



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY BUILDING: MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS MONUMENT PUBLIC USE POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

The Legislative Assembly unveiled the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) monument in front of the Legislative Assembly building on October 4, 2023. Thoughtfully designed by Inuvialuit artist Myrna Pokiak, the monument serves as a sacred place for families to sit with their loved ones, honour those who have fallen, and recognize the injustices experienced by Indigenous women, girls, and 2-spirited people. It is a place to share in the healing journey and is a permanent fixture that will raise awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

This policy sets out the parameters and criteria that must be met for public use of the monument site. It is also the process through which applications can be made, considered and, if approved, put into effect. Certain definitions are also contained herein and apply in relation to this policy.

3. PURPOSE & SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to outline the framework and guidelines for the public use of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2-Spirited People (MMIWG) monument located outside the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly building. This policy applies to all individuals or groups who wish to use the MMIWG monument space for gatherings, ceremonies, or public commemorations. It outlines the criteria for application and approval processes and provides guidance on maintaining the monument's sanctity as a dedicated space for remembrance and healing.

4. DEFINITIONS

In this policy:

- a) Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (**MMIWG**) **Monument** means the monument and surrounding area including the benches and fire pit that circle the monument.

- b) **Occasion** On any day, the fire may be lit between the hours of 9am-12:00pm.
- c) **Year** means a calendar year (1 January to 31 December).
- d) **Speaker** is the position that presides over the Office of the Legislative Assembly, pursuant to s. 53 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*.
- e) **Board of Management** is the Legislative Assembly's Board of Management pursuant to s. 36 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* and is responsible for setting the regulations and policies for all services to be provided to Members.

5. AUTHORITY

This Policy is issued under the authority of the Board of Management. The authority to make exceptions and approve revisions to this Policy rests with the Board of Management.

6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Policy was approved by the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly's Board of Management on March 9, 2024.

7. MMIWG MONUMENT USE CRITERIA

- a) To ensure that the use of the monument is appropriate, and in line with the purpose, intent, and dignity of the monument, certain parameters and criteria have been agreed to by the Board of Management.
- b) The occasions on which the fire will be lit will include:
 - i. **February (last Wednesday):** Anti-bullying Day/Pink Shirt Day
 - ii. **March 8:** International Women's Day
 - iii. **May 5:** National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
 - iv. **May 11:** Moose Hide Day
 - v. **May 17:** International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia
 - vi. **June 21:** National Indigenous Peoples Day
 - vii. **September 30:** National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
 - viii. **October 4:** National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls & Gender Diverse People
 - ix. **November 25:** International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
 - x. **December 6:** National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

- c) Requests to use the monument may be made by any community, non-profit organization, or individual.
- d) Approval will be given only when the request is in connection with one or more of the following:
 - i. An event of exceptional local, national, or international significance
 - ii. A significant anniversary or event of remembrance to honour a loved one.
 - iii. An event being held in the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly building.
 - iv. The Speaker may authorize special use of the monument in exceptional circumstances.
- e) Requests for use of the monument will not be approved where:
 - i. It is outside designated hours for use of the monument, and/or
 - ii. Is not in keeping with the purpose and dignity of the monument.

8. PROCESS

- a) Requests for use of the monument should be made on a special event recognition form, which is available from the Speakers Office. The completed application form must be received **no later than one (1) week before the date(s) on which special event recognition is being sought.**
- b) Each request will be evaluated by the Office of the Clerk, who will consider whether it meets the requirements of this Policy and make a recommendation to the Speaker on whether it should be approved or denied with the reasons thereof.
- c) The Speaker will make a decision as soon as possible. Once a decision has been made, the requestor will be advised as soon as possible thereafter. Where approval has been given, the necessary arrangements will be put in place.

9. CANCELLATION

- a) The Speaker may, at their discretion and with or without notice, cancel any approved requests for monument use.
- b) Permission to use the fire pit may be canceled due to a fire ban.

10. ACCOUNTABILITY

- a) The Office of the Clerk is responsible for the actions related to MMIWG monument use outlined in this Policy.