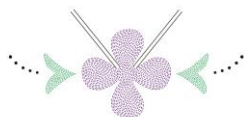




National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
Enquête nationale sur les femmes et les filles autochtones disparues et assassinées



National Inquiry travels across Canada to meet with families and survivors to prepare for Fall Community Hearings

July 6, 2017 VANCOUVER- Chief Commissioner Marion Buller announced today that the National Inquiry is moving forward on the advice and guidance heard from families, survivors and grassroots organizations about how best to hear their stories of violence against Indigenous women and girls, including LGBTQ2S people. This next step is rooted in the knowledge gained from meetings that took place across Canada, with the latest being from the hearings in Whitehorse in May/June 2017.

The locations and schedule of the next community hearings, as part of the Truth Gathering Process, will take place across Canada this Fall starting the week of September 10, 2017 and ending in mid-December 2017.

This is the first of several announcements about locations to which the National Inquiry will travel. An announcement about further locations for the Winter and Spring of 2018, which will include smaller and/or remote or rural communities, will be released in the coming weeks.

The 2017 Fall community hearings will take place in the communities of Thunder Bay, Ontario; Smithers, British Columbia; Winnipeg, Manitoba; Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; Halifax, Nova Scotia; Edmonton, Alberta; Yellowknife, Northwest Territories; Maliotenam, Quebec; and Rankin Inlet, Nunavut.

The National Inquiry's second community hearing will take place in Thunder Bay during the week of September 10, 2017.

"In Whitehorse, the courage and dignity of the families and survivors who chose to share their story with us was powerful. We were honoured to take those steps with them in their healing journey. Now we are eager to continue the work in more communities across Canada. We are very grateful for the guidance we've received to date at the National Inquiry."

Marion Buller, Chief Commissioner

Before the hearings, teams will travel to these communities, beginning July 17 until the week of September 5, to participate in community visits to lay the groundwork for the hearings as part of the National Inquiry's Truth Gathering Process.

Community visits allow:

- the health team and legal counsel to meet with family members and survivors to prepare them for the community hearings;
- the community relations team to meet with local organizations, Indigenous groups and women's groups to learn more about local issues regarding violence against Indigenous women and girls, including LGBTQ2S people
- the logistics team to conduct site visits for the upcoming hearings; and
- National Inquiry staff to seek the advice and guidance from Elders and knowledge keepers so that when we return to the community hearings we may respect and include local protocols and ceremonies.

Two expert panel hearings have also been scheduled. The first will hear from experts, including knowledge keepers and Elders, about Indigenous Law and Decolonization and will take place this Summer in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and the second will be about Human Rights and will take place this Fall in Montreal, Quebec.

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Our Women and Girls are Sacred / Nos femmes et nos filles sont sacrées