



CANADIAN RED CROSS: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES FRAMEWORK

The Canadian Red Cross is committed to reconciliation and the humanitarian principles that underline all our work. Through all programs, the Red Cross works to support the process of reconciliation and recognize the diversity of Indigenous communities.

The Canadian Red Cross is implementing the Indigenous Peoples Framework to deliver culturally appropriate and relevant assistance and programs in partnership with Indigenous leadership. The Red Cross can provide technical guidance and recommend good practice to support capacity building, promote safer communities, and further enhance resiliencies of Indigenous populations in Canada.

Lessons learned from the Canadian Red Cross Society's service delivery and partnerships, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous peoples contribute to the *Framework*.

PURPOSE

The Red Cross aims to improve access to Canadian Red Cross services and meet our humanitarian commitments outlined within Canadian Red Cross Strategy 2020. This strategy recognizes the need to respond to the changing needs of communities across Canada and highlights that this will be done by:

- Developing a network of strong relationships;
- Meaningfully engaging with First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities;
- Cultivating a strong Indigenous volunteer and staff base;
- Being flexible and adaptable; and
- Being a strong voice for those affected by humanitarian crises.

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

'Do no harm' (protection)

The principle of 'do no harm' is the basic obligation of organizations to ensure that no harm occurs because of the intention or impact of Red Cross programs and services. This is done by having a strong understanding the context of where we work and by undertaking humanitarian diplomacy in partnership with the communities we serve.

Humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy

The Canadian Red Cross has a responsibility to raise awareness and use our voice to raise concerns and foster solutions in partnership with communities. The Red Cross, as auxiliary to government, takes a holistic approach to address issues, advocate, and take action on behalf of vulnerable populations.

GOAL

Guided by the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross Movement, the Red Cross aims to foster respectful and collaborative relationships to build safer communities and meet the aspirations and needs of Indigenous Peoples to benefit future generations.

FOUR PILLARS OF OUR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES FRAMEWORK AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Commitment to reconciliation:

The Red Cross is committed to reconciliation in all parts of our work, and comprises:

- A long-term commitment: recognizing that our commitment is for action and change into the future
- Action-based: recognition and commitment to clear and actionable outcomes
- Relationship-focused: collaboration and partnership is central to our work

Cultural safety:

Red Cross staff and volunteers are committed to a standard of service that is culturally safe and does no harm to the communities we work with. Recognizing that individuals have their own bias/experiences, our personal commitments to reconciliation start with humility, this includes:

- A holistic approach to programs and services to include attention to physical, cultural, spiritual, emotional and social wellbeing, community capacity and resiliency
- Information, including traditional knowledge and research data, is used in a way that is respectful to the community and upholds the Tri-Council Principles together with community based Indigenous ethical guidelines
 - Funding is pursued in a way that respects both community and Canadian Red Cross ethics and principles



Collaboration with Indigenous leadership, communities, organizations, and partners:

Indigenous led and community driven efforts build resilience and capacity to prevent and respond to humanitarian crisis and disasters.

The Red Cross recognizes we are far more effective together than apart.

Planning and monitoring of activities is done in partnership with Indigenous communities to ensure accountability and shared responsibility.

Community-based service delivery that acknowledges First Nation, Métis and Inuit sovereignty, nation-to-nation relationships, and supports the development of local capacity:

The Red Cross recognizes that First Nations, Métis and Inuit are independent nations with their own political structures. The community is at the centre of all initiatives including decision making on programming to ensure programs are sustainable and result in increased community capacity and build on resiliency.