



Men's Healing Fund

Request for Expression of Interest
For Community Driven Programming

TERMS OF REFERENCE



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Men’s Healing Fund

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1.0 PROGRAM IDENTIFICATION

Title: Men’s Healing Fund
Location: All Regions in the Northwest Territories Program
Department: Community Justice and Policing, Department of Justice

2.0 MEN’S HEALING FUND LEAD

The following contract authority will be the main point of contact for the program.

Manager, Survivor Supports
Community Justice & Policing, Department of Justice (867) 767-9261, ext. 82220
Email: victimservices@gov.nt.ca

3.0 PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

The Government of the Northwest Territories is engaging in a collaborative community program delivery model that will encourage community-driven restorative solutions to support men’s healing; recognizing that communities are diverse and hold self-determined knowledge about what is required for healing. The model supports sustainable community growth through a holistic, strength-based, and community-led process with the principles of cultural competence at its core.

4.0 BACKGROUND

The Northwest Territories (NWT) is geographically large and sparsely populated making service delivery challenging. The NWT is composed of 33 communities spread over more than one million square kilometers. The NWT is rich in heritage and traditions and home to three distinct Indigenous groups, Dene, Inuit, and Metis. The NWT recognizes nine official Indigenous languages, as well as French and English, through its Official Languages Act.

The number of reported crimes in the NWT increased steadily over the past twenty years from 14,733 incidents in 2002 to 26,613 in 2021. Since 2018, there has been a significant increase in the reported numbers of sexual assaults, violent assaults, and property crimes. Reported family violence crimes and sexual assaults are very high in the NWT and many incidents are unreported.



The incidence of intimate partner violence (IPV) in the NWT is reported by Statistics Canada to be over 8 times the national average and the Northwest Territories consistently records one of the highest rates of violence against women in the country. On a per capita basis, reported crimes tended to be higher amongst detachments in the Tłı̄chǫ, Beaufort Delta and Dehcho regions and lower in the Yellowknife and South Slave regions.

Many communities in the NWT have voiced concerns over the years about the high rates of income inequality and poverty, addictions, lack of safe and affordable housing and shelters options that lead to negative impacts on health, mental health, and domestic and intimate partner violence in the NWT. Communities have called for recognition that both victims and offenders are victims of marginalization and systemic racism and require programs and resources to support compassion and healing. Many legislative assemblies have given voice to the issue and made calls for change.

By taking a restorative approach, the Department of Justice aims to support the development of community base healing programs for men that will increase community based responses to support the prevention of family and intimate violence. In a study on the realities of IPV in the NWT, the Aurora Research Institute (ARI, 2017) found community stakeholders felt strongly that community healing would be the most successful if it originated from the community and is tailored to the uniqueness that each emulates.

5.0 PURPOSE AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Department of Justice is seeking to fund community organizations to deliver community-based men’s healing programs throughout the NWT. The principles of the Men’s Healing Fund include self-determination, autonomy, collaboration, innovation, progress, dignity, strength, flexibility, respect, hope and belonging. These principles share significant overlap with the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as well as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission insights. Employing a community-driven design and delivery model ensures community ownership and a continued commitment to local needs, culture and knowledge systems. Programs are intended to support culturally safe, responsive, and strengths-based approaches.

6.0 PROCESS

Organizations will submit program proposals via the attached Men’s Healing Fund application form. Selected programs will be approved by a Men’s Healing Fund committee based on the terms of reference developed to include broad, evidence-based themes mandated by the Department of Justice. Selected programs will receive funding that will be distributed throughout the Territory, taking into consideration support from community agencies and leaders, the target audience, the scope of the program proposal



and the potential longevity of the program effect.

Communities will be requested to report on program participation, document positive changes observed because of their program/initiative and share that information with the Department of Justice to allow for an evaluation of the best practices and lessons learned from the program.

7.0 PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The *Men’s Healing Fund* has the following specific objectives:

- Create space for men’s voices to self-define visions of themselves, what they wish, and how they want to get there;
- Assist men to take ownership of their own healing journey;
- Foster safer, healthier relationships with their partners, children, and their communities;
- Focus on holistic wellbeing of men, taking into account their social, spiritual and emotional needs;
- Provide a safe men’s space for healing, meetings, activities, etc.;
- Inspire men to take on leadership roles;
- Decrease the normalization of family violence;
- Connect participants to services designed to support them through community-based partnerships and coordination.

Some examples of actions that can be introduced or expanded to support men’s healing.

Category	Examples of Potential Actions or Programming
Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public awareness campaigns to inform and educate the public about negative consequences of the issues of drug, addiction, crimes, and violence on men. • Education programs delivered to support men. • Activity-based programs (e.g., computer, recreation-based programs, drop-in centres or On the Land Programs) intended to support healthy youth or men’s programming. • Mentoring programs (matching male youths with older youth or Elders).
Intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellness and mental health programs for men or male youths • Substance abuse and addiction services/counselling and mentoring for men or male youths. • Housing programs for hard-to-house individuals to facilitate access to stable and safe living environments and access to other supportive services for men or male youths • Implement outreach-based programs to develop and maintain relationships with at-risk and high-risk adult men or male youths.



Category	Examples of Potential Actions or Programming
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specialty programs (e.g., healing options or men’s groups).
Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establishing a committee consisting of GNWT, RCMP, community, Indigenous governments, and non-government organizations focused on planning, coordinating, and evaluating efforts to support men’s and healing.• Work that supports addressing silos and better coordinating the development and delivery of programs and services between departments, community stakeholders and non-profit groups. Advocate for interagency committees, ensuring they have the resources to be effective.• Development of community or regional hub models, that community agencies and departments meet to identify issues of elevated risk and mobilize resources.

8.0 BUDGET

Organizations within the same community are encouraged to submit collaboratively developed proposals as only one agreement per community will be awarded in this fiscal year. The approved funding for 2023-2024 distribution is \$300,000, which will be divided amongst selected proposals. Organizations are also welcome to seek additional sources of funding to enhance their program.

9.0 CONSTRAINTS

Approved program proposal organizations will enter into a Contribution Agreement with the Department of Justice. Administrative requirements will include schedules of financial reporting, narrative updates and monitoring of program activities and simple performance measurement data collection initiatives outlined by the GNWT quality assurance process. Standardized program reporting templates and a reporting and payment schedule will be provided once an agreement is signed by both parties. Support from Department of Justice staff will be available for informal reporting and update requirements as and when needed by organizations.

10.0 DELIVERABLES

The expected deliverables for this program are:

1. Community organizations provide an annual financial and narrative report on the men’s healing program for their community that link to three or more of the goals and objectives achieved as a result of the program.
2. Documenting and sharing Wise Practices learned about men’s healing.
3. Documenting and sharing challenges and lessons learned about men’s healing.



11.0 SCHEDULE

The proposed schedule for the 2023-2024 fiscal year is as follows:

Expressions of Interest will be advertised with a deadline of Oct. 16, 2023 to receive all applications. Depending on funding that remains, applications may be accepted and selected on a continual basis throughout the 2023-2024 fiscal year until the \$300,000 has been dispersed in its entirety;

The Men's Healing Fund committee will review and score the packages, make its selection, and notify the successful applicants of the selection prior to the date of the program start;

All funded programs will be completed on or before March 31, 2024;

All funded programs will be evaluated in the four weeks following the end date of the program.

12.0 DOCUMENT LIST

To submit your expression of interest, please send the following documents:

- ✓ Men's Healing Fund Application Form and budget
- ✓ Letter of Good Standing for each involved organization
- ✓ Liability insurance
- ✓ Letters of Reference for program facilitators
- ✓ Letter of support from community leadership

Send to: victimservices@gov.nt.ca or

Mail to:

Community Justice
Department of Justice
Government of the Northwest Territories
PO Box 1320
Yellowknife NT, X1A 2L9

END OF TERMS OF REFERENCE