

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN'S CENTRE

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Vancouver, BC

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on behalf of DEWC

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Dear Commissioners of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls,

Please find attached a public report "*Red Women Rising: Indigenous Women Survivors in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside*" by Carol Martin and Harsha Walia, published by the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre (DEWC).

The DEWC has standing at the National Inquiry and would like to, under Rule 33, respectfully submit this to the Inquiry for your consideration in Part III of the Hearings.

Due to the fact that many members of the DEWC were not able to meaningfully participate in the Inquiry when it was in Richmond due to distance, accessibility and safety, and also because many of our members felt more comfortable participating in a group setting at the DEWC that was familiar and supported, our organizational submission is significantly larger than the allocated page limit of 40 pages double space.

Many members of DEWC have been advocating for a national inquiry for 30 years and have been waiting to share their grassroots lived experience and expertise for 30 years. The DEWC has submitted a 40-page double space final submission, however that is only a summary of the report we drafted. The full DEWC report included here is based on the direct input and expertise of 113 Indigenous women survivors and members of DEWC and 15 non-Indigenous friends and street families of Indigenous women. It was impossible to condense all the input over thousands of hours into the page limit of the final closing submission.

DEWC therefore requests that this whole report be considered by the Inquiry, under Rule 33, in order for our members meaningfully included in the Inquiry and for the Commissioners to be able to fully understand the scope of DEWC members lived experience and expertise.

ALL OF WHICH IS RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 19th DAY OF DECEMBER 2018.

Harsha Walia

Downtown Eastside Women's
Centre