



SARVAC Indigenous Awareness Campaign

(For Humanitarian Workforce (HWF) Responders)

Why This Matters

The Search and Rescue Volunteer Association of Canada (SARVAC) operates in diverse communities across what we now call Canada. To deliver ethical, effective, and culturally safe Search and Rescue support, all responders must be equipped with foundational knowledge of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis histories, cultures, and protocols.

This awareness campaign reflects SARVAC's commitment to Reconciliation, trauma-informed practice, and the safety of both communities and responders.

Campaign Goal

Ensure 100% of active SARVAC HWF responders complete priority Indigenous Awareness training before or during deployment. Encourage deeper learning through accessible resources, role-specific materials, and community-led knowledge.

Who This Is For

All SARVAC HWF Responders and affiliated GSAR volunteers, including:

- NIST (National Incident Support Team)
- MIST (Mission Incident Support Team)
- PMWT (Peer Mental Wellness Team)
- MIST RC (Response Coordinators)
- IUL (Indigenous Unit Leads)
- Other supporting personnel

What's Required

Priority Training:

- Restoring the Circle – NWAC

Additional Required Resources (All Responders):

- Teach the Genocide – NWAC
- Indigenous Ally Toolkit – Legacy of Hope
- Emergency Management Fact Sheet – NWAC
- Culture Card – ISC

Role-Specific Resources (For MIST/NIST and IULs):

- Compiled Calls to Action / UNDRIP / MMIWG Reports
- Cultural Competency Toolkit – Assembly of First Nations
- Culturally Safe Spaces – Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada
- Métis Culture & Traditions – Rupertsland Institute (selected sections)

Optional Enrichment (Recommended for All):

Podcasts, webinars, and case studies (see “Videos” and “Resources” sections at <https://sarvachwf.ca/indigenous-resources/>)

How to Track Your Completion

Use the printable tracking sheet:

<https://sarvachwf.ca/indigenous-resources/>

- “Restoring the Circle” also includes its own internal tracking option.
- MIST/NIST/IULs should track completion of role-specific resources as well.
- Certificates (if provided) can be saved or submitted per team lead guidance.

Need Help or Have Questions?

Reach out to the Indigenous & Partner Relations Coordinator (IPRC):

✉ Indigenous-partnerrelations@sarvac.ca

🔗 Visit: <https://sarvachwf.ca>

Quick Links

- All Resources & Downloads: <https://sarvachwf.ca/indigenous-resources>
- Wellness Supports: <https://sarvachwf.ca/mental-wellness>