

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

Location/Phase: Part 4: Closing Oral Subs

Witness: n/a

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Initials

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Outline of Draft Recommendations of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs

As a result of colonization, First Nations people are caught in different Western institutions from birth to death. These Western systems are fundamentally opposed to who we are as people. First Nation families across Canada are grieving loved ones as a result of these systems being broken beyond repair. We cannot continue to empower colonization.

Meaningfully addressing the crisis of MMIWG affecting Manitoba First Nation citizens requires a fundamental paradigm shift with a return to First Nation laws, ways of being and knowing. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (“UNDRIP”) offers a framework to achieve this objective.

To meaningfully give effect to its commitment to a nation to nation relationship with First Nations and to address MMIWG, the Federal Government must fully support First Nation governments and provide funding for initiatives relating to self-determination of First Nations in Canada. This requires all levels of government to fully implement UNDRIP in its entirety. Accordingly, all recommendations put forward by the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (“AMC”) are grounded in UNDRIP and support self-determination for First Nations.

Overall Recommendations

1. That all levels of government meaningfully support First Nations and fund initiatives to implement the goals, objectives and rights contained in UNDRIP.
2. That the Federal Government meaningfully support and provide funding to the AMC for two regional summits in Manitoba (inclusive of both Northern and Southern Manitoba) to be held within one year of the release of the MMIWG NI Report for the purpose of bringing First Nations Elders, Knowledge Keepers, community members and technicians (including legal and policy technicians) to coordinate a 10 year plan to support First Nation governments and self-determination of First Nations.
 - **Summit One:** dealing with matters relating but not limited to MMIWG; human trafficking; sexual exploitation; gangs; resource extraction; child welfare; and justice and policing.
 - **Summit Two:** dealing with matters relating but not limited to MMIWG; health; education; housing; poverty; racism; education; awareness and honouring loved ones.
3. That the Federal Government provide funding to the AMC for the monitoring of the plans flowing from the Summits and that there be a long term commitment of funding for the implementation of the plan arising from the Summits.

Child Welfare

1. That all levels of government implement Articles 7 and 22(2) of UNDRIP and fund initiatives to implement the goals, objectives and this right – pertaining to freedom from all forms of violence, including forcible removal of children and genocide.
2. That all levels of government meaningfully support and fund First Nations governments efforts to reclaim and assert jurisdiction over First Nation children.
3. That all levels of government meaningfully support and fund First Nations governments efforts to bring First Nations children home and return them to their families and communities.

Human Trafficking, Sexual Exploitation and Resource Extraction

1. That all levels of government implement Article 10 of UNDRIP and fund initiatives to implement the goals, objectives and this right – protecting the right to life, liberty and security of the person and not be forcibly removed from lands and territories.

Justice and Policing

1. That the Federal Government meaningfully support and fund the AMC to create First Nation legal institutions in Manitoba to develop, use and understand First Nation laws relating to justice.

2. That all levels of government implement Articles 19 and 34 of UNDRIP and fund initiatives to implement the goals, objectives and this right – requiring states to obtain consent from Indigenous people before implementing laws that affect them and protecting the right of Indigenous people to develop their own institutions.

Health and Education Systems

1. That all levels of government implement Articles 14, 23 and 24 of UNDRIP and fund initiatives to implement the goals, objectives and this right – protecting the right of Indigenous people to develop priorities and strategies, establish and control education and health systems based on their teachings as well as enjoy the highest standard of health.

Education, Awareness and Honouring Loved Ones

1. That all levels of government implement Articles 11-13 and 15 of UNDRIP and fund initiatives to implement the goals, objectives and this right – protecting the right of Indigenous people to revitalize, practice and teach their spiritual and cultural traditions.

Media

1. That all levels of government implement Article 16 of UNDRIP and fund initiatives to implement the goals, objectives and this right – protecting the right of Indigenous people to establish their own media in their own languages and requiring states to support them.

Immediate Interim Measures

While transitioning to First Nation led solutions, rooted in First Nation institutions, there are interim measures that are required by the Crown in each of the areas above in order to fulfill treaty obligations; and address the systemic and institutionalized racism that resulted in the murders and disappearances of First Nation women and girls. These immediate interim measures will be reviewed during the AMC oral submissions and further explained in its written submissions.

The First Nation principle of reciprocity applies here and now. As recipients of the stories and information shared by families of MMIWG and survivors during the National Inquiry, it is incumbent upon all of us to put forward strong recommendations and interim measures to put a stop gap to further violence against Indigenous women and girls and assist those who are hurting.

The staggering number of grieving families and survivors is not due to a lack of recommendations. It is due to a lack of implementation and political will.

We urge the MMIWG NI Commissioners to acknowledge that interim measures will not meaningfully prevent future harm to Indigenous women and girls. As stated by Cora Morgan during the hearings, the house is dilapidated beyond repair – we need a new house.