**Submission to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women: Day of General Discussion on a General Recommendation on the Rights of Indigenous Women and Girls**

**Introduction**

The Native Women’s Association of Canada (NWAC) very much welcomes the opportunity to make this contribution to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women’s (UNCEDAW) Day of General Discussion on a General Recommendation on the rights of Indigenous women and girls. In the Canadian context in particular, this international focus on the rights of Indigenous women and girls is as welcome as it is timely given the numerous human rights challenges which Indigenous women, girls and gender-diverse persons face on a daily basis in the country.

As a painfully illustrative case in point, on 3 June 2021 the Government of Canada finally published its long overdue National Action Plan in response to the 2016-2019 National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls’ Final Report published two years earlier.[[1]](#footnote-1) Regrettably, due to its growing dissatisfaction with and loss of confidence in the formal process of developing the National Action Plan, NWAC took the difficult decision to withdraw from the process[[2]](#footnote-2), launching its own alternative National Plan shortly thereafter (please see below).[[3]](#footnote-3)

It remains patently clear that, two years after the publication of the National Inquiry Final Report, a colossal amount of work needs to be undertaken in order to ensure that the fundamental human rights of Indigenous women, girls and gender-diverse persons are respected in Canada in everyday reality. Disturbingly, very little progress has, to date, been achieved to act on the National Inquiry’s 231 Calls for Justice - or for that matter to act on the multiple other past state-initiated inquiries into the treatment of Indigenous communities such as the 2015 Truth and Reconciliation Commission (please see below).

NWAC wholly supports UNCEDAW’s decision to develop a General Recommendation on the rights of Indigenous women and girls and welcomes the launch of its in-depth global consultation process on the specific content of the document. Canada’s persistent failure, along with multiple other states, to ensure the basic protection of the human rights of Indigenous women and girls reinforces the pressing need for the development by UNCEDAW of a comprehensive General Recommendation with a view to countering the various forms of inequality, discrimination and violence which routinely blight their lives.[[4]](#footnote-4)

For the purposes of UNCEDAW’s Day of General Discussion NWAC submits the present discussion paper on the priority theme of *‘equality and non-discrimination with a focus on indigenous women and girls and intersecting forms of discrimination’*.[[5]](#footnote-5) Through a focus on National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and the related follow-up process, the short discussion paper reveals the considerable extent to which the right of Indigenous women and girls to equality and non-discrimination is not guaranteed in Canada.

It will come as no surprise to UNCEDAW that many of the potential human rights violations highlighted in the Concept Note accompanying the development of this General Recommendation are habitually experienced by Indigenous women and girls in Canada.[[6]](#footnote-6) Paragraph 3 of the Concept Note describes this reality in stark terms:

*…the colonial experience has resulted in various forms of discrimination, violence, and exclusion, both open and hidden, all of which is reflected in the systematic violation of the individual and collective rights of indigenous women. Unlike the situations faced by non-indigenous women, indigenous women face these violations not only on the basis of gender but also on other aspects of their identities.[[7]](#footnote-7)*

NWAC remains grateful to UNCEDAW for the opportunity to contribute to this much-needed discussion and is committed to working with its members throughout the duration of the consultation process to develop the General Recommendation.

What follows in this paper is a short discussion on Canada’s international legal obligation to guarantee the right to equality and non-discrimination in practice. This focus is then followed by an in-depth discussion on the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls as well as the continuing failure of the Government of Canada to adequately address its 231 Calls for Justice, and thereby to guarantee the right to equality and non-discrimination in practice, among a range of other fundamental human rights.

**Section 1: The right to equality and non-discrimination in Canada - international and regional legal sources**

The concept that all human beings are equal and therefore deserve to be treated equally is anchored deeply in the international human rights framework. The 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights’ opening article states: “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.”[[8]](#footnote-8) Since then, the right to equality and non-discrimination is found in nearly all the core international human rights treaties and key human rights instruments of the world’s regional human rights systems. What is more, the right to non-discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, and religion binds all states irrespective of the ratification of international human rights treaties as a result of becoming part of customary international law.[[9]](#footnote-9)

To date, Canada has ratified six core international human rights instruments which guarantee the right to equality and non-discrimination, including the following:

* International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

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| * International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; * International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; |

* Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;
* Convention on the Rights of the Child; and
* Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

In addition, even though Canada has not, to date, ratified the American Convention on Human Rights, whose Articles 1 and 24 explicitly guarantee the right to equality and non-discrimination, the Inter-American Commission and Court of Human Rights have established that, despite having been adopted as a declaration and not as a treaty, today the 1948 American Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man constitutes a source of international obligations for the Member States of the Organization of American States.[[10]](#footnote-10) Article II of the American Declaration states: “All persons are equal before the law and have the rights and duties established in this Declaration, without distinction as to race, sex, language, creed or any other factor.”[[11]](#footnote-11)

It equally bears noting that the right to equality and non-discrimination has been repeatedly reaffirmed over the years in the context of high-profile international human rights meetings and summits, not least in the 1993 Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action which asserted the key point that: “Respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms without distinction of any kind is a fundamental rule of international human rights law.”[[12]](#footnote-12)

Since the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in 1993, the criticality of the right to equality and non-discrimination has been reaffirmed in other prominent international fora, including in the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Plan of Action. Among other matters, the Beijing Declaration expressed the determination to: “Take all necessary measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and the girl child and remove all obstacles to gender equality and the advancement and empowerment of women”.[[13]](#footnote-13)

Similarly, the Outcome Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples from 2014 also recognized the need for redoubled efforts against violence and discrimination, including against Indigenous women: “*We commit ourselves to intensifying our efforts, in cooperation with indigenous peoples, to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against indigenous peoples and individuals, in particular women, children, youth, older persons and persons with disabilities, by strengthening legal, policy and institutional frameworks.*”*[[14]](#footnote-14)*

Finally, the vital importance of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples should not be overlooked in this same connection, including articles 2 and 22(2)[[15]](#footnote-15), particularly at a time when the Parliament of Canada is in the process of debating legislation to anchor the UN Declaration in law at the federal level.[[16]](#footnote-16)

All of the above logically leads to the following question: if the right to equality and non-discrimination is so deeply entrenched in the international human rights framework, why does Canada perform so poorly to protect Indigenous women, girls and gender-diverse persons from deep-seated inequality as well as widespread discrimination and violence? The failure of the Canadian authorities to ensure the right in practice thus violates several key sections of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, including 15(1) (equality before and under law and equal protection and benefit of law) and 24(1) (enforcement of guaranteed rights and freedoms).[[17]](#footnote-17) The extent to which Canada routinely fails to guarantee the right to Indigenous women and girls is the focus of the next section of this submission to UNCEDAW.

**Section 2: Equality and Non-Discrimination in the Light of the National Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Women and Girls’ Final Report, *Reclaiming Power and Place***

Canada launched its National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in September 2016, resulting in the publication of the Final Report on 3 June 2019.[[18]](#footnote-18) As the National Inquiry Final Report formally recognized, the advocacy activities of an array of different national and international organizations were instrumental in its establishment, including of NWAC.[[19]](#footnote-19) Moreover, recommendations to launch a national inquiry had previously been advanced by the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women during an inquiry visit to Canada in 2013[[20]](#footnote-20) as well as by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in its 2015 Final Report.[[21]](#footnote-21)

The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls contains 231 Calls for Justice which have been described in the Final Report as ‘legal imperatives’[[22]](#footnote-22) and which are presented by different themes and actors. As the limits of this submission do not allow for these themes to be set out in detail, members of UNCEDAW should consult the official National Inquiry document, *Calls for Justice*, for more detailed information.[[23]](#footnote-23) Nonetheless, the individual Calls for Justice are of a non-monetary reparatory nature and are strategically targeted at righting past human rights wrongs and avoiding their repetition across an array of social themes.

For example, the Calls for Justice directed at all levels of government cover a wide range of diverse issues, such as human and Indigenous rights obligations, culture, health and wellness, human security, and justice. Societal actors named in the Calls include the media and social influencers, police, health and wellness providers, attorneys and law societies, educators, extractive and development industries, the prison service, and all Canadians.[[24]](#footnote-24)

The broad scope of the mandate of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Women and Girls allowed it to address a range of interrelated issues concerning all forms of violence against Indigenous women and girls in a holistic manner.[[25]](#footnote-25) A core finding of the three-or so-year-long process was very well captured in the Final Report in the following terms:

*The truths shared in these National Inquiry hearings tell the story – or, more accurately, thousands of stories – of acts of genocide against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people.* ***The violence the National Inquiry heard amounts to a race-based genocide of Indigenous Peoples, including First Nations, Inuit and Métis, which especially targets women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people.*** *This genocide has been empowered by colonial structures evidenced notably by the Indian Act, the Sixties Scoop, residential schools and breaches of human and Indigenous rights, leading directly to the current increased rates of violence, death, and suicide in Indigenous populations.[[26]](#footnote-26)* [emphasis added]

The National Inquiry’s key finding of a race-based genocide in Canada against Indigenous women, girls and gender-diverse persons reveals the considerable degree to which the international right to equality and non-discrimination (among multiple others) has and continues to be ridden roughshod over in the country. The key fact should also be underscored, however, that the crisis facing Indigenous women, girls and gender-diverse persons is on-going and will continue to persist until the National Inquiry’s Calls for Justice are addressed. In a word, the present-day widespread inequality, discrimination and violence routinely encountered by Indigenous women is not an historical artifact.

**Challenges**

On one hand, while there was much to commend the overall National Inquiry process, on the other, it also suffered from certain limitations. As the National Inquiry Final Report itself noted, it had the broadest mandate a Canadian national inquiry had ever received, its work spanned 14 jurisdictions, making it Canada’s first truly ‘national’ inquiry, and it had at its disposal resources solely determined by the government.[[27]](#footnote-27)

The National Inquiry’s most significant challenge, however, was - by its own admission - a lack of time.[[28]](#footnote-28) Regrettably, the National Inquiry’s request for a two-year extension of its mandate was denied. Instead, it was provided with only a six-month writing extension. As the Final Report observed: “This was profoundly disappointing, and does a disservice to the thousands of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people lost to violence, and to the survivors of violence, some of whom advocated for decades for a public inquiry.”[[29]](#footnote-29)

In comparison, the 1996 Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples inquiry and the 2015 Truth and Reconciliation Commission inquiry had approximately five and eight years respectively to undertake their work.[[30]](#footnote-30) Such time constraints inevitably had a direct bearing on the number of survivors and their families who could be heard during the National Inquiry process.

The National Inquiry’s restricted mandate and powers to forensically examine cases of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and police misconduct in the related investigations was deemed another major weakness.[[31]](#footnote-31) Only after the start of the National Inquiry process was the Forensic Document Review Project established, namely in March 2018, becoming operational only in the latter part of the lifetime of the inquiry.[[32]](#footnote-32) Other cited limitations included: the National Inquiry’s limited focus on cases of missing or murdered 2SLGBTQQIA people and its partial investigation into the complexity of inter-sectional colonial violence[[33]](#footnote-33); and its failure to deeply probe state complicity in cases of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and gender-diverse persons.[[34]](#footnote-34)

Despite these limitations and being beset by certain organizational challenges, the overall process included many positives. Most significantly, it ensured that the voices of those persons and communities most severely afflicted by Canada’s race-based genocide were included in the overall process. In summary, while a welcome first significant step in ensuring that justice is finally served vis-à-vis Indigenous women, girls and gender-diverse persons in Canada, the challenge now will be to ensure that the National Inquiry’s 231 Calls for Justice are implemented in practice.

**Ensuring follow-up**

In December 2019, the Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Carolyn Bennett publicly stated that the Canadian government was developing an Action Plan to act on the 231 Calls for Justice, which were to be published by June 2020.[[35]](#footnote-35) Regrettably, on 26 May 2020 – the week before the first anniversary of the release of the National Inquiry Final Report – Minister Bennett announced in interviews with select media that the government had not drafted its promised National Action Plan and, at the time, had no timetable for doing so.[[36]](#footnote-36)

In what at the time appeared to be a positive development, however, from summer 2020 onwards the government department playing the lead role in relation to the National Action Plan, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, undertook concrete action to do so. It established a National Family and Survivors Circle, a Core Working Group, and eight sub-working groups on a range of thematic issues with a view to drafting a National Action Plan in relation to the 231 Calls for Justice.[[37]](#footnote-37)

However, from the outset, NWAC expressed concerns about the overall process, the lack of transparency, and the exclusion of certain actors (including NWAC) from specific groups. We also pointed out that this important work was not Indigenous-led, but primarily staffed and designed by the federal government.

Regrettably, due to its increasing dissatisfaction with and loss of confidence in the formal process of developing the National Action Plan, NWAC withdrew from the process.[[38]](#footnote-38) On 1 June 2021 the organization launched its own alternative National Plan[[39]](#footnote-39) and a related press release summarizing its content.[[40]](#footnote-40) As a whole, NWAC’s National Plan details over 65 concrete actions aimed at ensuring follow-up to the 231 Calls for Justice of the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

The Government of Canada published its long-overdue National Action Plan[[41]](#footnote-41) on 3 June 2021, which is essentially a collection of summary plans provided by a number of Indigenous organizations, as well as federal, provincial, and territorial governments. The federal contribution is limited to just three pages in length and refers to another document outside of the National Action Plan, entitled the *Federal Pathway to Address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People.* The Minister responsible for this Federal Pathway document describes it as a ‘roadmap,’ ‘evergreen document,’ ‘living document,’ and ‘consensus document.’

Of note, the Federal Pathway plan focuses on a handful of short-term goals, which primarily relate to the follow-up process and not the content of the Calls for Justice.[[42]](#footnote-42) The plan also promises that an implementation plan will be developed by autumn 2021. It is to contain “in-depth descriptions of short-, medium- and long-term priorities, and the identification of those responsible for implementation of each action, as well as milestones and required resources.”[[43]](#footnote-43) NWAC believes that it is a hugely missed opportunity that the Federal Pathway plan did not meet the *full* *conditions* of Call for Justice 1.1i, which called for, among other things, measurable goals and necessary resources dedicated to capacity building, sustainability, and long-term solutions.[[44]](#footnote-44)

A number of Indigenous and civil society actors, several former National Inquiry Commissioners, and family members have criticized the plan’s lack of substance. Criticism was also levelled at how little progress has been made in implementing the 231 Calls for Justice.[[45]](#footnote-45) NWAC is also extremely disappointed at the lack of real progress and has called for immediate action and a clearer timeline for implementing the Calls for Justice—many of which are immediately actionable.

Simply put, in its current form, the Government of Canada’s Federal Pathway plan does not point to a viable way forward on how, when, and by whom the Calls for Justice as a whole will be acted upon in practice and how they will be financed.

As also highlighted in the section above, it is important to acknowledge that the National Inquiry was the beginning of the work into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in Canada, not the end point. Due to the operational and time constraints imposed on the National Inquiry, the full scale of the phenomenon is still not well understood and a national investigation of historic and on-going cases with the establishment of a related database is still required. Moreover, questions remain about the families which were not included in the National Inquiry and the cases of missing women and girls which have yet to be honoured. These gaps need to be addressed as any future action is undertaken in relation to the 231 Calls for Justice.

**Conclusion**

Domestically, the recommendation that Canada should institute broad transformative change owing to the past conduct of its representatives and other private persons acting on its behalf have been a key output of various high-level independent inquiries initiated over the years aimed at establishing the truth about serious human rights violations against Indigenous persons.

Perhaps most notable of all were the key findings of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples inquiry from 1996.[[46]](#footnote-46) Regrettably relatively little became of the Commission’s sweeping recommendations for much-needed change.[[47]](#footnote-47) Accordingly, the present and continuing crisis facing Indigenous women, girls and gender-diverse persons and widespread violations, among others, of the right to equality and non-discrimination is hardly surprising.

What is more, there have been other high-profile inquiries into the treatment of Indigenous peoples in Canada at different jurisdictional levels, including Indigenous women. The British Columbia Missing Women Commission of Inquiry from 2011-2012[[48]](#footnote-48), the Truth and Reconciliation Commission from 2015[[49]](#footnote-49), and the Public Inquiry Commission on relations between Indigenous Peoples and certain public services in Québec (Viens Commission) from 2019 are more recent illustrative cases in point.[[50]](#footnote-50) The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls report should therefore be seen as a continuity of demands situated in a context of frequent state inaction.

In this wider context, Indigenous actors at the domestic level in Canada should remain vigilant of the risk of being coopted into National Inquiry follow-up processes which becomes ends in themselves and which sidestep the need for demonstrable action and progress.

In a word, despite the commissioning of multiple high-level inquiries as attempts to inquire on and establish the truthabout serious violations of human rights committed in Canada’s past and present colonial context, much remains to be done to ensure that Indigenous persons, particularly women, girls and gender-diverse persons, receive full reparations for the many different harms caused to them. Only by providing full reparation to victims through the instigation of sweeping change in the form of the Calls for Justice will Canada ensure the non-recurrence of violations of human rights and that a semblance of justice is finally served. Until real progress is achieved to do so, the international and domestic rights to equality and non-discrimination and to live a life free of violence will remain as elusive as ever in Canada.

1. Government of Canada, *2021 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People National Action Plan: Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People* (June 2021). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Please see: The Native Women’s Association of Canada, *NWAC Loses Confidence In Government, Walks Away From Toxic, Dysfunctional NAP Process To Put Families – Not Politics – First; Announces Own Action Plan: Our Calls, Our Actions* (1 June 2021). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Please see: The Native Women’s Association of Canada, *National Plan: Our Calls, Our Actions* (2021):

   <https://www.nwac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/NWAC-action-plan-FULL-ALL-EDITS.pdf> accessed 2 June 2021. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. For the stated purpose of the General Recommendation, please see: UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, *Day* (sic) *general discussion on "the rights of indigenous women and girls"* (OHCHR, Geneva, Switzerland):

   <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CEDAW/Pages/DGDRightsIndigenousWomenAndGirls.aspx> accessed 3 June 2021. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, *Concept Note for a General Recommendation on the Rights of Indigenous Women* (OHCHR, Geneva, Switzerland undated):

   <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CEDAW/Pages/DGDRightsIndigenousWomenAndGirls.aspx> accessed 3 June 2021. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. ibid §3. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. UN General Assembly, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, 10 December 1948, Resolution 217 A (III) §1. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. D. Moeckli, ‘Equality and Non-Discrimination’ in D. Moeckli, S. Shah & S. Sivakumaran (eds.), *International Human Rights Law* (Oxford University Press, Oxford, UK 2010) 194. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Please see: Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, *Basic Documents Pertaining to Human Rights in the Inter-American System – II The Regional Instruments for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights:*

    <http://www.cidh.oas.org/basicos/english/Basic1.%20Intro.htm> accessed 1 June 2021. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, *American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man*, 2 May 1948 §II. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna on 25 June 1993 §15. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. United Nations, *Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women*, 27 October 1995 §24. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 22 September 2014, *69/2. Outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples* (UN Doc. A/RES/69/2, 25 September 2014) §18. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. UN General Assembly, *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: Resolution* A/RES/61/295 *adopted by the General Assembly*, 2 October 2007 §22(2).  [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. The full text of Bill C-15, *An Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,* can be found at the following link: <https://parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/43-2/bill/C-15/first-reading> accessed 4 June 2021. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, s 15(1) and 24(1), Part 1 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982, being Schedule B to the*Canada Act 1982* (UK), 1982, c 11. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Government of Canada, *Backgrounder - National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls* (26 November 2020): <https://www.canada.ca/en/status-women/news/2019/06/backgrounder--national-inquiry-into-missing-and-murdered-indigenous-women-and-girls.html> accessed 6 June 2021. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. *Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Volume 1a* (June 2019) 57. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Report of the inquiry concerning Canada of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women under article 8 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (UN Doc. CEDAW/C/OP.8/CAN/1, 30 March 2015) §220a - b. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. *Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future* – Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (2015) 325. [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. *Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Volume 1a* (June 2019) 58. [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. National Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls, *Calls for Justice* (June 2019). [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. ibid 1–30. [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. *Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Volume 1a* (June 2019) 58. [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. ibid 50. [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. ibid 59-60. [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. ibid 72. [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. ibid 74. [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
30. Please see: Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples*, Highlights of the Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples Inquiry - People to People, Nation to Nation (*Minister of Supply and Services Canada, 1996); and *Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future* – Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (2015). [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
31. Please see: Connie Walker, ‘MMIW national inquiry to focus on violence prevention not police investigations’ (CBC News, 20 July 2016): <MMIW national inquiry to focus on violence prevention not police investigations | CBC News> accessed 6 June 2021. [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
32. *Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls* (June 2019) *1b: Annex 1 Summary of Forensic Document Review Project* 238. [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
33. ibid 247 and 251. [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
34. ibid 218, 237 and 242. [↑](#footnote-ref-34)
35. Global News, *Action plan on missing, murdered Indigenous women inquiry to be released in June: minister* (Global News, 4 December 2019): <https://globalnews.ca/news/6255882/missing-murdered-indigenous-women-inquiry-june/> accessed 6 June 2021. [↑](#footnote-ref-35)
36. The Native Women’s Association of Canada, *Canada’s Failed UN Security Council Bid: Lead by Example at Home to Lead by Example Abroad* (18 June 2020). [↑](#footnote-ref-36)
37. Government of Canada, *Statement from the MMIWG National Action Plan Core Working Group* (6 December 2020): <https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1607207513882/1607207535679> accessed 6 June 2021.  [↑](#footnote-ref-37)
38. Please see: The Native Women’s Association of Canada, *NWAC Loses Confidence In Government, Walks Away From Toxic, Dysfunctional NAP Process To Put Families – Not Politics – First; Announces Own Action Plan: Our Calls, Our Actions* (1 June 2021). [↑](#footnote-ref-38)
39. Please see: The Native Women’s Association of Canada, *National Plan: Our Calls, Our Actions* (2021):

    <https://www.nwac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/NWAC-action-plan-FULL-ALL-EDITS.pdf> accessed 6 June 2021. [↑](#footnote-ref-39)
40. Please see: The Native Women’s Association of Canada, *NWAC Loses Confidence In Government, Walks Away From Toxic, Dysfunctional NAP Process To Put Families – Not Politics – First; Announces Own Action Plan: Our Calls, Our Actions* (1 June 2021). [↑](#footnote-ref-40)
41. Government of Canada, *2021 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People National Action Plan: Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People* (June 2021). [↑](#footnote-ref-41)
42. ibid 53-55. [↑](#footnote-ref-42)
43. ibid 11 and 21. [↑](#footnote-ref-43)
44. National Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls, *Calls for Justice* (June 2019) – *Calls for Justice,* 1.1i. [↑](#footnote-ref-44)
45. Please see: Feminist Alliance for International Action & others, ‘National Action Plan and Federal Pathway Will Not End Genocide of Indigenous Women and Girls’ (FAFIA & others, 3 June 2021); K. Deer, ‘MMIWG National Action Plan Is an Inadequate Response to the Crisis, Say Indigenous Women’s Advocates’ (CBC News, 3 June 2021): <cbc.ca/news/indigenous/nwac-mmiwg-action-plan-1.6047671> accessed 7 June 2021; and G. Quenneville, ‘Daughter of Murdered Regina Woman Says National MMIWG Action Plan ‘Does Not Speak for Me’ (CBC News, 3 June 2021: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatoon/krisa-shore-barbara-ann-shore-regina-canada-mmiwg-national-action-plan-1.6052071> accessed 7 June 2021. [↑](#footnote-ref-45)
46. Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples*, Highlights of the Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples Inquiry - People to People, Nation to Nation (*Minister of Supply and Services Canada, 1996). See also:

    *Interim Report – The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls: Our Women and Girls are Sacred* (2017) 10. [↑](#footnote-ref-46)
47. CBC News, *20 years since Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, still waiting for change* (CBC News,

    3 March 2016: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/indigenous/20-year-anniversary-of-rcap-report-1.3469759> accessed 6 June 2021. [↑](#footnote-ref-47)
48. Please see: *The Missing Women Commission of Inquiry* *British Columbia*: <https://missingwomen.library.uvic .ca/> index.html accessed 6 June 2021. [↑](#footnote-ref-48)
49. *Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future* – Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (2015). [↑](#footnote-ref-49)
50. *Public Inquiry Commission on relations between Indigenous Peoples and certain public services in Québec: listening, reconciliation and progress – Final Report*, (Government of Québec, Canada 2019). [↑](#footnote-ref-50)