



Native Women's
Association of Canada

L'Association des
femmes autochtones
du Canada

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In its final written submissions, NWAC provides the National Inquiry with sixty-one recommendations to address the epidemic of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and gender-diverse people. For the purposes of this summary, NWAC will summarize those recommendations under eight headings.

1. Families-First Approach and Recommendations

NWAC has argued throughout the National Inquiry for a families-first approach to all aspects of the Inquiry, and this includes the conceptualization and drafting of the recommendations in the final report. The recommendations in the final report must include that Canada develop a reparation fund for families and survivors, full reimbursement for the participation in the Inquiry to families and survivors with an emphasis on after-care, for the National Inquiry to place an emphasis on recommendations given by families and survivors in the course of their truth-telling, and for the Canadian state to pursue and fully implement recommendations given by families and survivors in the course of their truth-telling.

2. Child Welfare Services

NWAC recommends that the National Inquiry put an emphasis on recommendations that favour Indigenous- and community-led child and family support services that provide supports to strengthen families and keep them together, and move away from colonial, state-led child apprehension. NWAC recommends that the Canadian state's role in renewed child and family services for Indigenous communities is one of support through stable and adequate funding that supports true self-government of Indigenous Nations. NWAC further calls for engagement of Indigenous and 2SLGBTQ+ youth in care, investment in clearly identified safe houses for Indigenous and 2SLGBTQ+ youth (particularly in rural and northern communities), and NWAC calls for full investigation into the deaths of Indigenous and 2SLGBTQ+ youth in care.

3. Mental Health and Addictions Supports

NWAC recommends that the National Inquiry draft its recommendations relating to health services and mental health supports in a way that upholds Indigenous self-governance and the equal and important role Indigenous women, girls, and gender-diverse people must play in the governance of their Nations. NWAC recommends that all required and necessary mental health and addictions supports be stably and adequately funded in a way that promotes Indigenous- and community- developed and led supports that address the individualized and unique needs of each community, particularly in northern, rural, and remote communities. NWAC recommends stable and adequate funding for Indigenous- and community-developed, led, and run healing centres that take a holistic/wraparound approach to healing, mental health, physical health, addictions, employment, and family-strengthening.



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4. Legislative and Institutional Changes

NWAC recommends extensive changes to colonial legislation and institutions that shift the focus of governance to Indigenous self-governance rather than top-down, settler colonial governance. In particular, NWAC recommends specific changes to policing and justice institutions that promote the safety and well-being of Indigenous women, girls, and gender-diverse people and that also seek closure and justice for the families of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and gender-diverse people. NWAC further recommends external and Indigenous- and community-led oversight of all settler and colonial institutions that will provide any services to or interact with Indigenous women, girls, gender-diverse people, their families and their communities.

5. Education and Educational Systems

NWAC recommends that all schools and educational institutes in all jurisdictions and at all levels develop, design, and implement, in equal partnership with Indigenous women, girls, and gender-diverse people and their communities, curriculum that is accurate, ongoing and meaningful in addressing racism, sexism, and discrimination against Indigenous girls, gender-diverse people. These educational efforts must include Indigenous- and community- led initiatives to combat racism, sexism, and sexual violence in educational institutions.

6. Stable and Adequate Funding

NWAC argues that all recommendations to do with funding programs, services, and other initiatives for Indigenous women, girls, and gender-diverse people must call for stable and adequate funding that supports true self-government and does not follow current, top-down, colonial models that require Indigenous women, girls, and gender-diverse people to prove that their lives are worth funding. The new funding model must not pit Indigenous communities and organizations against one another for the same allotted funding. Funding must be given in a way that gives total discretion to Indigenous communities, organizations and Nations rather than to the Canadian state.

7. Recommendations Responding to 2SLGBTQ Safety and Gender Diversity

NWAC makes several recommendations to enhance the safety and equality of 2SLGBTQ+ individuals, including gender diversity education initiatives, inclusive programs and interventions that combat isolation, effective policing strategies to combat trafficking of Indigenous women, girls, gender-diverse and 2SLGBTQ+ people, the collection of disaggregated data, appropriate and safe shelters, respect for proper pronoun use, and coroner's inquest into the deaths of Indigenous 2SLGBTQ+ people (including youths in foster or state care).



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8. Implementing the UNDRIP

Finally, NWAC recommends that all recommendations must be drafted and implemented through an UNDRIP-based lens. This means that all recommendations must respect the inherent rights contained in the UNDRIP, the indivisibility of those rights from gender-based human rights, and the legal obligation on the Canadian state to adhere to the inherent rights contained in the UNDRIP when considering any and all legislation and programs that impact the rights and lives of Indigenous women, girls, and gender-diverse people.

Exhibit: National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls		
Location/Phase: <u>Part 4 Closing oral</u>		
Witness: <u>h la</u>		
Submitted by: <u>Virginia Lomax / NWAC</u>		
Add'l info: <u>P04P02 P0301</u>		
Date: <u>DEC 12 2018</u>		
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