

# **Executive Committee to End Violence Against Indigenous Women**

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **Purpose**

The Joint Working Group on Violence Against Indigenous Women (JWG) was formed in 2010 and officially sunset on October 31, 2016. The JWG has been reconstituted as the Executive Committee, as defined in this document.

### **Background**

The formation of the Executive Committee to End Violence Against Indigenous Women represents a culmination of the work of the Joint Working Group on Violence Against Indigenous Women (JWG) and serves as a tool to continue building on the foundation established by the *Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women*.

Formed in 2010 and Co-led by the Ministry of the Status of Women (MSW), Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) and Indigenous partners, the JWG was responsible for identifying priorities and opportunities for support, development and implementation of policies, programs and services that prevent and eliminate violence against Indigenous women and their families.

Between 2007 and 2012, Indigenous organizations led five provincial summits on ending violence against Indigenous women. With support from provincial ministries, the summits provided a forum for community leaders to express the problems they faced and sought input on many related issues, from justice reforms to enhanced education opportunities to revamped child welfare.

As a result of the first provincial summit in September 2007, the Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA) and the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC) released the *Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women*. The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), the Independent First Nations (IFN), and Chiefs of Ontario (COO) subsequently endorsed the framework and partnered to take action on violence. The framework recommended wide-ranging strategies and focused on eight specific areas of change: research, legislation, policy, programs, education, community development, leadership, and accountability.

Ontario adopted the Strategic Framework as a guiding document and has worked since 2010 across ministries and with Indigenous partners on the JWG to address violence against Indigenous women.

On February 23, 2016, 'Walking Together: Ontario's Long-Term Strategy to End Violence Against Indigenous Women' (the Long-Term Strategy) was publicly launched. This strategy represents a phase of the implementation of the *Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Indigenous Women*.

The Ontario government and Indigenous partners will work together on initiatives to end violence against Indigenous women by focusing on six key areas:

- supporting children, youth and families
- community safety and healing
- policing and justice
- leadership, collaboration, alignment and accountability
- prevention and awareness
- improved data and research

Implementation of the Long-Term Strategy will involve the creation of Provincial Committees to address these areas of action.

### **Mandate**

The Executive Committee (EC) to End Violence Against Indigenous Women is a coordination body that seeks to end violence against Indigenous women through oversight and guidance to the provincial implementation of initiatives under the Long-Term Strategy. This will be achieved by providing a forum for discussion and check-in throughout the implementation process.

The Executive Committee will receive updates on the work of the Provincial Committees to End Violence Against Indigenous Women at bi-annual meetings. See Provincial Committee Terms of Reference for more information.

### **Membership**

#### *Meeting Co-Chairs*

The EC will be co-chaired. The Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Indigenous Relations (MIRR) and the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of the Status of Women (MSW) will co-chair the initial meeting of the Executive Committee. Meetings with the Deputy Ministers will be held annually thereafter. The Assistant Deputy Ministers of MIRR and MSW will alternate co-chair all subsequent meetings. The Indigenous partners will appoint a Co-Chair(s).

#### *Indigenous Organizations*

Two representatives from:

- Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC)
- Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA)
- Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO)
- Independent First Nations (IFN)
- Chiefs of Ontario (COO)

One representative from:

- Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN)
- Six Nations of the Grand River Territory

#### *Government Ministries*

- Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation;
- Ministry of the Status of Women; and
- Other ministries as required.

Members attending the Executive Committee meeting must have decision-making authority.

### *Elder/Traditional Knowledge Keeper*

An Elder or Traditional Knowledge Keeper will be invited to attend meetings to provide culturally safe practices, support members and to guide the work of the Executive Committee.

### *Criteria*

New members of the EC can be added with the consensus of the existing government and Indigenous EC members. The addition of any new members will need to be managed by the Indigenous Caucus within the existing funding envelope.

All Indigenous EC members will:

- Endorse the *Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Indigenous Women*;
- Commit to the *Indigenous Caucus Relationship Agreement*;
- Reflect the diverse population of Indigenous people of Ontario; and
- Have a multi-service perspective with a broad spectrum focus on meeting the needs of Indigenous women in Ontario.

### *Observers*

Prior requests must be made to have observers attend, however no observer may participate in the meeting.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

#### *Co-Chairs*

The Co-Chairs will:

- Work cooperatively and respectfully with the EC members and provide leadership in guiding the EC and coordinating its activities. They will ensure the integrity of these relationships in the best interest of the members.
- Chair meetings in an objective manner, working to develop consensus of the EC members.
- Take follow-up actions and delegate follow-up items as recommended by the EC members.
- Advise EC members of the results of all actions taken.

Meeting administration and logistics will be the responsibility of the Co-Chairs.

#### *Executive Committee Members*

With respect to violence against Indigenous women, EC members are expected to understand the legacy of historic policies and laws, which result in the ongoing impacts and systemic violence experienced by Indigenous women, girls, and their families.



Members will also:

- Work cooperatively and respectfully with all EC members;
- Actively participate in the work of the EC for a three-year time period;
- Provide recommendations and feedback on draft documents, reports and/or policy proposals provided to EC for review;
- Participate in planning, communications and/or reporting activities as required;
- Attend all committee meetings;
- Declare any conflict of interest related to participation on the committee and;
- Maintain confidentiality and discretion.

### **Reporting and Accountability**

- Each ministry and organization to provide periodic reports to their senior management, official, or appropriate political leader(s).
- EC members will review and approve the annual public progress reports which will be developed by MSW and MIRR.
- The EC will receive updates on progress of initiatives under the Long-Term Strategy and the work of the Provincial Committees.
- The EC will request to meet with the Minister of the the Status of Women and the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation as needed.
- A Ministerial Steering Committee will be established to oversee the implementation and accountability of the Long-Term Strategy.
- These Terms of Reference will be reviewed as part of the annual evaluation of *Walking Together*.

### **Meetings**

#### *Executive Committee*

The EC will meet twice a year, or as deemed necessary by its membership. Schedules for meetings are to be determined on an annual basis. Meetings are suggested to take place in late fall (November) and late spring (June) each year.

#### *Other*

Provincial Committees will meet according to their own work plans and will provide report backs to the Executive Committee as required. Refer to the Provincial Committee Terms of Reference for more information.

### **Issue Resolution**

EC members will work to resolve issues by consensus.

Resolutions will be reached in a process that each party consents to, which may include a 3<sup>rd</sup> party mediator.


### **Amendments to Terms of Reference**


The Terms of Reference must be reviewed annually.

As members of the Executive Committee to End Violence Against Indigenous Women, we, the undersigned, have agreed upon and approve the above mentioned Terms of Reference for the Executive Committee to End Violence Against Indigenous Women.


This Terms of Reference sets forth general terms upon which parties named below are discussion matters related to the implementation of *Walking Together: Ontario's Long-Term Strategy to End Violence Against Indigenous Women* and does not create any binding legal obligations on the parties named below.


For Ontario:


  
Deborah Richardson  
Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation

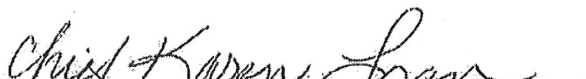
  
Maureen Adamson  
Deputy Minister  
Ministry of the Status of Women

For Indigenous Caucus:


  
Sylvia Maracle (Co-Chair)  
Executive Director  
Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship  
Centres

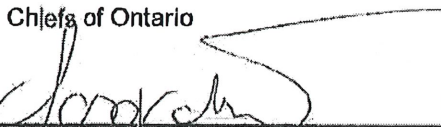
  
Cora McGulre-Cyrette  
Executive Director  
Ontario Native Women's Association

  
Joanne Meyer  
Chief Operating Officer  
Métis Nation of Ontario

  
Chief Karen Loran  
Independent First Nations

  
Nathan Wright  
Chief Executive Officer  
Chiefs of Ontario

  
Deputy Grand Chief Anna Betty Achneepineskum  
Nishnawbe Aski Nation

  
Sandra J. Montour  
Six Nations of the Grand River Territory

**Exhibit: National Inquiry into Missing and  
Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls**  
Location/Phase: Parts 2/3 St John's  
Witness: Juanita Dobson  
Submitted by: Julian Roy  
Add'l info: P02-03 P04 P01 01  
Date: OCT 15 2018

Initials

I/D

Entered

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