

## Disappearances and Murders on the Highway of Tears

Coast Salish Traditional Territory/Vancouver, BC – the BC Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Summit and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs express their support to the Hoar family about the possible discovery of their daughter Nicole.

“We also like to express our condolences and sympathies as well as our continued support to all the family members of the women who have gone missing or been murdered along Highway 16, the Highway of Tears, as this search of this rural property reminds us all of their on-going loss, pain and hope for closure,” said Grand Chief Edward John of the First Nations Summit Task Group.

The BCAFN, First Nations Summit and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs share the concerns of the many First Nations, local organizations and RCMP officers who have speculated that some of these cases may be connected and all but Nicole Hoar are Aboriginal. The organizations continue to fully support a coordinated approach to these investigations and of pooling all available resources in a concerted effort to ensure all of the families of the missing and murdered women find closure.

“We can ill-afford to continue to repeat the mistakes, gaps and inconsistencies of the investigations into the missing and murdered women on the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver and the Highway of Tears,” said Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs. “To prevent more deaths, we call for an inquiry into the missing and murdered women to not only hear of the hard lessons learned but to hold those agencies to account.”

“We are pleased that the Hoar family may have found closure. We believe that though this investigation may have identified the person responsible, there are others who are guilty for the other unsolved deaths along the Highway of Tears. We are of the firm belief that the RCMP will vigorously continue to conduct those investigations until they bring closure to all the families,” concluded Chief Nelson Leon, BCAFN spokesperson.

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