



Artwork: The REDress Project, Jaime Black

A Resource Guide on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, Two- Spirit and Gender Diverse People in Canada

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Trigger Warning

The content in this resource guide may be difficult and/or triggering. If you or someone you know needs emotional assistance related to this topic or the information in this article, help is available 24/7 through the MMIWG Support Line, 1-866-413-6649.

Purpose

The content of this resource guide was prepared in honour of Red Dress Day on May 5, 2024. The purpose of this resource guide is to provide a starting point for people seeking to educate themselves about the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, Two-Spirit, and gender diverse people (MMIWG2S+) in Canada. It also lists resources for those seeking help or resources in line with MMIWG2S+.

Resources on the Calls to Justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People (MMIWG2S+)



231 Calls for Justice

In Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

As a part of the National Inquiry's final report on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls published in June 2019, the **231 Calls for Justice** demanded several points of action to **end the genocide against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people**. This involved calls to justice for different groups, including all governments; industries, institutions, services, and partnerships; and for all Canadians.

Rooted in a decolonizing and trauma-informed approach, these calls for justice are grounded in a focus on human and Indigenous rights, along with collaborative efforts with families and survivors of MMIWG2S+ in pursuit of the safety and self-determination of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people.

The 231 Calls to Justice can be accessed through www.mmiwg-ffada.ca.



Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) Booklet on 231 Calls for Justice

Following the publication of the 231 Calls to Justice, the Native Women's Association of Canada published a booklet summarizing all calls to justice from the National Inquiry on MMIWG2S+.

The booklet can be accessed through <https://nwac.ca/assets-knowledge-centre/Web-MMIWG-calls-to-justice..new.pdf>



3

2021 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People National Action Plan

Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People

Developed alongside the National Family and Survivors Circle and other collaborators, the National Action Plan identifies a comprehensive list of priorities, both for the short term and the long term, in extension of the 231 Calls to Justice identified by the National Inquiry on MMIWG2S+.

More information about the National Action Plan can be found on their website, mmiwg2splus-nationalactionplan.ca.

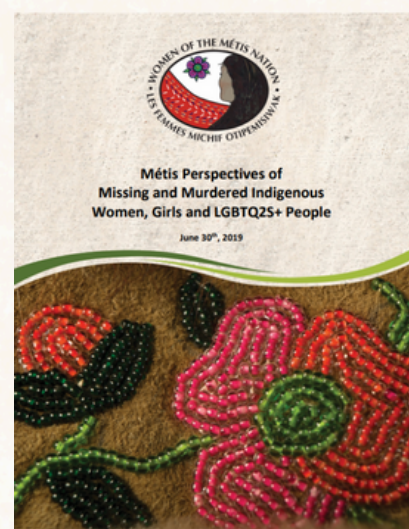
4

Calls for Miskotahâ

In Métis Perspectives of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and LGBTQ2S+ People

Created by Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak (Women of the Métis Nation), the 2019 report on Métis perspectives on MMIWG2S+ includes several calls to justice specific to Métis women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people.

The report can be accessed on their website, <https://metiswomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/LFMO-MMIWG-Report.pdf>



5

National Inuit Action Plan on Missing and Murdered Inuit Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People

Pauktuutit (Inuit Women of Canada) developed a national action plan specific to the experiences of Inuit women, Girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ people. These calls are categorized in terms of the issues they seek to address.

To access the full document, visit <https://pauktuutit.ca/mmiwg-inuit-action-plan/>



As emphasized by the 231 Calls to Justice and the documents which followed it, MMIWG2S+ is rooted in **structural forms of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people**. As such, solutions must seek to uproot the systems and institutions which continue to perpetuate this violence, and must meet the needs of those impacted by MMIWG2S+ and Indigenous people more broadly. This does not just constitute actions from the government, but also from everyone residing in Canada.

Photo: Radio-Canada / Alana Cole



Resources on the #SearchTheLandfills Movement

Calling for the justice and dignity of Morgan Harris, Mercedes Myran, Mashkode Bizhiki'ikwe (Buffalo Woman), Tanya Nepinak, Rebecca Contois, Linda Beardy, Joey English, and many more missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people, the #SearchTheLandfills movement began after the refusal of Winnipeg Police Service in December 2022 to search the Prairie Green Landfill for the remains of Morgan Harris and Mercedes Myran despite stating that their remains were most likely located there, citing that it was not feasible to conduct a search.



Photo: The Canadian Press / John Woods

This led to the creation of Camp Morgan, wherein the Harris family and First Nations Indigenous Warriors Inc. (FINW) occupied the front lines at Brady Road Landfill to demand a search. Similar initiatives followed, including the creation of Camp Mercedes at The Forks, along with the mobilization of several rallies in support of the #SearchTheLandfill movement.

Mobilization efforts escalated after the refusal of the Progressive Conservative government in July 2023 to conduct a search. As a part of the calls to justice demanded by the #SearchTheLandfills movement, September 18 was declared as the International Day of Action to Search the Landfills.

On March 22, 2024, owing to the activism of families of MMIWG2S+, Indigenous advocates, and non-Indigenous allies, the federal and provincial governments committed \$40 million to the effort to search the landfill. As of October 2024, the Manitoba Government in partnership with the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs and working alongside families, is recruiting team members to ensure the safe and respectful return of those whose remains are believed to be in the landfill.

To learn more about the #SearchTheLandfills movement, visit their website through searchthelandfill.com.

Additional Resources

▶ **An Event in Honour of Red Dress Day with Cambria Harris**

In May 2024, the CHRR and Indigenous Engagement and Communications were honoured to host Cambria Harris for an event in honour of the National MMIWG2S+ Awareness Day, or Red Dress Day.

▶ **Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Final Report of the Landfill Search Feasibility Study Committee's Technical Subcommittee**

A feasibility study was led by the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs in 2023 with the purpose of addressing the health and safety concerns cited in the refusal to search the Prairie Green Landfill for the remains of Morgan Harris and Mercedes Myran.

▶ **Amnesty International Canada #SearchTheLandfill Campaign**



Image Credit: CTV News



Red Dress Alert

On May 3, 2024, the Government of Canada and the Government of Manitoba announced a collaboration on creating a Red Dress Alert pilot, which will be developed alongside Indigenous partners. This initiative is driven by calls from Indigenous grassroots service providers and organizers and acknowledges the critical nature of first few hours after a person goes missing. The pilot will focus on developing an alert or a notification that will go out to the public when an Indigenous woman, girl, Two-Spirit, or gender diverse person goes missing.

To learn more about the pilot, visit <https://www.canada.ca/en/crown-indigenous-relations-northern-affairs/news/2024/05/government-of-canada-and-the-government-of-manitoba-announce-partnership-to-develop-a-red-dress-alert-together-with-indigenous-partners.html>.



Image Credit: CityNews



Related inquiries, reports, and projects on MMIWG2S+



1

Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC)

2010 Sisters In Spirit Initiative

'What Their Stories Tell Us' compiles the research findings from a study conducted over a 5-year period (2005-2010) on missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls in Canada. The report is rooted in fundamental questions on the trends, statistics, and the root causes of the disproportionate and unjust violence experienced by Indigenous women and girls.

2

Walking with our Sisters

Digital Vamp Collection Project

Initiated in 2021, Walking with our Sisters compiled 1800 pairs of vamps and ceremonial items from Indigenous communities that it visited. Left unfinished, each pair of moccasins represented the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls throughout Canada.

3

Missing the Bus

Indigenous Women and Two-Spirit Plus People and Public Transit in Western Canada

'Missing the Bus' is a knowledge synthesis initiative from the CHRR which explores the connections between mobility, public transit, and the safety of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people amidst declining transit options. The project is accessible as a podcast and as a report.



Supports related to MMIWG2S+

Missing Persons & Persons at Risk Toolkit *Ka Ni Kanichihk Inc.*

Ka Ni Kanichihk Inc. has created a toolkit to assist families regarding missing persons or persons-at-risk. The toolkit can be accessed through their website, <https://www.kanikanichihk.ca/missing-persons-persons-at-risk-toolkit/>



Spirit of Peace Family Violence Prevention Program - *Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre*

The Spirit of Peace Family Violence Prevention Program aims to provide a place for healing from violence rooted in Indigenous knowledge. More information can be found here: <https://www.mamawi.com/spirit-of-peace/>



MA MAWI WI CHI ITATA CENTRE
We all work together to help one another.

Pathways to Healing Program *Southern Chiefs' Organization*

SCO's Pathways to Healing program includes a focus on advocacy and community supports for MMWIG2S+. For more information, visit <https://scoinc.mb.ca/pathways-healing-program/>



National Family and Survivors Circle (NFSC)

The National Family and Survivors Circle (NFSC) was established in response to the 231 Calls for Justice for MMIWG2S+ and provides guidance in the implementation of a National Action Plan. Their [website](#) lists supports for families in accessing the Family Information Liaison Unit in each province.



NATIONAL FAMILY AND
SURVIVORS CIRCLE
Nothing About Us, Without Us



If you have resources to support an Indigenous-led organization...



Velma's House

A 24/7 Safe Space for women aged 18 and older, who are in need of immediate safety. To promote gender safety and equity in the space, we prioritize women and gender diverse folks who are often targets of gender based violence.



Clan Mothers Healing Village

Clan Mothers Healing Village and Knowledge Centre is a self-governed land-based innovative village model. This holistic concept is adapted from Ancestral knowledge born into modern times, providing restorative cultural practices for Women, Girls, Two-Spirit and Transgender persons.



Wahbung Abinoonjiiag

Wahbung Abinoonjiiag is a domestic violence prevention, crisis and healing centre, established in 1994 to empower children and their families to end the cycle of violence. Wahbung Abinoonjiiag (Children of Tomorrow) is an Indigenous non-profit organization, providing opportunities for holistic healing and support for families to thrive through culturally-relevant programs, services and advocacy.



Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata

Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre is a strength and value-based family resource organization delivering community-based programs and services within the philosophy embodied in our name. The name Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata translates from Ojibway into the phrase, “we all work together to help one another.”

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