



HUMANITARIAN WORKFORCE
MAIN D'OEUVRE HUMAINITAIRE

SARVAC Responder Indigenous Training – Frequently Asked Questions

These FAQs support SARVAC's Indigenous Awareness Campaign. They reflect the SARVAC's commitment to cultural safety, professional preparedness, Decolonization, and Reconciliation.

Who should take these courses or read these resources?

Any GSAR volunteer in what we now call Canada can benefit from these materials—especially those planning to deploy with SARVAC's Humanitarian Workforce Program (HWF).

If you hold a specific role (e.g., MIST, PMWT), or if you have not had significant exposure to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis histories and issues, this training is especially important.

When and how long will they take?

Estimated durations are listed at <https://sarvachwf.ca/indigenous-resources>. Times will vary by individual.

Recommended timing:

- Complete longer/online-only courses (e.g. Restoring the Circle) before deployment.
- Other resources can be read anytime—some even during transit.
- Role-specific or region-specific content is best reviewed just before or during deployment.

Why is this training important?

This training supports culturally safe, respectful SAR operations by:

- Addressing gaps in understanding of Canada's colonial history and its present-day impacts.
- Helping responders build trust and safety in First Nation, Métis, and Inuit communities.
- Aligning with SARVAC's commitment to ethical response, Decolonization, and Reconciliation.

I'm First Nations, Inuk or Métis —why would I take this training?

Even with lived experience, it's important to recognize that:

- Each First Nations, Métis, and Inuit group and region has unique customs, histories, and protocols.
- HWF deployments are often in areas with customs and protocols that may differ from those you are familiar with.
- Courses like Restoring the Circle offer gender-aware and intercommunity perspectives.

How do I track my progress?

You can download and use the printable tracking sheet at:

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

Restoring the Circle also offers a course-specific tracking sheet.

What if I find the material upsetting or triggering?

This content can be emotionally difficult. Please:

- Take breaks as needed.
- Use grounding and self-care strategies.
- Reach out to support or team leads.
- Recognize and honour your emotions.

- Access the Peer Mental Wellness Team or wellness resources at:

<https://sarvachwf.ca/mental-wellness/>

Who can I contact with questions?

For questions, broken links, or resource access issues, contact the Indigenous and Partner Relations Coordinator (IPRC):

Indigenous-partnerrelations@sarvac.ca