

Artwork: The REDress Project, Jaime Black-Morsette

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

October 2026

Prepared by Angela Ciceron, Knowledge Mobilization Coordinator



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 originally prepared in honour of **Red Dress Day** on May 5, 2024 and then updated in 2026. 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 for 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 for 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 for Justice, the Native Women's Association of Canada published a booklet summarizing all calls for 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>





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 for Justice identified by the National Inquiry on MMIWG2S+.

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

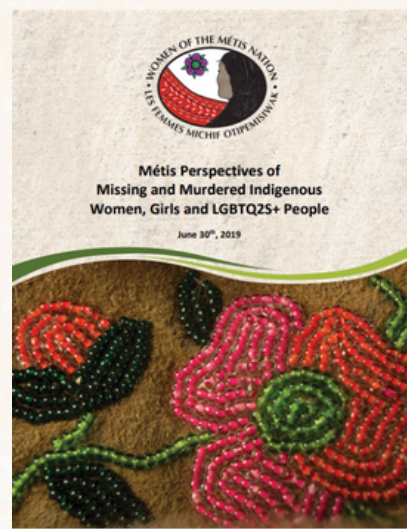


Calls for Miskotahâ

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>



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/>



6

Call for Justice 1.7 Final Report

Addressing the Call to Establish a National Indigenous and Human Rights Ombudsperson

Under the 231 Calls for Justice, Call 1.7 calls on the federal, provincial, and territorial governments, in partnership with Indigenous Peoples, to establish a National Indigenous and Human Rights Ombudsperson with authority in all jurisdictions, and to establish a National Indigenous and Human Rights Tribunal. A final report was issued by Ministerial Special Representative Jennifer Moore Rattray to address this call.

Read the full report at <https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1717103903695/1757441810573#chp3>.

As emphasized by the 231 Calls for 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. Despite the much needed push for continuous federal supports for MMIWG2S+ initiatives, many Indigenous womens groups experienced funding cuts in April 2026 due to ongoing austerity measures from the federal government.

Photo: Radio-Canada / Alana Cole



Resources on the #SearchTheLandfills Movement



Calling for the justice and dignity of Morgan Harris, Mercedes Myran, Mashkode Bizhiki'ikwe (identified as Ashlee Shingoose), 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.

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 Provincial 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 April 2025, the remains of [Morgan Harris](#) and [Mercedes Myran](#) have been found in the Prairie Green landfill and the remains of [Ashlee Shingoose](#) (previously referred to as Mashkode Bizhiki'ikwe) have been found in Brady Road landfill. Advocates continue to call for the [inclusion of Tanya Nepinak](#) in the Brady Landfill search.

To learn more about the #SearchTheLandfills movement, visit 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 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.



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.

In Manitoba, **Giganawenimaanaanig** has led the development and implementation of a pilot project for a Red Dress Alert in the province in line with their work in ensuring the implementation of the **231 Calls for Justice**.

Giganawenimaanaanig, which translates to “We All Take Care of Them”, is a province-wide network of First Nations, Red River Métis and Inuit families, Knowledge Keepers, urban and Indigenous-led organizations, Two Spirit-led, and First Nations, Métis and Inuit representative organizations and governments, the Province of Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg.

In November 2025, Giganawenimaanaanig published **a final report on the Manitoba-Wide Red Dress Alert System Pilot Project**, which sets out a framework for a straightforward, practical system to strengthen the ability of governments, institutions, agencies, and communities to act quickly and collaboratively to protect and support those at greatest risk. Giganawenimaanaanig has also created **Red Dress Stories**, a website which honours the lives of missing and murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ by telling their stories.

In May 2026, Giganawenimaanaanig and the Centre for Human Rights Research at the University of Manitoba hosted an event in honour of National Day of Awareness for MMIWG2S+, also known as Red Dress Day. In 2026, we were honoured to host Sandra Delaronde to speak on **“Creating Systemic Change through the Red Dress Alert”**.

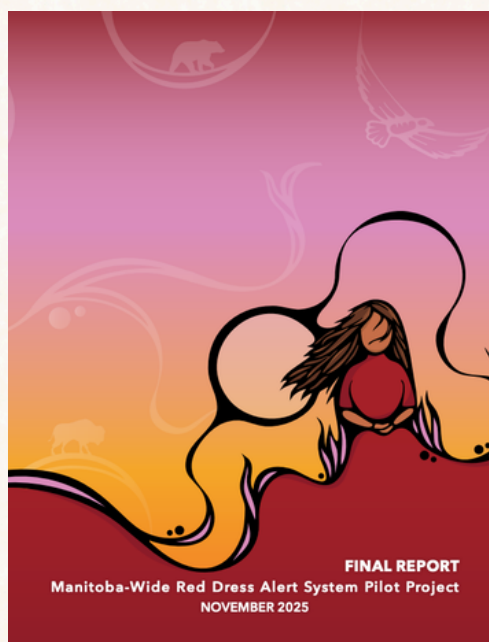


Image Credit: CityNews



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](#), as a [report](#), and as a [policy brief](#).



4 **Calling for Justice and Re-Imagining Governance**

The Rematriation of Indigenous Women's Human Rights and the Obligations of All Governments

Led by CHRR Visiting Scholar Sandra Delaronde & CHRR Director Dr. Adele Perry, *Calling for Justice* aims to bring together knowledge on the interconnected historical & contemporary factors contributing to the systemic marginalization of Indigenous women to outline actionable steps towards rematriation. The project is accessible through a [final 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, Velma's House prioritizes 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."

Iskwewak Awetowak Nipocawin

Iskwewak Awetowak Nipocawin (Women Leading Knowledge) is an Indigenous- and community-led Women's research institute dedicated to supporting research and policy development for the health and well-being of our First Nations, Inuit and Metis women, girls, Two-Spirit, Indigiqueer and gender-diverse kin.



Recommended Readings

Non-Fiction

▶ **REDress: Art, Action, and the Power of Presence**

Edited by Jaime Black-Morsette (2025)

REDress is a powerful anthology uniting the voices of Indigenous women, Elders, grassroots community activists, artists, academics, and family members affected by the tragedy of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit people from across Turtle Island.

▶ **Keetsahnak / Our Missing and Murdered Indigenous Sisters**

Edited by Kim Anderson, Maria Campbell, & Christi Belcourt (2018)

In *Keetsahnak*, the tension between personal, political, and public action is brought home starkly as the contributors look at the roots of violence and how it diminishes life for all. Together, they create a model for anti-violence work from an Indigenous perspective.

▶ **Highway of Tears: A True Story of Racism, Indifference and the Pursuit of Justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls**

By Jessica McDiarmid (2020)

Highway of Tears is searing and revelatory account of the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls of Highway 16, and an indictment of the society that failed them.

▶ **Unbroken: My Fight for Survival, Hope, and Justice for Indigenous Women and Girls**

By Angela Sterritt

Angela Sterritt shares her memoir alongside investigative reporting into cases of missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada, showing how colonialism and racism led to a society where Sterritt struggled to survive as a young person, and where the lives of Indigenous women and girls are ignored and devalued.

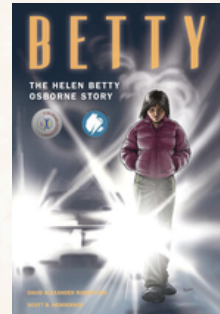
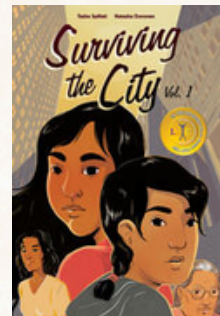
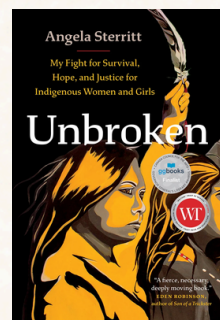
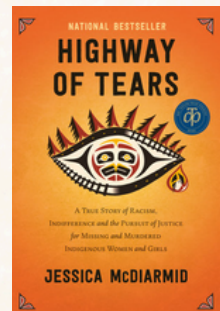
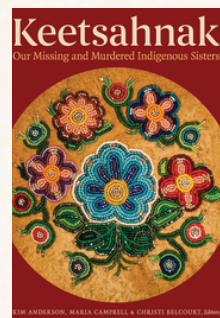
Graphic Novels

▶ **Surviving the City Series**

By Tasha Spillett, Illustrated by Natasha Donovan, Donovan Yaciuk, and Scott B. Henderson

▶ **Betty: The Helen Betty Osborne Story**

By David A. Robertson, Illustrated by Scott B. Henderson (2015)



Artwork: The REDress Project, Jaime Black-Morsette



**University
of Manitoba**

**Centre for Human
Rights Research**



Centre for Human Rights Research
University of Manitoba
224 Dysart Road
Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada R3T 2N2
T: 204-474-6453
chrrman@umanitoba.ca

chrr.info