



## MVAEC JUSTICE ROUNDTABLE



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Cultural alienation and intergenerational trauma caused by policies such as the residential school system, removal of Indigenous children from their families during the 60s scoop and ongoing child welfare practices, have affected relationships and contributed to the erosion of familial and community ties.



Many inquiries, commissions, task forces and research studies have made direct links between the historical and ongoing colonial laws, policies, processes, systems and the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the Canadian criminal justice system.

Colonialism has led to cultural alienation, territorial dispossession, intergenerational trauma, systemic discrimination, and socio-economic marginalization, which together continue to have profoundly negative impacts on the lives of many Indigenous people today. Cultural alienation and intergenerational trauma caused by policies such as the residential school system, removal of Indigenous children from their families during the 60s scoop and ongoing child welfare practices, have affected relationships and contributed to the erosion of familial and community ties. This has had complex and tragic results, with ongoing consequences for many, such as high rates of serious physical health problems, issues with mental health and cognitive impairment, suicide, physical and sexual abuse, alcohol and drug abuse, interpersonal violence, family breakdown, and involvement both as victims/survivors and accused/convicted persons in the criminal justice system.

### **MVAEC Position on Justice**

Our peoples have survived the colonial oppressive laws, policies, programs and services; and we continue to move forward building our urban Indigenous governing institutions, leading to self-determination, and self-sufficiency. We continue to implement our traditional laws, spirituality, culture, stories and lessons passed on through our Knowledge Keepers and Elders to enrich our younger generation.

As Indigenous people we are all affected by social injustices. However, some Urban Indigenous organizations focus specifically on in/justice, while others provide services indirectly. We can coordinate our efforts and communications more efficiently for Urban Indigenous strategies when we understand who will provide various services.

The work becomes achievable when executive directors can determine with certainty what time, money, and people they have to start the work, and what resources are needed to move the work forward because there are two aspects of inequity within the MVAEC community. First, as indicated in the stats, there is the inequity experienced by the general population. Second, is the inequity experienced by the Urban Indigenous executive community who struggle to meet the human needs of individuals and families, as well as the organizational demand to deliver services, while competing for program funding.



## Data on Indigenous Injustice

Indigenous people are overrepresented in the Canadian criminal justice system as both victims/survivors and accused/convicted individuals. For example, in 2014, a significantly higher proportion of Indigenous than non-Indigenous people in Canada (aged 15+) reported being victimized in the previous year (28% vs. 18%)<sup>1</sup>.

In 2016/2017, Indigenous adults accounted for 30% of provincial/territorial custody admissions, 27% of federal custody admissions, and 27% of the federal in-custody population, while representing 4.1% of the Canadian adult population.

At the same time, Indigenous youth accounted for 50% of custody admissions, while representing 8% of the Canadian youth population. These proportions have been trending upwards for over 10 years.

From the perspective of MVAEC, these statistics represent the struggle in the daily lives of Indigenous people that can be overlooked in discussions on reconciliation. To integrate these statistics, or human lives, into all of our efforts, we can turn these stats into measures of our progress on reconciliation, and the restoration of Indigenous justice.

## Measurements on Reconciliation and Restoration of Indigenous Justice

Reconciliation is at risk of remaining performative if we do not attach goals, targets, and measurements on progress to inequities experienced by Indigenous people in their daily lives, especially Indigenous youth, who we are failing horribly.

### Community Safety and Victimization

**Action #1:** Reduce the victimization of Indigenous people from 28% to 25% by 2026, and then to 20% by 2030.

**Action #2:** The MVAEC Justice Roundtable can host bi-annual meetings to build a stronger data relationship between MVAEC members and allies. Creating space to determine who is collecting data on the victimization of Indigenous people across Metro Vancouver. Learn as a community how to translate the information into organizational goals.

**Action #3:** Determine the capacity needs of MVAEC organizations to gather information on Indigenous inequities in the justice system, analyze the information, and how to work together to overcome inequities.

### Adult Admissions into the Justice System

**Action #1:** Reduce the number of Indigenous adults entering provincial custody from 30% to 25% by 2026, then 20% by 2030.

**Action #2:** Reduce the number of Indigenous adults entering federal custody from 27% to 23% by 2026, then 20% by 2030.

### Reconciliation and Restoration of Indigenous Justice with Our Indigenous Youth

**Action #1:** Do everything possible to identify where the gaps are in preventing youth from entering the justice system.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.justice.gc.ca/socjs-esjp/en/ind-aut/uo-cs>  
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