



Background

In 2024, nine Indigenous people were killed by police across Canada in a 20-day period (Aug. 29 – Sept. 18, 2024). This unbelievable statistic illuminated the deadly reality of police violence Indigenous families face every day.

In October 2024, several Indigenous and Black families gathered on Parliament Hill to demand action against police violence and its enduring impacts. Indigenous families from B.C. joined the [call for a national public inquiry](#) into police-involved deaths of Indigenous people.

In December 2024, the Assembly of First Nations passed a resolution and [called for a national inquiry](#) into systemic racism in policing.

The BCAFN resolution stated that “despite 20 individual inquiries and commissions into the police and justice system since 1989, the federal government has failed to make substantive changes to address systemic racism within the RCMP and other agencies.”

BCFNJC launched the Police Accountability Unit as a pilot project that same year, in response to the longstanding issue of police violence and direct asks from community.

Quick facts

- As of May 2026, the PAU had 83 active files, 114 closed files, 27 files at various stages of the intake process.
- Among active files, 22 files (33%) involve municipal police departments, and 58 files (67%) involve RCMP.
- Among active files, 35 files (56%) involve use of force, eight files (21%) involve illegal arrest and detention, 11 files (21%) involve illegal search and seizure, and six files (10%) involve wellness checks (files addressing more than one element of misconduct or negligence, are included in multiple categories).
- Indigenous people are 10 times more likely than a white person in Canada to have been shot and killed by a police officer since 2017 ([analysis](#)).
- Indigenous people make up 5.1% of Canada's population but 16.2% of the total number of police-involved deaths ([read more](#)).
- [Strategy 7](#) of the [BC First Nations Justice Strategy](#) relates to advancing legislative and policy development to ensure there is a strong independent oversight and accountability function regarding the justice system and Indigenous people.
- BCFNJC's legal and support services include: 16 [Indigenous Justice Centres](#), one [Indigenous Diversion Centre](#), [Gladue Services](#), and the Police Accountability Unit.

Accessing Services

Any Indigenous person affected by police action in B.C. can find more information and reach out to the PAU [here](#).