

First Nations Summit

NEWS RELEASE

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Immediate action must be taken to stop the genocide

Coast Salish Territory/Vancouver – Leaders of the First Nations Summit (FNS) are calling on the Federal government to take immediate action to implement the 231 Calls to Justice contained in the final report of the National Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) released today in Gatineau, Quebec.

“We must have the full commitment of all levels of government; federal, provincial and municipal, as well as all political parties, to immediately implement the Calls to Justice contained in the final report. This is the only way we can truly achieve the necessary changes to the justice, health and education systems in Canada to bring a stop to the systemic violence suffered by Indigenous women and girls across Canada”, said Cheryl Casimer of the FNS political executive.

“The report has shed a light on the dark corners of violence suffered by Indigenous women and girls and the systemic failures of the law enforcement and justice systems toward our people. Now Canadians must stand together collectively to make the necessary changes to stop on the genocide identified in the report”, added Casimer.

“There is an underlying reality and foundation of Canada’s relationship with Indigenous peoples which cannot be ignored: laws, policies and practices the result of which have now been identified by the MMIWG Commission as “genocide” ... a damning indictment. However, there are real and tangible solutions for the road ahead, and these have come from Indigenous peoples and communities working proactively in collaboration with all governments. Families of the still missing Indigenous women and girls are still looking for answers. It will take time”, said FNS political executive member Grand Chief Edward John. “We welcome Prime Minister Trudeau’s commitment to develop a national action plan to turn the Calls to Justice to Indigenous led action”, added Chief John.

“Today we also must remember the thousands of women and girls who have died at the hands of violence or who are still listed as missing. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families today as they continue to seek justice and answers for the loss of their loved ones”, said FNS political executive Robert Phillips. “Families deserve to know what happened to their loved ones, and it is absolutely imperative that systemic changes are made, and measures taken to prevent and end the disproportionate violence against Indigenous women and girls across Canada”.



The First Nations Summit executive will be reviewing the MMIWG Commission final report in full and will be engaging with all level of governments to support the implementation of the Calls to Justice.

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The First Nations Summit speaks on behalf of First Nations involved in treaty negotiations in British Columbia. The Summit is also a NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. Further background information on the Summit may be found at www.fns.bc.ca.

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