



## **BIOGRAPHY**

**Naomi Giff-MacKinnon**

**Senior Policy Analyst,**

**Policy Centre for Victim Issues**

**Department of Justice Canada**

Naomi Giff-MacKinnon joined the Department of Justice Canada in 1999 after completing a BA in Legal Studies and an MA in Canadian Studies (with a focus on Northern and Native Studies). After working with the Aboriginal Justice Strategy (now the Indigenous Justice Program) for two years, she joined the newly formed Policy Centre for Victim Issues in 2001. Since then, she has worked with governmental and non-governmental partners across Canada to develop programs and policy initiatives that increase awareness about the experiences and concerns of Indigenous victims of crime and support the development of culturally-grounded and trauma-informed services and supports.

Currently, much of Ms. Giff-MacKinnon's work is focussed on advancing initiatives to increase access to specialized services for families of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, including family-police liaison positions, culturally-grounded and community-based grief and trauma support, and family gatherings. For example, she organized a one-day knowledge exchange entitled "*Specialized Victim Services for Families of Missing or Murdered Indigenous Women: Models, Practices and New Approaches*" and led the development of Justice Canada's parallel investments to the National Inquiry, specifically the Family Information Liaison Units (FILUs) and community based activities with Indigenous organizations. She also leads the National FILU Network to support the development and delivery of FILUs and to ensure linkages between partners.

Ms. Giff-MacKinnon's work at Justice Canada has also focussed on raising awareness about the unique needs of northern victims and survivors of crime and advancing northern specific initiatives to increase access to services in remote areas. In addition to increasing collaboration among northern partners and advancing northern specific victim service programs, she organized a national conference (*Northern Responses and Approaches to Victims of Crime: Building on Strength and Resilience*) and collaborated with territorial partners to develop northern specific training on essential skills in the northern environment, and working with child victims.

Ms. Giff-MacKinnon has chaired the Indigenous victims' issues sub-committee of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Working Group on Victims of Crime to advance collaboration and coordination across Canada with a view to increasing awareness of and access to culturally grounded victim services. She has also been part of the Canadian Delegation to the UN



Commission on the Status of Women and the North American Tri-Lateral Working Group on  
Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls.

Exhibit: *National Inquiry into Missing and  
Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*

Location/Phase: *Part II: Calgary*

Witness: *Naomi Giff-Mackinnon*

Submitted by: *Anne McConville, Canada*

Add'l info: *PO2PO1PO101*

Date: *MAY 28 2018*

Initials

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