

MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS NATIONAL INQUIRY BACKGROUNDER

In September 2016, the Government of Canada established an independent National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (National Inquiry). The National Inquiry mandate was to make recommendations to eliminate systemic causes of violence and to assure the safety of Indigenous women and girls in Canada. They were also to recommend ways to honour and commemorate missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. The National Inquiry was given a 2-year timeframe to complete their work, which was later extended by 6-months.

The National Inquiry used a Truth Gathering process with community hearings for survivors and family members, and expert panels with knowledge keepers and academic experts on topics including Indigenous Law, human rights, racism, Government services, policies and practices. More than 2,380 people participated in the National Inquiry. In November 2017 the National Inquiry released an interim

report entitled *Our Women and Girls are Sacred* focusing on the methods being used in the Truth Gathering process and sources of information being reviewed. The interim report also made procedural recommendations to improve the process going forward.

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) felt it was necessary to participate in the National Inquiry's truth gathering process to support those survivors and family members who chose to participate and ensure their needs remained paramount throughout the process. The AFN believes that survivors and family members who participated in the National Inquiry's process, and those who chose not to participate, must be lifted up and supported. The AFN made a final submission to the National Inquiry in December 2018 containing First Nations specific recommendations responding to the multi-faceted systemic issues that put First

Nations women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people at risk.

In June 2019 the National Inquiry completed their mandate with the release of their Final Report entitled *Reclaiming Power and Place*. The Final Report explores the many intersectional issues which contribute to the national tragedy of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. The Final Report identifies four areas of

rights holders: right to culture, right to health and wellness, right to human security, and right to justice. The National Inquiry identified over 230 *Calls to Justice* to end systemic causes of violence threatening the safety of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people in Canada.

Truth Gathering:

15 community hearings with
468 family members and
survivors

147 private or in-camera
sessions with **270** family
members and survivors

750 people shared through
statement gathering

819 people created artistic
expressions

84 Expert Witnesses, Elders
and Knowledge Keepers