



## **A statement on the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for the RCMP's report into the public complaint by Amber Tuccaro's family**

**Edmonton AB, June 28, 2019--** In November 2017, Paul Tuccaro shared the story of his sister Amber Tuccaro, who went missing in August 2010, in a public hearing in Edmonton before the National Inquiry. Amber's story, like many of the stories the National Inquiry heard, hit a chord with many Indigenous families and survivors who had experienced negative interactions with police when they first reported their loved one missing. Too often families heard from police services that they should call back in 24, 48 or 72 hours if their loved one was still missing. Too often they heard things like "she is probably out partying", too often their pleas for assistance went unanswered. These types of responses and practices by police services cannot continue.

Paul's compelling and passionate testimony raised systemic and problematic issues particular to Amber's case that were heard too often by the National Inquiry from other families. In Amber's case, the report that she was missing was not taken seriously; her name was removed from the national database of missing persons; evidence was not properly documented and eventually destroyed; investigative steps were taken to dispel the facts that she was missing rather than to give credence to the fact that she had disappeared. These are but some of the problems that occurred in the initial investigation into Amber Tuccaro's disappearance. Unfortunately Amber's remains were later found in a field in Edmonton in September 2012.

Amber's mother Vivian was not satisfied with the RCMP investigation and she made a complaint. The complaint eventually made it to the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for the RCMP (the "CRCC"). Thanks to her perseverance, a review was completed. The CRCC issued its final report (the "Report") criticizing the initial RCMP investigation of Amber Tuccaro on August 27, 2018. The Report was issued to the family but not the public. There was a press conference, but the public has not had the advantage of seeing findings from the report—until now.

The Findings and Recommendations are posted online here:

<https://www.scribd.com/document/414764241/Report-of-RCMP-Civilian-Review-and-Complaints-Commission-Amber-Tuccaro>

The National Inquiry supports the Tuccaro family's position that sharing Amber's story is required to prevent unreasonable conduct by police in the investigations of missing Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGTBQQIA people. Survivors and families should never have to experience the same indifference, bias and stereotypes that Amber and her family faced. Further the National Inquiry believes that the Tuccaro family deserves appropriate and adequate redress for the clear errors and unreasonable conduct. Amber's tragic story, as was known to the National Inquiry, was reported in *Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*. The fact that the family has released parts of the CRCC report, means that the public can keep the RCMP to account and ensure that the recommendations of the CRCC are implemented.



All Canadians deserve to know the truth, and they all have a role to play in standing up to violence in all its forms and restoring the power and place of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA people.

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