



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



The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Legacy Archive Call for Expression of Interest ¹

The National Inquiry

In response to calls for action from Indigenous families, communities and organizations, as well as non-governmental and international organizations, the Government of Canada launched an independent National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (NI-MMIWG) in September 2016.

Composed of four Commissioners from across the country, the NI-MMIWG is independent from federal, provincial and territorial governments, crown corporations and Indigenous forms of government. The Commissioners' mandate is to examine and report on the systemic causes of all forms of violence against Indigenous women and girls and 2SLGBTQQIA individuals in Canada by looking at patterns and underlying factors.

Shining a light on all the causes of violence, murders, and disappearances is a daunting task. But it is a necessary one. We are exposing hard truths about the devastating impacts of colonization, racism and sexism—aspects of Canada that many Canadians are reluctant to accept. Our goal is to offer effective recommendations that will enhance and ensure the safety of our women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA individuals.

Commemoration and Calling Forth

We believe that art is a necessary and important component of our work.

Art is a powerful tool for commemoration. It can send a message of hope or loss, resilience or reconciliation. It can be an instrument that shares truth and knowledge with a wide audience.

An artist can create art as a means of healing from traumatic experiences, or as a way to inspire action. Most powerfully, art provides a platform for voices that may not get an opportunity to share their stories elsewhere. Public commemorations, through art, can help bring forward the personal stories

¹ The NI-MMIWG would like to thank the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation for the copy of the TRC's original contest bid which this Call is based.



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that show colonial violence. They bear witness to injustice, recognize the human dignity of victims and survivors, and call Canada to account.

The National Inquiry has adopted the Truth and Reconciliation Commissioner of Canada's guiding principles on commemoration as we develop and implement our own commemoration initiatives. They are:

- Survivors should be active participants who can advise and make recommendations on projects;
- Projects should strengthen family and community memory and make the history and legacy of NI-MMIWG a part of Canada's history; and
- Projects should support Indigenous peoples' healing as they reclaim their identities and revitalize their land-based cultures.

We will continue to work with families, survivors, organizations, and governments on future plans to honour and commemorate Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people who have been lost to violence.

Call for Expression of Interest

The purpose of this document is to invite organizations to submit a proposal to the NI-MMIWG for the purpose of being selected by the NI-MMIWG as the permanent host organization(s) of the Legacy Archive.

Any organization wishing to submit proposals will be expected to find its own sources of long-term, stable funding for the operations of the Legacy Archive. The NI-MMIWG's contribution to the organization(s) will be the artistic expressions, accompanying documents, videos, and photographs.

Legacy Archive

The Legacy Archive is an archive that has collected artistic expressions, either through donations (from family members of missing and murdered loved ones, intergenerational survivors and those working towards reconciliation), education projects or acquisitions. Art is an important medium for sharing knowledge and truth that can have a profound impact on others. It can be a permanent record that



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shares the truth about violence against Indigenous women, and provides awareness into the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Artistic Expression allows artists to share their voices. Artistic Expressions can be used as a tool to share knowledge, promote activism, commemorate, engage in reconciliation, address trauma and support, deepen and enhance the healing process.

The collection currently has over 385 pieces and it continues to grow! It is a diverse collection ranging from: digital music, written poetry, canvas paintings, etched glass vase, books, quilts, miniature red river cart, sacred rattle, turtle medicine bag, Métis sashes, Miskwaabimaag (sacred red willow baskets), baby swaddle and baby booties, miniature birchwood canoe, scarf, seal skin boutonnière, an oral story, wall murals, red dress pins, installation art, Faceless dolls, performance art, and a statue with 1200 polished stones with names of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls carved into them.

These artistic pieces are made out of various materials including: Birchwood bark, felt, paper, turtle shell and hide, beads, feathers, wool, cotton, polyester, leather, stained glass, ceramic, softwood, Caribou antler, glass, buttons, cedar, and organic material.

Total physical space of Legacy Archive: 6.3 cubic meters

There are digital materials in this collection. Some are music videos and DVDs submitted by artists, some are short videos given by donors who discussed their donation, a video of a cultural entertainment night held at the Vancouver hearings and the rest is photographs. **This digital content is approximately 100 GB.** Extra digital materials that will be included are the Public Hearings; Institutional Hearings and Expert Panels. **The total digital content of this material is approximately 42 TB.**

Please remember that this collection is continually growing and this may not be accurate by the time of receiving the Legacy Archive.

Further this collection will be accompanied by all archival documents attached to each donation, plus other documents that recorded the cultural processes and procedures of NI-MMIWG at community hearings. This collection will also have all official documents and reports that were released by the NI-MMIWG. That will include the: *Executive Summary, Interim Report, Research Plan, Paths of Inquiry, Lexicon, Legal Path, Open Call for Artistic Expressions, the Final Report* and other documents.



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Criteria for Expression of Interest

The NI-MMIWG expects to see most of all of the following in a successful submission. The NI-MMIWG reserves the right to modify these criteria. The NI-MMIWG reserves the right to propose to interested organizations that it may be desirable for them to find ways to collaborate with each other, in addition to providing other advice about potential partnerships for the Legacy Archive. The initial list of criteria for selection is as follows:

1. Vision

- What is the proponent's vision for the Legacy Archive?
- How will you integrate this into your own archive?
- How will the vision be inclusive of the cultures and traditions of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples?
- How does the vision promote interactivity and engagement with the broader Canadian and international community?
- How will you maintain the discussion of MMIWG?
- Will you be able to continue to collect artistic expressions with respect to MMIWG?
- Are you able to continue to take statements and stories of those who wish to share?

2. Governance Model

- Does the submission include a plan for how Indigenous peoples will have significant decision-making responsibilities about what goes into the archives, who has access to the archives and how the archives is operated generally?
- Will it have a diverse Indigenous advisory circle that includes people from First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities from all over Canada, including Elders, youth, and individuals representing 2SLGBTQQIA communities?
- Are any of your staff trained to be trauma informed or have their certificate in Mental Health First Aid Responder?
- Is your organization prepared for those who may be triggered by exposure to these records?
- What health supports do you have in place?
- Does the submission have support from Indigenous peoples and organizations outside of your own?



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3. Commemoration

- Does the submission have a plan for how the Legacy Archive will serve to create a beautiful, inspirational and solemn physical or artistic memorial to the MMIWG?
- Will members of the public be able to access the collection, either in person or online, on a permanent basis?
- The Government of Canada has promised 10 million dollars to Commemoration projects with respect to MMIWG: how do you plan to incorporate that into your archive?

4. Archival Excellence

- Does the submission include an organization with demonstrated excellence, experience and reputation in the management of substantial archives, including a strong familiarity in archives relating to human rights abuses and best practices?.
- How and what Indigenous protocols and methods do you have at your institution?
- Do you implement any of the Joinet-Orentlicher Principles in your establishment?
- Do you implement any articles from United Nations Declaration on the Rights on Indigenous Peoples or any of the TRC's Call to Action?
- Is there any of your own methods, or procedures or protocols that encourage best practices when dealing with Indigenous materials?

5. Financial Stability

- Does the submission include a clear plan for long-term financial stability for the Legacy Archive, and how it will be used, including how the physical materials will be made accessible to the whole country?

6. Technical Excellence

Does the submission include a clear plan for how to ensure that the Legacy Archive holdings which are both physical and digital in nature will be kept secure from unauthorized access and inadvertent loss?

Further, how will the Legacy archive will be made available to researchers, educators and Indigenous communities across the country, and a have a long-term preservation plan for these artistic expressions and accompanying records? Given that some records will have restrictions, does your organization have access to Access and Privacy officers?



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[For More Information](#)

Please contact Petra Turcotte at petra.turcotte@canada.ca or 431-996-4986.

[Submission Deadline](#)

The deadline for submission is **October 31st, 2018**. All submissions MUST be postmarked by this date.

Submissions may be:

Emailed to petra.turcotte@canada.ca

Mailed to: Petra Turcotte
PO Box 56060
125-393 Portage Ave
Winnipeg, Ave
R3B 0G9

Once a submission has been received, you will receive an email notification. If you have NOT received an email notification, please contact Petra Turcotte to check on submission.



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Appendix 1 – Mission and Mandate

The National Inquiry must look into and report on the systemic causes of all forms of violence against Indigenous women and girls, including sexual violence. We must examine the underlying social, economic, cultural, institutional, and historical causes that contribute to the ongoing violence and particular vulnerabilities of Indigenous women and girls in Canada. The mandate also directs us to look into and report on existing institutional policies and practices to address violence, including those that are effective in reducing violence and increasing safety.

While the formal name of the Inquiry is “the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls,” our mandate covers all forms of violence. This makes our mandate very broad. By not being limited to investigating only cases of Indigenous women who went missing or were murdered, we can include women and girls who died under suspicious circumstances.

It also means we can address issues such as sexual assault, child abuse, domestic violence, bullying and harassment, suicide, and self-harm. This violence is interconnected, and can have equally devastating effects. Expanding the mandate beyond missing and murdered also creates space for more survivors to share their stories. They can help us look to the future from a place of experience, resilience, and hope.

We will find the truth by gathering many stories from many people. These truths will weave together to show us what violence really looks like for Indigenous women and girls in Canada. We will gather this information through: Community Hearings, Institutional Hearings, and Knowledge Keeper and Expert Hearings; past and current research; Collaborations with Elders and Knowledge Keepers; and Forensic analysis of police records. Our research is rooted in Indigenous methodology. It’s governed by traditional laws and ethics that affirm the resistance and resurgence of Indigenous women and girls, including 2SLGBTQIA people. Indigenous women’s experiences will guide our truth every step of the way.

We will honour the truth through public education.

For far too long, Indigenous women and girls have been publicly devalued or ignored. People’s general perceptions have been shaped by harmful colonial stereotypes. People forget that every Indigenous woman or girl—no matter how she died or what she had been through—had an inherent strength and sacred worth. We need to transform the national conversation about Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA people. To build a strong foundation for healing, justice, and reconciliation, governments and institutions must change. So must our society’s attitudes and understanding of the issue.



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This public education begins by creating opportunities for family members and survivors to share their truths. It continues as Canadians learn more about Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people. Indigenous and non-Indigenous people will have the opportunity to learn about Indigenous women's rightful power and place: their historical and present-day roles, their leadership, and what they have to contribute. Many of these learning opportunities will take place through the Community, Institutional, and Knowledge Keeper and Expert Hearings. We will further honour the truth in our findings, recommendations, and reports, and other public education materials. As much as possible, our information will be published in different audio, visual, and paper formats to make them widely accessible.

We will give life to the truth by creating a living legacy through commemoration and artistic expressions.

Everyone affected by this issue will have the opportunity to participate in the National Inquiry by submitting an artistic response in whatever medium they choose. This will help create a new public record of history that centres on Indigenous women and girls' experiences.

Together with family members and communities, we will make recommendations on the best ways to commemorate and honour those we have lost. Public commemoration is a powerful way to make sure that survivors are acknowledged for the suffering they have endured. It also ensures that families can let Canada know that their loved ones were cherished human beings who are still missed.

Most importantly, we will give life to the truth by teaching and learning from our children and youth. We need to give them the best possible supports now, and help them build a safer, stronger foundation for their future.



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Appendix 2:

Open Call- Artistic Expressions

The National Inquiry invites artists to submit their work

How can you submit your art?

In person: You can submit your art in person at a Fall 2018 event or by mail: You can mail in your artistic expression (please note that the NI-MMIWG will not be responsible for any loss or damage of items during transit) at:

PO BOX 56060
125-393 Portage Ave
Winnipeg MB
R3B 0G9
Email: petra.turcotte@canada.ca
mmiwg-ffada.ca
431-996-4986

What is an artistic expression?

- Paintings
- Sculptures
- Drawings
- Photographs
- Ceramics
- Films
- Quilts
- Baskets
- Music
- Dance
- Theatre

Artistic expression is visual, audio, material or performative art. This art can be a representation of reality, expression, or communication of emotion. Artistic expressions for the NI-MMIWG can be about a memory, feeling, truth and knowledge. They be acts of commemoration and/or may include messages of hope, loss, resilience or reconciliation for families, lost loved ones, survivors and/or as messages to the general public.

Why is the NI-MMIWG calling for Artistic Submissions?

Art is an important medium for sharing knowledge and truth that can have a profound impact on others. It can be a permanent record that shares the truth about violence against Indigenous women and girls, and provides awareness into the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Artistic Expression allows artists to share their voices. Artistic Expressions can be used as a tool to share knowledge, promote activism, commemorate, engage in reconciliation, address trauma and support, deepen and enhance the healing process.



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What kind of art can you submit?

Performance/Dance: up to 10 images of the piece or DVD of any length showcasing the work.

Film/Video: DVD of any length

Photographs/Drawings: Originals; Digital Copies – up to 20 images on CD or DVD

Music Songs: audio version of the song, image of the band, lyrics

Poetry, Spoken Word, Novel, Plays, Graphic art: relevant written sample of work; if performed – on DVD, any length.

Sculpture/Painting, Basketry, Mixed Medium Art: please contact Senior Archivist to ensure the archive can hold and care for your artistic expression properly.

Quilts, Fabric Art: (Please supply what types of fabric was used.)

Deadline for Submitting Artistic Expressions is

December 31st, 2018



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Share with us: I designed this artwork because...

We want to ensure that the story of your art accompanies the piece that you are submitting. This includes information about why you created this art piece, who you are donating in the memory of, what your artistic expressions means to you, and any other information you would like to go with your art piece. This will help people who see your art connect to your artistic expression.

If you agree, we would like to video record or audio record this story. We will have equipment to do recordings at the hearings. If you are mailing or emailing your artistic expression, you can include a video recording, an audio recording, or written text about your art along with your donation.

What will happen to your art?

All Artistic Expressions will be transferred to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Legacy Archive. This archive will care for each piece according to the wishes of the donor.

An archivist from the NI-MMIWG will work with you to fill out a form, which will allow you to share all relevant information about your art. If you agree:

- The NI-MMIWG may feature your work of art in its report, on its website or as part of its public education efforts.
- The NI-MMIWG will be present at many community events and regional events. It may be in contact with art galleries and museums, and film-makers who may wish to use your art in their films or TV or other programming. If you agree, the NI may choose to feature your work of art in any of these venues or provide them to third parties that will use them appropriately for public education purposes, with proper credit to the Artist.
- Access to the works of art held at the NI-MMIWG Legacy Archive may be made available to people around the world who are interested in learning more about MMIWG, subject to applicable laws.
- You can show your work of art to anyone else, at any time, as you choose.

The Legacy Archives

Artistic Expressions submitted to the NI-MMIWG will be held as part of an Archive that will be accessible even after the Inquiry has ended. The Legacy Archive will care for all Artistic Expressions according to the wishes of the donor.

For ALL submissions, you MUST submit a completed [Accession Form](#) and a [signed Consent Form](#) with your submission. We can help you fill this out.

Please do NOT send master or original copies, unless you have decided for the National Inquiry will keep the original. You may also submit your artist bio or CV, your website address or any other relevant material

Note: if we use your artistic expression for an exhibit, outreach or educational purposes, we will do our best to contact you so you will be aware. We will use the most updated contact information that you have provided.

Please send your submissions and/or questions to:

If you have any questions about this process, or how to submit your art that is not addressed here, please contact the Senior Archivist:



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Petra Turcotte – Senior Archivist

T: (431)-996-4986

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