

First Nations Summit

NEWS RELEASE

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Time for real and tangible action for Canada's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

(Xʷməθkʷəy̍əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh)/Vancouver, B.C.) – Leaders of the First Nations Summit (FNS) are once again calling on the Federal government to take the necessary and immediate actions, including co-development of a fulsome action plan 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) which was released in June 2019.

"Two years following the release of the MMIWG Inquiry Final Report and we are still waiting for a cohesive action plan. This is simply not good enough. We have to ask ourselves, how many Indigenous Women and Girls have fallen victim because of the glacial pace and inaction of governments," said Cheryl Casimer of the FNS Political Executive. "It is absolutely imperative that the federal and provincial governments fully engage directly with Indigenous women, families, communities and especially victims of violence, in the development of a MMIWG Action Plan. Successful implementation can only be achieved through fulsome engagement and co-development with Indigenous people across Canada."

"We must tear down the broken foundation of Canada's relationship with Indigenous peoples. It is the systemic failures of the Canada's colonial justice and law enforcement systems that have created an environment that sees Indigenous women and girls suffer disproportionate rates of abuse and violence," said Lydia Hwitsum of the FNS Political Executive. "Canada committed to implementing the *UN Declaration on Indigenous Peoples* which states, '*States shall take measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination*' (Article 22). Our grandmothers, mothers, aunts, sisters, friends and communities cannot continue to be victim to further delays."

"On today's National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, we must keep in our minds the thousands of women and girls who have died at the hands of violence, those who are still listed as missing and those who continue to be victims of violence. 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. "Victims and their families deserve action and systemic change to prevent and finally put an end the disproportionate violence against Indigenous women and girls across Canada".

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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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