



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Counselling Program

What is the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) Inquiry?

In response to calls for action from Indigenous families, communities and organizations, as well as non-governmental and international organizations, the Government of Canada launched an entirely independent National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) in September 2016. The goal of the inquiry is to examine and report on the systemic causes of all forms of violence against Indigenous women and girls in Canada by looking at patterns and underlying factors. For more information, visit the [MMIWG website](#).

What kind of support is offered to women and girls participating in the inquiry?

The MMIWG Inquiry provides supports to families at all of their scheduled hearings. In recognition that health support is needed beyond the hearings themselves, on June 5, 2018, the Government of Canada announced \$21.3 million in additional funding to expand health supports to the families of MMIWG. The proposed services include mental health, cultural, and emotional supports.

How is FNHA providing support to MMIWG?

FNHA is administering the BC portion of the \$21.3 million in additional funding announced by the Government of Canada on June 5, 2018. FNHA is providing cultural and traditional supports, as well as mental health counselling services. FNHA's MMIWG Health Support Services will be delivered through FNHA's Health Benefit team by FNHA's existing mental health provider network. All of these mental health providers have the experience and cultural safety training needed to support First Nations and Aboriginal people in BC.

When did FNHA begin offering MMIWG Health Support Services?

The additional funding to expand health supports for the families of MMIWG was announced by the Government of Canada on June 5, 2018. FNHA's MMIWG Health Support Services were launched on July 17, 2018. These services will support families until June 2020.

Am I eligible to access MMIWG Health Support Services?

To access MMIWG counselling in BC, you must be a survivor, family member, or individual affected by the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. You do not need to have status and can live on- or off-reserve.

How do I access MMIWG counselling?

If you would like access to MMIWG counselling simply contact a mental health provider registered with FNHA. This list of registered providers is current as of July 5, 2018 and is updated regularly. Once you have contacted a mental health provider, the provider will set up an appointment and work directly with FNHA's Health Benefits team to ensure that you receive coverage for the support you need.

Who do I contact if I have a question?

If you have questions about mental health providers or how to access counselling services, please contact Health Benefits' toll free number 1-877-477-0775. The team is available Monday to Friday 8 am to 4 pm.

How many hours of counselling are covered under MMIWG Health Support Services?

MMIWG Health Support Services covers up to 20 one-hour counselling sessions over a 12-month period, in addition to the initial assessment. Should the counsellor and client identify the need for additional counselling, a new Prior Approval Form can be submitted for additional sessions.

Do I need to register with FNHA to access MMIWG counselling?

No, you do not need to register with FNHA to access counselling through the MMIWG Health Support Services. If you have questions about how to access counselling services, please contact Health Benefits' toll free number 1-877-477-0775. The team is available Monday to Friday 8 am to 4 pm.

Can I access more than one FNHA mental health counselling program at the same time?

All of our counselling programs use the same list of registered mental health providers, so there is no need to access more than one mental health program at the same time. If you have any questions about FNHA mental health benefits, please contact Health Benefits' toll free number 1-877-477-0775.

Can I access a dedicated help line?

Yes, if you are affected by MMIWG, are in distress, and require immediate emotional assistance you can call the National 24/7 MMIWG crisis line at 1-844-413-6649.

