



FACT SHEET

MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS

“Woman is the centre of the wheel of life. She is the heartbeat of the people. She is not just in the home, but she is the community, she is the Nation.” – “The Women’s Part” Art Solomon

The Ontario Native Women’s Association (ONWA) acknowledges the voices of the families of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) and the leadership of our government, national Provincial Territorial Organizations and Canadian partners like Kairos and Amnesty International to address this issue and bring our women’s issues forward.

Gladys Radek, a long-time activist and campaigns the Walk4Justice has heard more than 4,000 stories about missing and murdered women.

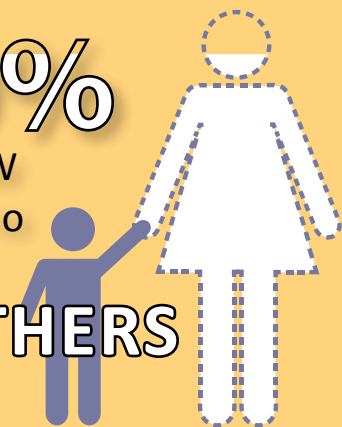
Key Findings:

- Indigenous women made up 3% of the population of Canada in 2000-2008, but 10% of all homicides nationally.
- Indigenous women make up only 4.3% of Canada’s population yet 16% of female homicide victims.
- 90% of the missing and murdered Indigenous women in Ontario were mothers.
- Nearly half of murder cases in NWAC’s database remain unsolved.
- 64% of cases occurred in urban areas (particularly in Thunder Bay, Toronto and Ottawa).

Intergenerational Impact

The number of missing and murdered Indigenous women that were mothers speaks to the intergenerational impact of this issue. There is a dire need to support family and community members who assume care for the children left behind. Collectively, there is a responsibility to ensure these children remain connected to their communities and receive the necessary supports for healing. Perhaps even more importantly, supports and resources for mothers must be understood as integral to any violence prevention strategy.

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Supporting Families of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

- Supports will be grounded in culture and will include ceremony to honour them. Traditional ceremony is a trauma informed approach for families in the healing process.
- ONWA will develop a listing of services in each community that can support families. Each service agency will be identified if they provide trauma-informed care and traditional ceremony.
- ONWA will connect families with local services that can provide them with the supports they need through the duration of the Inquiry and beyond. This includes the preparation to appear before the Inquiry and supports they might need before during and after the Inquiry.
- ONWA will host 2 family gatherings in Ontario to prepare families for the National Inquiry.
- ONWA will meet with service providers; and create a list of resources to support the families throughout the Inquiry process.

References:

CBC. January 23, 2016. Advocate for missing and murdered Indigenous women stops in Winnipeg.

Breaking Free, Breaking Through Report. (March 2015). Ontario Native Women's Association & Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres.

Strategic Picture. 2016. Ontario Native Women's Association.

Native Women's Association of Canada. (2010a). Fact Sheet: Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women and Girls in Ontario. Ottawa: NWAC.

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