vision for the workplace of the future through a Partner-centered, service-oriented, digital approach. This included efforts in ensuring agile policies, responsive processes and services, data-driven decision-making, and a modern workplace and equipped workforce, distributed nationally. The department continued its path on taking steps forward and not back, ensuring a risk-informed approach to mitigate immediate risks and inform best practices and investments, always with the future vision as the driver.

III. Contracts awarded to Indigenous businesses

Indigenous Services Canada is a Phase 1 department and as such must ensure that a minimum 5% of the total value of the contracts it awards to Indigenous businesses by the end of 2022-23. In its 2023-24 Departmental Plan, the department forecasted that, by the end of 2022-23, it would award 15% of the total value of its contracts to Indigenous businesses.

As shown in the following table, ISC awarded 17.68% of the total value of its contracts to Indigenous businesses in 2022–23.

Contracting performance indicators	2022-23 Results
Total value of contracts* awarded to Indigenous businesses† (A)	\$43,633,868
Total value of contracts awarded to Indigenous and non-Indigenous businesses‡ (B)	\$246,732,378
Value of exceptions approved by deputy head (C)	\$0
Proportion of contracts awarded to Indigenous businesses [A / (B-C)×100]	17.68%

*Includes contract amendments with Indigenous businesses and contracts that were entered into with Indigenous businesses by means of acquisition cards. May include subcontracts.

†For the purposes of the 5% target, Indigenous businesses include Elders, band and tribal councils; businesses registered in the [Indigenous Business Directory](#)^{liii} for contracts under the [Procurement Strategy for Aboriginal Business](#)^{liv} and businesses registered in a beneficiary business list for contracts with a final delivery in a modern treaty or self-government agreement area with economic measures as defined by Indigenous Services Canada.

‡Includes contract amendments.

In 2022-23, ISC issued significant contracts and amendments to three Indigenous vendors:

- **Advanced Paramedic Ltd.:** ISC issued a multi-million dollar contract for the provision of a range of paramedic and emergency medical services to remote communities across northern Alberta. The company specializes in providing air and ground ambulance services, primary care, community care, industrial ambulance, special event medics, and non-emergent medical transfers. This contract ends November 2023.

- Donna Cona Inc.: Multiple supply arrangements were issued by Public Services and Procurement Canada for temporary help services, general office support, human resource services, business consulting/change management services, and project management services. This contract ended March 2023.
- Dalian Technologies: ISC issued a contract specializing in Information Technology Security, and Networking and Data Centre/Virtualization technology solutions. This contract ended March 2023.

In 2022-23, all procurement officers (100%) were required and have undertaken mandatory training, as outlined by the policy. ISC supported the policy and reporting of Indigenous Procurement through participation in various working groups and committees, as well as senior management briefings. Communications activities were undertaken to raise the awareness among business owners on the Indigenous procurement policy and to encourage use of Indigenous vendors for their business requirements. ISC's Materiel and Asset Management Directorate, responsible for procurement, worked closely with the Lands and Economic Development Sector at ISC, the policy lead for the Government of Canada, over the last year on reporting improvements and vendor registration in the Indigenous Business Directory.

IV. Budgetary financial resources (dollars)

The following table shows, for internal services, budgetary spending for 2022–23, as well as spending for that year.

2022–23 Main Estimates	2022–23 Planned spending	2022–23 Total authorities available for use	2022–23 Actual spending (authorities used)	2022–23 Difference (Actual spending minus Planned spending)
215,168,480	215,168,480	332,406,364	295,617,248	80,448,768

V. Human resources (full-time equivalents)*

The following table shows, in full-time equivalents, the human resources the department needed to carry out its internal services for 2022–23.

2022–23 Planned full-time equivalents	2022–23 Actual full-time equivalents	2022–23 Difference (Actual full-time equivalents minus Planned full-time equivalents)
1,516	1,576	60

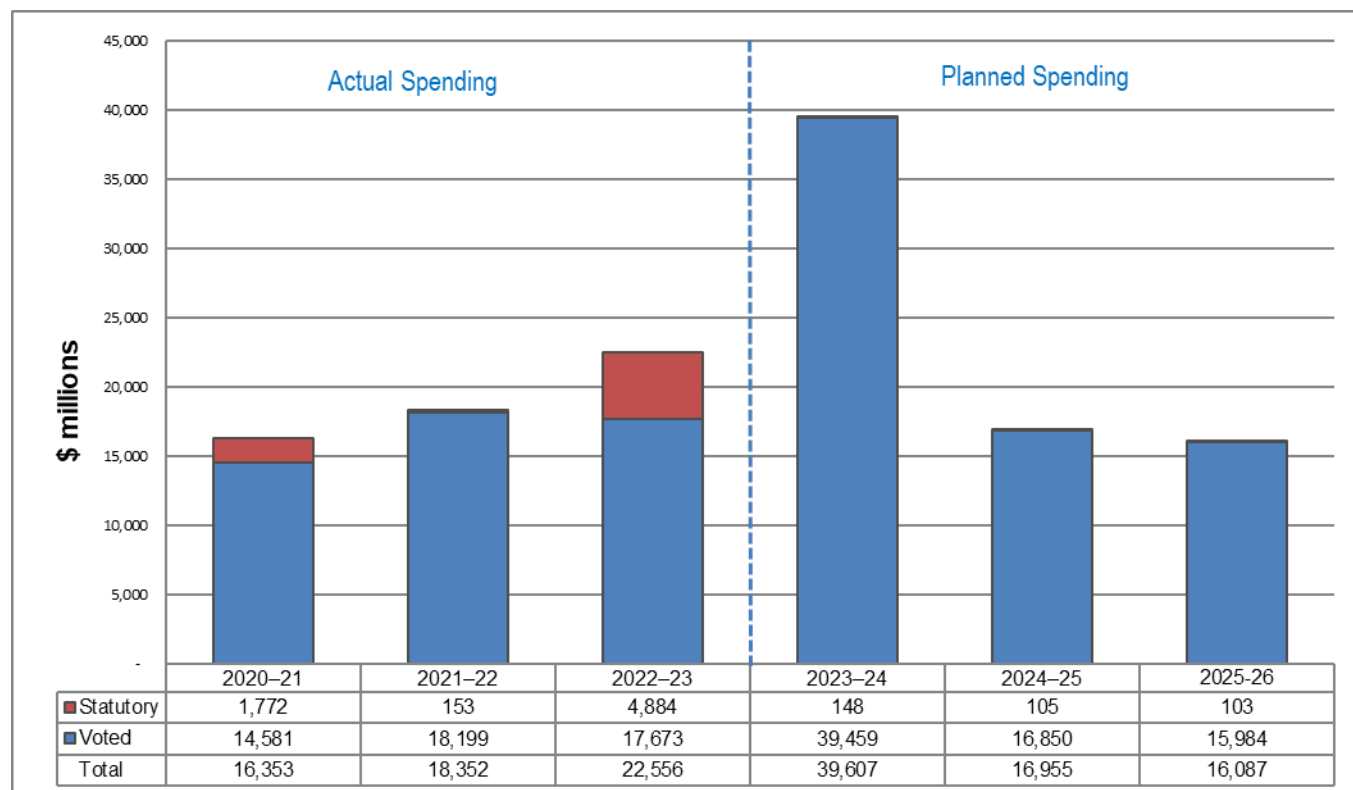
*Includes shared services for Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

Spending and human resources

Spending

Spending 2020–21 to 2025–26

The following graph presents planned (voted and statutory spending) over time.



Note: due to rounding, figures may not add to totals shown

The 2021-22 actual spending was \$18,351.8 million, a net increase of approximately \$1,998.6 million over 2020-21. This is primarily due to:

- a net increase in funding for Indigenous community infrastructure;
- a net increase in funding related to the Income Assistance program;
- a net increase in funding for mental health and wellness;
- a net increase in funding for the elementary and secondary as well as post-secondary education programs;
- a net increase in funding for Child and Family Services;
- a net increase in funding for the non-insured health benefits for First Nations and Inuit; and
- a net decrease in funding for COVID-19 initiatives, such as:
 - enhancing public health measures to COVID-19 in First Nations and Inuit communities;
 - Income Assistance;
 - Indigenous Community Support Fund;
 - supporting Indigenous businesses;
 - supporting a safe restart in Indigenous communities;
 - supporting Indigenous mental wellness;

- urban and regional Indigenous organizations;
- supportive care in Indigenous communities;
- the continuation of public health responses in Indigenous communities; and
- Indigenous communities affected by disruptions to their revenues which are necessary to support programs and services.

The 2022-23 actual spending was \$22,556.4 million, a net increase of approximately \$4,204.6 million over 2021-22. This is primarily due to:

- a net increase in funding for out-of-court settlements;
- a net increase in funding for costs related to compensation and for the reforms to the First Nations Child and Family Services and Jordan's Principle programs;
- a net increase in funding for Indigenous community infrastructure;
- a net increase in funding for Child and Family Services;
- a net increase in funding for the continued implementation of Jordan's Principle and supporting the Inuit Child First Initiative;
- a net increase in funding for the elementary and secondary as well as post-secondary education programs;
- a net increase in funding for the non-insured health benefits for First Nations and Inuit;
- a net increase in funding to support the implementation of the *Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* and the ongoing reform of the Indigenous Child and Family Services Program; and
- a net decrease in funding for COVID-19 initiatives, such as:
 - Indigenous Community Support Fund;
 - the continuation of public health responses in Indigenous communities;
 - Indigenous communities affected by disruptions to their revenues which are necessary to support programs and services;
 - supporting Indigenous businesses;
 - supportive care in Indigenous communities; and
 - supporting a safe restart in Indigenous communities.

Spending is expected to increase by \$17,051.1 million between 2022-23 actual spending and 2023-24 planned spending. This is primarily due to:

- a net increase in funding for out-of-court settlements;
- a net increase in funding to support the implementation of the *Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* and the ongoing reform of the Indigenous Child and Family Services Program;
- a net increase in funding for costs related to compensation and for the reforms to the First Nations Child and Family Services and Jordan's Principle programs;
- a net decrease in funding for Indigenous community infrastructure;
- a net decrease in funding for the continued implementation of Jordan's Principle and supporting the Inuit Child First Initiative;
- a net decrease in funding for the non-insured health benefits for First Nations and Inuit;
- a sunset (at the end of 2022-23) in funding for implementation of the British Columbia Tripartite Framework Agreement on First Nation Health Governance;
- a net decrease in funding for Child and Family Services; and
- a net decrease in funding for COVID-19 initiatives, such as:

- Indigenous Community Support Fund;
- the continuation of public health responses in Indigenous communities; and
- supporting students and youth.

Spending is expected to decrease by \$23,520.2 million between 2023-24 and 2025-26 planned spending. This is primarily due to:

- a decrease in funding for an out-of-court settlement;
- a net decrease in funding for costs related to compensation and for the reforms to the First Nations Child and Family Services and Jordan's Principle programs;
- a net decrease in funding for Indigenous community infrastructure;
- a sunset of funding for the continued implementation of Jordan's Principle (at the end of 2024-25) and supporting the Inuit Child First Initiative (at the end of 2023-24);
- a net decrease in funding to support the implementation of the *Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* and the ongoing reform of the Indigenous Child and Family Services Program; and
- a net increase in funding related to the Northern Ontario Grid Project.

Decisions on the renewal of the sunset initiatives will be taken in future budgets and reflected in future estimates.

Budgetary performance summary for Core Responsibilities and Internal Services (dollars)

The “Budgetary performance summary for core responsibilities and internal services” table presents the budgetary financial resources allocated for Indigenous Services Canada’s core responsibilities and for internal services.

Core responsibilities and Internal Services	2022–23 Main Estimates	2022–23 Planned spending	2023–24 Planned spending	2024–25 Planned spending	2022–23 Total authorities available for use	2020–21 Actual spending (authorities used)	2021–22 Actual spending (authorities used)	2022–23 Actual spending (authorities used)
Services and Benefits to Individuals	2,570,793,254	2,570,793,254	Not applicable ¹	Not applicable ¹	2,631,420,587	2,042,963,939	2,256,640,551	2,435,713,923
Health and Social Services	28,344,912,699	28,344,912,699	Not applicable ¹	Not applicable ¹	32,304,365,025	7,800,965,093	8,671,955,198	10,670,268,361
Governance and Community Development Services	6,277,966,237	6,277,966,237	Not applicable ¹	Not applicable ¹	7,851,328,522	4,637,274,340	5,327,660,547	7,418,701,952
Indigenous Self-Determined Services	2,192,779,573	2,192,779,573	Not applicable ¹	Not applicable ¹	1,743,637,399	1,610,912,324	1,819,668,220	1,736,060,794
Indigenous Well-Being and Self-Determination	Not applicable ¹	Not applicable ¹	39,378,545,794	16,754,835,849	Not applicable ¹	Not applicable ¹	Not applicable ¹	Not applicable ¹
Subtotal	39,386,451,763	39,386,451,763	39,378,545,794	16,754,835,849	44,530,751,533	16,092,115,696	18,075,924,516	22,260,745,030
Internal Services	215,168,480	215,168,480	228,930,692	199,792,017	332,406,364	261,129,820	275,885,076	295,617,248
Total	39,601,620,243	39,601,620,243	39,607,476,486	16,954,627,866	44,863,157,898	16,353,245,516	18,351,809,592	22,556,362,278

Note: Due to rounding, figures may not add to totals shown.

1- The Core Responsibility totals for 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 are presented as reported under the former Departmental Results Framework which consisted of four Core Responsibilities: Services and Benefits to Individuals, Health and Social Services, Governance and Community Development Services, and Indigenous Self-Determined Services. As of 2023-24, ISC's Departmental Results Framework consists of one Core Responsibility – Indigenous Well-Being and Self-Determination.

The \$5,261.5 million difference between Planned Spending (\$39,601.6 million) and Total Authorities Available for Use (\$44,863.2 million) in 2022-23 primarily reflects an incremental funding provided through Supplementary Estimates for:

- costs related to compensation and for the reforms to the First Nations Child and Family Services and Jordan’s Principle programs;
- supporting COVID-19 public health responses and the Indigenous Community Support Fund (Budget 2022);
- Indigenous community infrastructure (Budget 2022);
- reimbursing First Nations and emergency management service providers for on-reserve response and recovery activities;
- advancing the implementation and operationalization of Indigenous children and family services’ laws;
- the continued implementation of Jordan's Principle and Inuit Child First Initiative;

- First Nations Child and Family Services, Canadian Human Rights Tribunal orders implementation and non-compliance motion settlement;
- implementing the federal framework to address the legacy of residential schools (Budget 2022);
- infrastructure projects in Indigenous communities;
- First Nations Child and Family Services Program;
- emergency response and recovery activities;
- addressing the ongoing legacy of Indian residential schools; and
- advancing adult education for First Nations.

The \$22,306.8 million difference between Total Authorities Available for Use (\$44,863.2 million) and Actual Spending (\$22,556.4 million) in 2022-23 primarily reflects:

- lapse at year-end that will return to the fiscal framework for:
 - the reforms to the First Nations Child and Family Services and Jordan's Principle programs; and
 - advancing the implementation and operationalization of Indigenous children and family services' laws.
- a surplus resulting from ensuring client access to non-insured health benefits for First Nations and Inuit and additional funding was requested due to COVID-19 uncertainty; and
- the deferral of funds to future years for initiatives such as:
 - an out-of-court settlement;
 - costs related to compensation and for the reforms to the First Nations Child and Family Services and Jordan's Principle programs;
 - reimbursing First Nations and emergency management service providers for on-reserve response and recovery activities;
 - addressing the ongoing legacy of Indian residential schools;
 - infrastructure projects in Indigenous communities;
 - supporting COVID-19 public health responses (Budget 2022);
 - supporting the implementation of the *Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* and the ongoing reform of the Indigenous Child and Family Services Program; and
 - the continued implementation of Jordan's Principle.

Funding for these initiatives could not be spent in 2022-23 and are expected to be re-profiled to future years when it will be available for the intended purposes.

2022–23 Budgetary actual gross spending summary (dollars)

The following table reconciles gross planned spending with net spending for 2022–23.

Core responsibilities and Internal Services	2022–23 Actual gross spending	2022–23 Actual revenues netted against expenditures	2022–23 Actual net spending (authorities used)
Services and Benefits to Individuals	2,442,049,632	(6,335,709)	2,435,713,923
Health and Social Services	10,670,268,361	0	10,670,268,361
Governance and Community Development Services	7,418,701,952	0	7,418,701,952
Indigenous Self-Determined Services	1,736,060,794	0	1,736,060,794
Subtotal	22,267,080,739	(6,335,709)	22,260,745,030
Internal Services	337,726,139	(42,108,891)	295,617,248
Total	22,604,806,878	(48,444,600)	22,556,362,278

* Revenues mentioned above are for the provision of services or the sale of products related to health protection and medical services; and the provision of internal support services under section 29.2 of the *Financial Administration Act*.

Human resources

The “Human resources summary for core responsibilities and internal services” table presents the full-time equivalents (FTEs) allocated to each of ISC’s core responsibilities and to internal services.

Human resources summary for core responsibilities and Internal Services

Core responsibilities and Internal Services	2020–21 Actual full-time equivalents	2021–22 Actual full-time equivalents	2022–23 Planned full-time equivalents	2022–23 Actual full-time equivalents	2023–24 Planned full-time equivalents	2024–25 Planned full-time equivalents
Services and Benefits to Individuals	1,741	1,818	1,704	1,824	Not applicable ¹	Not applicable ¹
Health and Social Services	1,576	1,800	1,746	2,045	Not applicable ¹	Not applicable ¹
Governance and Community Development Services	1,609	1,658	1,649	1,819	Not applicable ¹	Not applicable ¹
Indigenous Self-Determined Services	0	9	0	14	Not applicable ¹	Not applicable ¹
Indigenous Well-Being and Self-Determination	Not applicable ¹	Not applicable ¹	Not applicable ¹	Not applicable ¹	5,508	4,800
Subtotal	4,926	5,285	5,099	5,702	5,508	4,800
Internal Services*	1,445	1,560	1,516	1,576	1,562	1,405
Total	6,371	6,845	6,615	7,278	7,070	6,205

*Includes shared services for Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

1- The Core Responsibility totals for 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23 are presented as reported under the former Departmental Results Framework which consisted of four Core Responsibilities: Services and Benefits to Individuals, Health and Social Services, Governance and Community Development Services, and Indigenous Self-Determined Services. As of 2023-24, ISC's Departmental Results Framework consists of one Core Responsibility – Indigenous Well-Being and Self-Determination.

For the period from 2020-21 to 2021-22, there is an increase in FTEs primarily due to:

- the department receiving additional resources throughout the year to address the Pandemic, to meet program needs and priorities, and to sustain the program's growing operations;
- additional staffing received to manage the Non-Compliance Motion and regular operations for First Nations Child and Family Services. It also factors in resources received to advance global resolution on compensation and additional resources to implement the C-92 Act.A29;
- funding received through supplementary estimates:
 - to improve health outcomes in Indigenous communities (Budget 2021);
 - related to Sex-Based Inequities in Indian Status Registration (S3);
 - for the continued implementation of Jordan’s Principle;
 - new Off-cycle Mental Wellness funding;

- for infrastructure in Indigenous communities (Budget 2021), the operations and maintenance of infrastructure in First Nations communities on reserve (Budget 2021), infrastructure projects in Indigenous communities.
- the increase is partially offset by variance in FTEs due to timelines in staffing due to turnover, due diligence in hiring, and unexpected vacancies.

Expenditures by vote

For information on Indigenous Services Canada's organizational voted and statutory expenditures, consult the [Public Accounts of Canada](#).^{lv}

Government of Canada spending and activities

Information on the alignment of Indigenous Services Canada's spending with the Government of Canada's spending and activities is available in [GC InfoBase](#).^{xiv}

Financial statements and financial statements highlights

Financial statements

Indigenous Services Canada operates under the legislation set out in the Department of Indigenous Services Act, S.C. 2019, c. 29, s. 336. It reports to Parliament through the Minister of Indigenous Services.

Indigenous Services Canada works collaboratively with partners to improve access to high quality services for First Nations, Inuit and Métis. Our vision is to support and empower Indigenous Peoples to independently deliver services and address the socio-economic conditions in their communities.

Priorities and reporting are aligned under the following core responsibilities:

- a) Services and Benefits to Individuals – Mainly delivered directly to Indigenous Peoples. They include, among other services and benefits, individual First Nations and Inuit clinical care and health-related benefits such as pharmacy, dental and vision care.
- b) Health and Social Services – Primarily delivered in partnership with Indigenous communities and organizations, provinces/territories and agencies. Together, they focus on health and well-being for Indigenous Peoples.
- c) Governance and Community Development Services – Commonly delivered in partnership with Indigenous communities and institutions and are focused on strong community governance and physical foundations.
- d) Indigenous Self-Determined Services – Designed and delivered by Indigenous people for Indigenous people. They include services for which the control, authority and/or jurisdiction has been formally transferred to Indigenous communities or organizations.
- e) Internal Services – are those groups of related activities and resources that the Federal Government considers to be services in support of programs and/or required to meet the corporate obligations of the Department.

Indigenous Services Canada's financial statements (unaudited) for the year ended March 31, 2023, are available on [ISC's website](#).^{lvi}

Financial statement highlights

Condensed Statement of Operations (unaudited)

For the year ended March 31, 2023 (dollars)

Financial information*	2022-23 Planned results**	2022-23 Actual results	2021-22 Actual results (Restated)	Difference (2022-23 Actual results minus 2022-23 Planned results)	Difference (2022-23 Actual results minus 2021-22 Actual results)
Total expenses	18,665,042,018	23,880,087,216	22,768,419,448	5,215,045,198	1,111,667,768
Total revenues	52,077,072	48,829,802	46,239,899	(3,247,270)	2,589,903
Net cost of operations before government funding and transfers	18,612,964,946	23,831,257,414	22,722,179,549	5,218,292,468	1,109,077,865

*Totals may not match financial statements due to rounding.

**Please refer to the Future-Oriented Statement of Operations on Indigenous Services' website.

Expenses

Total expenses were \$23.9 billion in 2022-23 representing an increase of 5% (\$1.1 billion) from the previous year mainly due to an increase in transfer payments of \$1.8 billion related to health and social services, a decrease in operating expenditures of \$1 billion for the provision for contingent liabilities, and an increase in other operating expenditures of \$300 million.

Transfer payments represents 74% (\$17.6 billion) of the total expenses; the majority relate to payments to Indigenous Peoples. Operations expenses represents 26% (\$6.3 billion) of the total expenses.

Significant operating expenses includes:

- Claims, litigation, court awards and other settlements totaling \$3.3 billion (52%);
- Operating expenses for primary health care and supplemental health benefits provided to First Nations and Inuit totaling \$1.7 billion (27%) mainly for materials and supplies, professional and special services and transportation fees, and;
- Operating expenses for departmental activities totaling \$1.3 billion (21%).

Revenues

The department's total revenues for 2022-23 amounted to \$48.8 million representing a similar amount as the previous year.

Condensed Statement of Financial Position (unaudited)
As of March 31, 2023 (dollars)

Financial information*	2022-23	2021-22 (Restated)	Difference (2022-23 minus 2021-22)
Total net liabilities	27,639,198,139	25,591,324,939	2,047,873,200
Total net financial assets	3,128,919,279	2,345,385,999	783,533,280
Departmental net debt	24,510,278,860	23,245,938,940	1,264,339,920
Total non-financial assets	39,639,907	42,500,626	(2,860,719)
Departmental net financial position	(24,470,638,953)	(23,203,438,314)	(1,267,200,639)

*Totals may not match financial statements due to rounding.

Liabilities

Total net liabilities were \$27.6 billion at the end of 2022-23, representing an increase of 8% over the previous year. The provision for contingent liabilities represents the largest portion of total liabilities at \$24 billion (87%). The increase of \$3.3 billion in contingent liabilities is due to a change in estimated liabilities related to claims.

Other significant liabilities include:

- Trust accounts of \$624 million (2%);
- Environmental liabilities and asset retirement obligations of \$489 million (1.8%), and;
- Accounts payable and accrued liabilities of \$2.4 billion (9%).

Net Financial Assets

Total net financial assets at the end of 2022-23 were \$3.1 billion representing an increase of 33% over the previous year. The net financial assets for 2022-23 are mainly comprised of \$3.05 billion in Due From the Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) (98%). The \$780 million increase is a result of timing difference between Payables At Year-End affecting authorities and when the payments are processed out of the CRF.

Non-Financial Assets by Type

Non-financial assets are composed of tangible capital assets totaling \$39.6 million representing an decrease of \$2.9 million (7%). The decrease is mainly due to \$6.3 million of current year amortization of tangible assets offset by an increase of \$3.5 million resulting from the acquisition of tangible assets.

The 2022-23 planned results information is provided in [Indigenous Services Canada's Future-Oriented Statement of Operations and Notes 2022-23](#).^{lvii}

Corporate Information

Organizational profile

Appropriate minister: The Honourable Patty Hajdu

Institutional head: Christiane Fox (September 2020 to July 2022); Gina Wilson (effective July 18, 2022)

Ministerial portfolio: Department of Indigenous Services

Enabling instrument: [Department of Indigenous Services Act, S.C. 2019, c. 29, s.336](#)^{xlix}

Year of incorporation / commencement: 2019

Special operating agency: Indian Oil and Gas Canada

- Enabling instrument: [Indian Oil and Gas Act, S.C., 1985, C.I-7](#)^{lviii}

Adjudicative and advisory bodies: National Indigenous Economic Development Board

Raison d'être, mandate and role: who we are and what we do

[Raison d'être, mandate and role](#)^{lix} is available on the Indigenous Services Canada website.

For more information on the Department's organizational mandate letter commitments, see the mandate letter for the [Minister of Indigenous Services](#).^{lx}

Operating context

Information on the [operating context](#)^{lxi} is available on the Indigenous Services Canada website.

Reporting framework

Indigenous Services Canada's Departmental Results Framework and Program Inventory of record for 2022–23 is shown below.

Core Responsibility 1: Services and Benefits to Individuals			
These services and benefits are mainly delivered directly to Indigenous Peoples by the department. They include, among other services and benefits, individual First Nations and Inuit clinical care and health-related benefits such as pharmacy, dental and vision care. The department is also responsible for determining individuals' entitlement to Indian registration and for the issuance of various proofs of registration, including the Secure Certificate of Indian Status (SCIS), which can be used to access various programs and services.			
Departmental Results	Indicators	Program Inventory	Supporting Government Commitments
Quality and timely services are delivered directly to Indigenous Peoples	Percentage of First Nations adults who rate the quality of health care services delivered in their community as good or excellent	Supplementary Health Benefits Clinical and Client Care	Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action 3, 5, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24
	Percentage of prior approval requests for medication coverage completed within 24 hours	Community Oral Health Services	Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls Calls for Justice
	Percentage of eligible First Nations and Inuit who received at least one non-insured health benefit in a year	Individual Affairs	1.2, 1.8, 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 3.6, 7.2, 7.4, 7.6, 7.7

	Percentage of eligible applicants issued a Secure Certificate of Indian Status within 16 weeks from the application date		United Nations Declaration for Indigenous Peoples Articles 3, 4, 5, 10, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 34, 37
Health services delivered to Indigenous Peoples contribute to improved health outcomes	Percentage of First Nations and Inuit adults who reported being in very good or excellent health		United Nations 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals 1, 16

Core Responsibility 2: Health and Social Services			
These services are primarily delivered in partnership with Indigenous communities and organizations, provinces/territories and agencies. Together, they focus on health and well-being for Indigenous Peoples. They include health services to strengthen Indigenous communities in areas such as healthy living, communicable disease control, healthy child development and community care. They also include social services with an emphasis on children and families, as well as education services from kindergarten to post-secondary.			
Departmental Results	Indicators	Program Inventory	Supporting Government Commitments
Indigenous Peoples and communities are healthier	Active tuberculosis incidence rate among Inuit living in Inuit Nunangat	Jordan's Principle	Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 23, 29, 38, 41, 48, 55, 62 Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls Calls for Justice 1.1, 2.3, 1.6, 1.8, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.6, 3.7, 4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7, 5.4, 5.5, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 7.5, 7.7, 9.3, 9.8, 12.1, 12.2, 12.3, 12.4, 12.6, 12.7, 12.10, 12.11, 16.16, 16.17, 16.18, 16.19, 16.21, 16.25, 16.29, 16.7, 17.12, 17.15, 17.2, 17.23, 17.4, 17.7, 17.16, 17.7, 18.8 Calls for Miskotahâ 23, 62 United Nations Declaration for Indigenous Peoples Articles 1.3, 3, 4, 5, 7, 11, 14, 16, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 31, 34 United Nations 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals 1.3, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 12, 16, 22.2, 24.2
	Active tuberculosis incidence rate among First Nations on reserve	Mental Wellness	
	Rate of newly reported cases of HIV among First Nations	Healthy Living	
	Percentage of First Nations adults with diabetes accessing newer, novel medications and not on insulin	Healthy Child Development	
Indigenous Peoples receive social services that respond to community needs	Percentage of First Nations and Inuit communities with access to mental wellness team services	Home and Community Care	
	Percentage of First Nations communities offering family support services aimed at keeping families together	Health Human Resources	
	Percentage of First Nations children on reserve in care	Environmental Public Health	
	Percentage of residents living on reserve who are supported through Income Assistance	Communicable Disease Control and Management	
	Number of individuals who received services under Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples	Education	
Indigenous students receive an inclusive and quality education	Number of First Nations students who are provided full-day kindergarten services in First Nations administered schools	Income Assistance	
		Assisted Living	
		Family Violence Prevention	

	Percentage of students attending First Nations administered schools who are taught at least one subject in a First Nations language	Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples	
	Percentage of First Nations on reserve students who graduate from secondary school (on-time graduation rate)		
	Percentage of First Nations on reserve students who graduate from secondary school (extended-time graduation rate)		
	Number of funded First Nations students who graduate with a post-secondary degree/diploma/certificate		
	Number of funded Inuit students who graduate with a post-secondary degree/diploma/certificate		
	Number of funded Métis students who graduate with a post-secondary degree/diploma/certificate		
	Number of First Nations under a transformative model (e.g. regional education agreement or school board)		

Core Responsibility 3: Governance and Community Development Services			
These services are commonly delivered in partnership with Indigenous communities and institutions and are focused on strong community governance and physical foundations. They include supports for governance capacity in areas such as community planning and financial management. They also include support for investments in community infrastructure, land and resource management, and economic development.			
Departmental Results	Indicators	Program Inventory	Supporting Government Commitments
Indigenous communities advance their governance capacity	Percentage of First Nations with a completed community-led plan	Health Facilities e-Health Infostructure Health Planning, Quality Management and Systems Integration	Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action 7, 19, 20, 21, 38, 42, 43, 44, 53, 55, 56, 57, 74, 75, 92
Indigenous Peoples have reliable and sustainable infrastructure	Number of long-term drinking water advisories affecting public water systems on reserve	Indigenous Governance and Capacity	Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls Calls for Justice 1.2, 1.8, 3.4, 4.1, 4.2, 4.6, 4.7, 4.8, 7.3, 13.5, 16.5, 16.7, 16.19, 16.29, 17.20, 17.23, 18.25
	Percentage of First Nations housing that is adequate as assessed and reported by First Nations	Water and Wastewater	
	Percentage of First Nations schools with a condition rating of “good” or “new”	Education Facilities Housing	

	Percentage of First Nations health facilities with a condition rating of “good”	Other Community Infrastructure and Activities	United Nations Declaration for Indigenous Peoples Articles 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32, 34, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 46 United Nations 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 23
	Number of First Nations communities located on reserves that rely on Indigenous Services Canada funded diesel for electricity generation	Emergency Management Assistance Indigenous Entrepreneurship and Business Development	
	Percentage of long-term evacuees who have returned home or have a scheduled date within two years after their evacuation	Economic Development Capacity and Readiness	
Land and resources in Indigenous communities are sustainably managed	Percentage of First Nations with community-led Land Use Plans	Land, Natural Resources and Environmental Management Statutory, Legislative and Policy Support to First Nations Governance	
	Percentage of First Nations communities with adequate solid waste management systems		
	Percentage high risk contaminated sites on reserve where clean-up or containment is occurring to reduce risk		
Indigenous communities build economic prosperity	Percentage increase of Indigenous businesses created and/or expanded		
	Percentage of First Nations communities where non-federal government revenues represent 25% or more of total revenues		

Core Responsibility 4: Indigenous Self-Determined Services			
These services are designed and delivered by Indigenous Peoples for Indigenous Peoples. They include services for which the control, authority and/or jurisdiction has been formally transferred to Indigenous communities or organizations, as supported through departmental funding.			
Departmental Results	Indicators	Program Inventory	Supporting Government Commitments
Indigenous Peoples control the design, delivery and management of services	Number of eligible First Nations communities that have opted in to a grant to support the new fiscal relationship	New Fiscal Relationship Self-Determined Services British-Columbia Tripartite Health Governance	Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action 2, 4, 7, 12, 19, 48 Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls Calls for Justice 1.1, 3.6
	Number of First Nations communities that have opted in to a self-determined service agreement		
Indigenous self-determined services are improving outcomes for communities	Average Community Well-Being index score for First Nations communities in a New Fiscal Relationship funding agreement		United Nations Declaration for Indigenous Peoples Articles 3, 4, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 37
	Average Community Well-Being (education score) for First Nations		

	communities in a self-determined services agreement		United Nations 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10
	Percentage of British Columbia First Nations adults reporting that their health is excellent or very good		
	Percentage of First Nations communities with access to mental wellness team services		
	Percentage of residents living on reserve who are supported through Income Assistance		
	Percentage of First Nations on reserve students who graduate from secondary school		
	Percentage of First Nations housing that is adequate as assessed and reported by First Nations		

Supporting information on the program inventory

Financial, human resources and performance information for Indigenous Services Canada's Program Inventory is available in [GC InfoBase](#).^{lxii}

Supplementary information tables

The following supplementary information tables are available on Indigenous Services Canada's website:

- ▶ [Reporting on Green Procurement](#)^{lxiii}
- ▶ [Details on Transfer Payment Programs](#)^{lxiv}
- ▶ [Gender-based Analysis Plus](#)^{lxv}
- ▶ [Horizontal Initiative - Support for Indigenous Housing](#)^{lxvi}
- ▶ [United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals](#)^{lxvii}
- ▶ [Response to Parliamentary Committees and External Audits](#)^{lxviii}

Federal tax expenditures

The tax system can be used to achieve public policy objectives through the application of special measures such as low tax rates, exemptions, deductions, deferrals and credits. The Department of Finance Canada publishes cost estimates and projections for these measures each year in the [Report on Federal Tax Expenditures](#).^{lxix} This report also provides detailed background information on tax expenditures, including descriptions, objectives, historical information and references to related federal spending programs as well as evaluations and GBA Plus of tax expenditures.

Organizational contact information

Indigenous Services Canada
10 Wellington Street, Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0H4
Telephone: 1-800-567-9604
Fax: 1-866-817-3977
Email: infopubs@sac-isc.gc.ca
Website: <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada.html>

Appendix: definitions

appropriation (*crédit*)

Any authority of Parliament to pay money out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

budgetary expenditures (*dépenses budgétaires*)

Operating and capital expenditures; transfer payments to other levels of government, organizations or individuals; and payments to Crown corporations.

core responsibility (*responsabilité essentielle*)

An enduring function or role performed by a department. The intentions of the department with respect to a core responsibility are reflected in one or more related departmental results that the department seeks to contribute to or influence.

Departmental Plan (*plan ministériel*)

A report on the plans and expected performance of an appropriated department over a 3-year period. Departmental Plans are usually tabled in Parliament each spring.

departmental priority (*priorité*)

A plan or project that a department has chosen to focus and report on during the planning period. Priorities represent the things that are most important or what must be done first to support the achievement of the desired departmental results.

departmental result (*résultat ministériel*)

A consequence or outcome that a department seeks to achieve. A departmental result is often outside departments' immediate control, but it should be influenced by program-level outcomes.

departmental result indicator (*indicateur de résultat ministériel*)

A quantitative measure of progress on a departmental result.

departmental results framework (*cadre ministériel des résultats*)

A framework that connects the department's core responsibilities to its departmental results and departmental result indicators.

Departmental Results Report (*rapport sur les résultats ministériels*)

A report on a department's actual accomplishments against the plans, priorities and expected results set out in the corresponding Departmental Plan.

full-time equivalent (*équivalent temps plein*)

A measure of the extent to which an employee represents a full person-year charge against a departmental budget. For a particular position, the full-time equivalent figure is the ratio of number of hours the person actually works divided by the standard number of hours set out in the person's collective agreement.

Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA Plus) (*analyse comparative entre les sexes plus [ACS Plus]*)

An analytical tool used to support the development of responsive and inclusive policies, programs and other initiatives; and understand how factors such as sex, race, national and ethnic origin, Indigenous

origin or identity, age, sexual orientation, socio-economic conditions, geography, culture and disability, impact experiences and outcomes, and can affect access to and experience of government programs.

government-wide priorities (*priorités pangouvernementales*)

For the purpose of the 2022–23 Departmental Results Report, government-wide priorities are the high-level themes outlining the government’s agenda in the [November 23, 2021, Speech from the Throne](#): building a healthier today and tomorrow; growing a more resilient economy; bolder climate action; fighter harder for safer communities; standing up for diversity and inclusion; moving faster on the path to reconciliation; and fighting for a secure, just and equitable world.

horizontal initiative (*initiative horizontale*)

An initiative where two or more federal organizations are given funding to pursue a shared outcome, often linked to a government priority.

non-budgetary expenditures (*dépenses non budgétaires*)

Net outlays and receipts related to loans, investments and advances, which change the composition of the financial assets of the Government of Canada.

performance (*rendement*)

What an organization did with its resources to achieve its results, how well those results compare to what the organization intended to achieve, and how well lessons learned have been identified.

performance indicator (*indicateur de rendement*)

A qualitative or quantitative means of measuring an output or outcome, with the intention of gauging the performance of an organization, program, policy or initiative respecting expected results.

performance reporting (*production de rapports sur le rendement*)

The process of communicating evidence-based performance information. Performance reporting supports decision making, accountability and transparency.

plan (*plan*)

The articulation of strategic choices, which provides information on how an organization intends to achieve its priorities and associated results. Generally, a plan will explain the logic behind the strategies chosen and tend to focus on actions that lead to the expected result.

planned spending (*dépenses prévues*)

For Departmental Plans and Departmental Results Reports, planned spending refers to those amounts presented in Main Estimates.

A department is expected to be aware of the authorities that it has sought and received. The determination of planned spending is a departmental responsibility, and departments must be able to defend the expenditure and accrual numbers presented in their Departmental Plans and Departmental Results Reports.

program (*programme*)

Individual or groups of services, activities or combinations thereof that are managed together within the department and focus on a specific set of outputs, outcomes or service levels.

program inventory (*répertoire des programmes*)

Identifies all the department's programs and describes how resources are organized to contribute to the department's core responsibilities and results.

result (*résultat*)

A consequence attributed, in part, to an organization, policy, program or initiative. Results are not within the control of a single organization, policy, program or initiative; instead they are within the area of the organization's influence.

Indigenous business (*entreprise autochtones*)

For the purpose of the *Directive on the Management of Procurement Appendix E: Mandatory Procedures for Contracts Awarded to Indigenous Businesses* and the Government of Canada's commitment that a mandatory minimum target of 5% of the total value of contracts is awarded to Indigenous businesses, an organization that meets the definition and requirements as defined by the [Indigenous Business Directory](#).

statutory expenditures (*dépenses législatives*)

Expenditures that Parliament has approved through legislation other than appropriation acts. The legislation sets out the purpose of the expenditures and the terms and conditions under which they may be made.

target (*cible*)

A measurable performance or success level that an organization, program or initiative plans to achieve within a specified time period. Targets can be either quantitative or qualitative.

voted expenditures (*dépenses votées*)

Expenditures that Parliament approves annually through an appropriation act. The vote wording becomes the governing conditions under which these expenditures may be made.

Endnotes

- ⁱ Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action, https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/british-columbians-our-governments/indigenous-people/aboriginal-peoples-documents/calls_to_action_english2.pdf
- ⁱⁱ Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls Calls for Justice, https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Calls_for_Justice.pdf
- ⁱⁱⁱ United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP_E_web.pdf
- ^{iv} Indigenous Community Support Fund, <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1585189335380/1585189357198>
- ^v Non-Insured Health Benefits Program, <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1572537161086/1572537234517>
- ^{vi} Visions for Distinctions-based Indigenous Health Legislation, <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1667579335081/1667579367781>
- ^{vii} ISC Gender-based Analysis Plus Supplementary Information Table, <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1686153263981/1686153290355>
- ^{viii} 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>
- ^{ix} United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>
- ^x Sustainable Development Goal 3 – Good Health and Well-Being, <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal3>
- ^{xi} Sustainable Development Goal 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal16>
- ^{xii} ISC United Nations 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals Supplementary Information Table, <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1686155544941/1686155587245>
- ^{xiii} GC InfoBase, Indigenous Services Canada Results, <https://www.tbs-sct.canada.ca/ems-sgd/edb-bdd/index-eng.html#infographic/dept/348/results>
- ^{xiv} GC InfoBase, Indigenous Services Canada Finances, <https://www.tbs-sct.canada.ca/ems-sgd/edb-bdd/index-eng.html#infographic/dept/348/financial>
- ^{xv} GC Infobase, Indigenous Services Canada Human Resources, <https://www.tbs-sct.canada.ca/ems-sgd/edb-bdd/index-eng.html#infographic/dept/348/people>
- ^{xvi} United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/U-2.2/page-1.html>
- ^{xvii} Indigenous Shelter and Transitional Housing Initiative, <https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/professionals/project-funding-and-mortgage-financing/funding-programs/all-funding-programs/shelter-and-transitional-housing-initiative-for-indigenous>
- ^{xviii} Tavva Inuit Sexual Health Strategy, <https://pauktuutit.ca/health/sexual-health/tavva-national-inuit-sexual-health-strategy/>
- ^{xix} An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families, <https://laws.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/F-11.73/index.html>
- ^{xx} Hope for Wellness Helpline, <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1576089519527/1576089566478>
- ^{xxi} Indian Residential Schools Resolution Health Support Program, <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1581971225188/1581971250953>
- ^{xxii} Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls Crisis Line, <https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/contact/>
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