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A COMPENDIUM OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION ON MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS IN CANADA

Justice-related recommendations from government and community reports between 2003 – 2015

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Introduction

This document consolidates recommendations from various government and community investigations, inquiries, reviews and research projects on the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls in Canada.

It covers the period between 2003 and 2015, and includes those reports which specifically deal with the issue of missing and murdered women. It focuses on recommendations that fall under the jurisdiction of provincial and/or federal government justice department mandates, including a range of systems such as policing, prosecutions, corrections, victim services, crime prevention, policy and legislation.

For well over a decade, a substantive body of literature, including expansive recommendations for action, has been produced on this issue in Canada. Some reports have been released by government, and some through the collective efforts of community, Indigenous leadership and most importantly families of missing and murdered Indigenous women. These voices are reflected in several key reports in this compendium, including for example Manitoba's *Wiping Away the Tears: A Gathering for Families of Missing and Murdered Women*, and Native Women's Association of Canada's *Voices of our Sisters in Spirit: A Report to Families and Communities*.

This document was prepared for the Justice Practitioners' Summit on Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls, to be held in Winnipeg on January 7 and 8, 2016. Its purpose is to bring together the range of recommendations on this topic, and provide a high-level meta-analysis of major themes and priorities for action, to inform policy priorities going forward.

List of Reports with Recommendations

- October 2003 (B.C.) *The "Start of Something Powerful": Strategizing for Safer Communities For BC Aboriginal Women*. **Pacific Association of First Nations Women, BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre, BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs**
<http://www.endingviolence.org/files/uploads/SaferCommforBCAboriginalWom.pdf>
- October 2004 (Federal) *Stolen Sisters: A Human Rights Response to Discrimination and Violence Against Indigenous Women in Canada*. **Amnesty International**
<http://www.amnesty.ca/sites/amnesty/files/amr200032004enstolensisters.pdf>
- September 2005 (B.C.) *Researched to Death: B.C. Aboriginal Women and Violence*. **Pacific Association of First Nations Women, Ending Violence Association of BC, BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre**
<http://www.endingviolence.org/files/uploads/Researched To Death Final 2005.pdf>
- June 2006 (B.C.) *The Highway of Tears Symposium Recommendation Report*. **Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, Carrier Sekani Family Services, Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, Prince George Native Friendship Centre, Prince George Nechako Aboriginal Employment & Training Association, Prince George Nechako Aboriginal Employment & Training Association**
<http://highwayoftears.org/uploads/Highway%20of%20Tears%20Symposium%20Recommendations%20Report%20-%20January%202013.pdf>
- September. 2007 (O.N.) *A Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women* **Ontario Native Women's Association, Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres**
<http://www.oaith.ca/assets/files/Publications/Strategic Framework Aboriginal Women.pdf>
- October 2007 (S.K.) *Final Report of the Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons*. **Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons**
<http://publications.gov.sk.ca/documents/9/30559-missing-persons-final.pdf>
- January 2008 (Federal) *Summary Report: A Call for Action*. **National Aboriginal Women's Summit –Nfld** <http://www.laa.gov.nl.ca/laa/naws/pdf/SummaryReport.pdf>
- March 2009 (Federal) *Voices of our Sisters in Spirit: A Report to Families and Communities*. **Native Women's Association of Canada**
http://ywcacanada.ca/data/research_docs/00000023.pdf
- November 2008 (International) *Concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women*. **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women**
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CEDAW/Pages/CEDAWIndex.aspx>

- September 2009 (Federal) *No More Stolen Sisters: The Need for a Comprehensive Response to Discrimination and Violence Against Indigenous Women in Canada*. **Amnesty International** <http://www.amnesty.ca/research/reports/no-more-stolen-sisters-the-need-for-a-comprehensive-response-to-discrimination-and->
- August 2010 (B.C.) *Missing Women Investigation Review Summary Report*. **Vancouver Police Department** <http://vancouver.ca/police/media/2010/mw-summary-report.pdf>
- March 2011 (B.C.) *Stopping Violence Against Aboriginal Women: A Discussion Paper to Support Community Focus Groups*. **British Columbia Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation**
- March 2011 (M.B.) *Wiping Away the Tears: A Gathering for Families of Missing and Murdered Women*. **Province of Manitoba – Manitoba Action Group on Vulnerable and Exploited Women**
- June 2011 (M.B.) *Never Forgotten: Summit on Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women and Girls*. **Bruce & Boivin Consulting Group**.
- June 2011 (B.C.) *The Tragedy of Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women in Canada: We Can Do Better* **The SisterWatch Project of the Vancouver Police Department and the Missing and Murdered Women Memorial March**.
<http://vancouver.ca/police/assets/pdf/reports-policies/missing-murdered-aboriginal-women-canada-report.pdf>
- July 2011 (B.C.) *Report on Outcomes and Recommendations from Working Sessions Collaboration to End Violence: National Aboriginal Women's Forum*. **AMR Consulting** http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/consulting-with-first-nations/first-nations/report_collaboration_to_end_violence_forum.pdf
- January 2012 (preliminary report released 2010) (Federal) *Issues Related to the High Number of Murdered and Missing Women in Canada*. **Coordinating Committee of Senior Officials – Missing Women Working Group**
<http://www.scics.gc.ca/CMFiles/831-016005-we11HOP-1262012-7454.pdf>
- January 2012 (M.B.) *Comprehensive Final Report Pitawik – Hear Me - Manitoba Aboriginal Women's Gatherings*
- November 2012 (BC) *Foresaken: The Report of The Missing Women Commission of Inquiry*. **Missing Women Commission of Inquiry, The Honourable Wally T. Oppal, Commissioner** <http://www.missingwomeninquiry.ca/obtain-report/>
- November 2012 (International) *Statement to the UN Commission on the Status of Women – 57th Session*. **Assembly of First Nations**
http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.6/2013/NGO/70

- February 2013 (International) *Those Who Take Us Away: Abusive Policing and Failures in Protection of Indigenous Women and Girls in Northern British Columbia, Canada.* **Human Rights Watch** <https://www.hrw.org/report/2013/02/13/those-who-take-us-away/abusive-policing-and-failures-protection-indigenous-women>
- May 2014. (Federal) *Missing and Murdered Women: A National Operational Review.* RCMP <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/pubs/mmaw-faapd-eng.htm>
- March 2014. (Federal) *Invisible Women: A Call to Action A Report on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in Canada.* **Report of the Special Committee on Violence Against Indigenous Women.** <http://www.parl.gc.ca/content/hoc/Committee/412/IWFA/Reports/RP6469851/IWFArp01/IWFArp01-e.pdf>
- 2014 (Federal) *Action Plan to address family violence and violent crimes against aboriginal women and girls.* **Government of Canada** <http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/violence/efforts/action-eng.pdf>
- December 2014 (International) *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in BC Canada.* **Inter-American Commission on Human Rights** <http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/reports/pdfs/Indigenous-Women-BC-Canada-en.pdf>
- 2015 (federal) *Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action* **Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.** [http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Calls to Action English2.pdf](http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Calls%20to%20Action%20English2.pdf)

Additional Reference Reports

Serial Murder: Multi-Disciplinary Perspectives for Investigators. **FBI Behavioural Analysis Unit National Centre for the Analysis of Violent Crime**. <https://www.fbi.gov/stats-services/publications/serial-murder>

May 2011. *Report on the 2011 Western Regional Forum on Supporting Families of Missing Persons*. **Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice and Attorney General as a member of the Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons**. [http://childfind.sk.ca/images/uploads/Report on the 2011 Western Regional Forum on Supporting Families of Missing Persons.pdf](http://childfind.sk.ca/images/uploads/Report%20on%20the%202011%20Western%20Regional%20Forum%20on%20Supporting%20Families%20of%20Missing%20Persons.pdf)

May 2014. *Trafficking of Aboriginal Women and Girls*. **By Red Willow Consulting, Inc. prepared for Research and Analysis Division, Community Safety and Countering Crime Branch, Public Safety Canada**.

2014 (Federal) *Action Plan to address family violence and violent crimes against aboriginal women and girls*. **Government of Canada** <http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/violence/efforts/action-eng.pdf>

Fall 2014. (Federal) *"No More" Ending Sex-Trafficking in Canada. Report of the National Task Force on Sex Trafficking of Women and Girls in Canada*. **Commissioned by the Canadian Women's Foundation**. <http://canadianwomen.org/reports/trafficking>

February 2015. *A Handbook for Criminal Justice Practitioners on Trafficking in Persons*. **Federal/Provincial/Territorial Working Group on Trafficking in Persons**. <http://justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/tp/hcipotp-gtpupjp/hcipotp-gtpupjp.pdf>

June 2015 *Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women: 2015 Update to the National Operational Review*. **RCMP** <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/pubs/abo-aut/mmaw-fada-eng.htm>

December 2015 (O.N.) *Missing and Unsolved Murdered Indigenous People: The Ontario Provincial Police Perspective*. **Ontario Provincial Police** <http://www.opp.ca/media/mumip/index.html>

Recommendations by Issue Area

National and/or Inter-Jurisdictional Responsibility

Oversight, Policy and Legislation

October 2004 (Federal) *Stolen Sisters: A Human Rights Response to Discrimination and Violence Against Indigenous Women in Canada* **Amnesty International**
<http://www.amnesty.ca/sites/amnesty/files/amr200032004enstolensisters.pdf>

1. Acknowledge the seriousness of the problem

All levels of government, governance structures, should:

- publicly condemn the high rates of violence against Indigenous women – whether within Indigenous communities and society as whole -- and make public their plans to address the crisis.
- undertake a review of outstanding recommendations from Canadian commissions, inquiries and inquests pertaining to the safety and welfare of Indigenous people with a view to ensuring their timely implementation.
- clearly outline the measures taken to address the problem of violence against Indigenous women in Canada in reports to relevant UN human rights bodies, including the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Human Rights Committee

The federal government should commit to fully implementing outstanding recommendations of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples which address poverty and social marginalization of Indigenous people in Canada, as has repeatedly been urged by United Nations treaty bodies.

Sept. 2005 (B.C.) *Researched to Death: B.C. Aboriginal Women and Violence* **Pacific Association of First Nations Women, Ending Violence Association of BC, BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre**
<http://www.endingviolence.org/files/uploads/Researched To Death Final 2005.pdf>

4. Policy and Research

- An implementation of past government commissions and inquiries reports completed on Aboriginal women and violence is a good start.
- An even better direction with long-term results would be to implement the Royal Commission on Aboriginal People and the United Nations human rights treaty bodies' recommendations that relate to "poverty and social marginalization of Indigenous peoples in Canada.
- The Canadian government needs to work with Aboriginal women to work towards solutions to stop the violence and include them in any policy discussions that will directly affect them.
- Since the rate of Aboriginal women incarcerated is increasing a mandatory appointment of Aboriginal women on the National Parole Board is a necessity.
- Request the United Nations to study and document violence against Aboriginal women.
- This study needs to determine if there are specific measures being taken by Canada to address the violence against Aboriginal women.
- A transformation in Canadian perspective and law needs to be a priority.
- Canadian laws need to be changed that currently support "domination" and the continued victimization of women.
- A provision needs to be included in the Indian Act that allows for the same equal division of property for Aboriginal women on reserve.

November 2008 (International) *Concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women* **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women**

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CEDAW/Pages/CEDAWIndex.aspx>

31. Although the Committee notes that a working group has been established to review the situation relating to missing and murdered women in the State party and those at risk in that context, it remains concerned that hundreds of cases involving aboriginal women who have gone missing or been murdered in the past two decades have neither been fully investigated nor attracted priority attention, with the perpetrators remaining unpunished.
32. The Committee urges the State party to examine the reasons for the failure to investigate the cases of missing or murdered aboriginal women and to take the necessary steps to remedy the deficiencies in the system. The Committee calls upon the State party to urgently carry out thorough investigations of the cases of aboriginal women who have gone missing or been murdered in recent decades. It also urges the State party to carry out an analysis of those cases in order to determine whether there is a racialized pattern to the disappearances and take measures to address the problem if that is the case.

January 2008 (Federal) *Summary Report: A Call for Action. National Aboriginal Women's Summit –Nfld* <http://www.laa.gov.nl.ca/laa/naws/pdf/SummaryReport.pdf>

7. National and regional Aboriginal women's organizations (NAOs) must be provided appropriate resources for the development, implementation and monitoring of a national, long-term strategic plan for Aboriginal women in all spheres (social and economic development, etc.). Resources must reflect the unique circumstances of each group or geographical area.

8. Action must be taken on a full suite of legislative initiatives including addressing the gender bias under the *Indian Act*, customary and family law reform, Bill C-31 and Canadian Human Rights legislation. Participants want to ensure that the Aboriginal and Treaty rights of Aboriginal women under Section 35(4) are recognized and protected.

10. Prior to the repeal of Section 67 of the *Canadian Human Rights Act*, a comprehensive multi-year plan must be developed for community education and consultation in order to define next steps.

15. Federal legislation related to Matrimonial Real Property (MRP) on-reserve must be enacted in order to ensure that the property rights of Aboriginal women are recognized and meaningfully respected, upon marital breakdown. The proposed solutions must be reviewed to ensure that they do not result in inequitable impacts on Aboriginal women.

16. The Federal Government must adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People and must work with Permanent Forum and Indigenous People's organizations.

27. The Federal Government (as a result of the previous assimilation policies of residential schools that negatively impacted on languages) must fund the revitalization of indigenous languages through programs dedicated to adults, youth and children.

September 2009 (Federal) *No More Stolen Sisters: The Need for a Comprehensive Response to Discrimination and Violence Against Indigenous Women in Canada*. **Amnesty International** <http://www.amnesty.ca/research/reports/no-more-stolen-sisters-the-need-for-a-comprehensive-response-to-discrimination-and->

3. Restoration of funding to fulfill the commitment set out in the Kelowna Accord (First Ministers and National Aboriginal Leaders: Strengthening Relationships and Closing the Gap) to end inequalities in health, housing, education, and other services for Indigenous peoples;

5. Publicly commit to fully implement the standards contained in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and to engage Indigenous Peoples in discussions about their implementation.

March 2011 (B.C.) *Stopping Violence Against Aboriginal Women: A Discussion Paper to Support Community Focus Groups*. **British Columbia Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation**

The Federal Government should:

- Make sure that all the recommendations of the 1996 Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples are acted upon;
- Make changes to laws that deny equal rights to Aboriginal women; and
- Take action to deal with the unemployment and poverty faced by Aboriginal women and men.

November 2012 (International) *Statement to the UN Commission on the Status of Women – 57th Session*. **Assembly of First Nations**
http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.6/2013/NGO/70

4. The Government of Canada should immediately establish an independent and inclusive National Public Commission of Inquiry on Violence against Indigenous Women and Girls, with the full support and participation of the provinces and territories.

February 2013 (International) *Those Who Take Us Away: Abusive Policing and Failures in Protection of Indigenous Women and Girls in Northern British Columbia, Canada*. **Human Rights Watch** <https://www.hrw.org/report/2013/02/13/those-who-take-us-away/abusive-policing-and-failures-protection-indigenous-women>

- Establish independent civilian investigations of reported incidents of serious police misconduct, including incidents of rape and other sexual assault, in all jurisdictions;
- Establish a national commission of inquiry into the murders and disappearances of indigenous women and girls before the end of 2013; ensure the inquiry's terms of reference are developed with leadership from affected communities and that they include the examination of the current and historical relationship between the police and indigenous women and girls, including incidents of serious police misconduct, and the systemic socio-economic marginalization of indigenous women and girls that predispose them to high levels of violence;
- Cooperate with the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women's inquiry into the issue of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls, including

by granting permission for a site visit, and provide similar cooperation to other international human rights bodies that may seek to engage the government on these issues;

- Ratify the American Convention on Human Rights and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence Against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará).
- Ensure that a public inquiry takes place into the violence experienced by indigenous women and girls in northern British Columbia. The inquiry could be part of a national commission of inquiry or a standalone inquiry for the province. The inquiry should include both the murders and disappearances of indigenous women and girls along Highway 16 and police abuse of indigenous women and girls. The inquiry's terms of reference should be defined in cooperation with indigenous communities, and adequate financial and victim supports for non-government community participation and interests should proportionately equal those provided for government and police;

2015 (federal) Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf

25. We call upon the federal government to establish a written policy that reaffirms the independence of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to investigate crimes in which the government has its own interest as a potential or real party in civil litigation.

26. We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to review and amend their respective statutes of limitations to ensure that they conform to the principle that governments and other entities cannot rely on limitation defences to defend legal actions of historical abuse brought by Aboriginal people.

32. We call upon the federal government to amend the Criminal Code to allow trial judges, upon giving reasons, to depart from mandatory minimum sentences and restrictions on the use of conditional sentences.

41. We call upon the federal government, in consultation with Aboriginal organizations, to appoint a public inquiry into the causes of, and remedies for, the disproportionate victimization of Aboriginal women and girls. The inquiry's mandate would include:

- i. Investigation into missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls.
- ii. Links to the intergenerational legacy of residential schools.

42. We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to commit to the recognition and implementation of Aboriginal justice systems in a manner consistent with the Treaty and Aboriginal rights of Aboriginal peoples, the *Constitution Act, 1982*, and the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, endorsed by Canada in November 2012.

National Strategy

Sept. 2009 (Federal) *No More Stolen Sisters: The Need for a Comprehensive Response to Discrimination and Violence Against Indigenous Women in Canada* **Amnesty**

International <http://www.amnesty.ca/research/reports/no-more-stolen-sisters-the-need-for-a-comprehensive-response-to-discrimination-and->

1. As a matter of urgent priority, the federal government should work with Indigenous women and representative organizations and provincial and territorial officials to develop and implement a comprehensive, co-ordinated national plan of action in keeping with the scale and seriousness of the violence and discrimination experienced by Indigenous women. Such a plan of action should include:

- The collection and routine publication of gender disaggregated data on health and social and economic conditions for Inuit, Métis and First Nations women and men, including rates of violence against Indigenous women;
- The promotion of standardized protocols for police handling of missing persons cases including tools for fair and effective assessment of the risk to the missing individual;
- Improved co-ordination of police investigations into long-term missing persons cases and unsolved murders involving Indigenous women and other women at risk.
- Adequate, sustained long-term funding to ensure the provision of culturally relevant services to meet the needs of Indigenous women and girls at risk of violence or in contact with the police and justice system, including emergency shelters, court workers, victim services and specific programmes to assist women who have been trafficked within Canada;

July 2011 (B.C.) *Report on Outcomes and Recommendations from Working Sessions Collaboration to End Violence: National Aboriginal Women's Forum.* **AMR**

Consulting http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/consulting-with-first-nations/first-nations/report_collaboration_to_end_violence_forum.pdf

8. A National Strategy

- Federal, provincial and territorial governments and national and regional Aboriginal leadership need to develop and implement a multi-year national strategy to facilitate collaboration and partnerships with Aboriginal organizations to develop and implement community-based solutions to address violence against Aboriginal women.
- Establish a National Centre of Excellence focused on violence against First Nation, Métis and Inuit Women.

January 2012 (preliminary report released 2010) (Federal) *Issues Related to the High Number of Murdered and Missing Women in Canada* **Coordinating Committee of Senior Officials – Missing Women Working Group**

<http://www.scics.gc.ca/CMFiles/831-016005-we11HOP-1262012-7454.pdf>

Recommendation # 13

- The MWWG recommends that Ministers ask the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police to consider a national strategy to ensure consistency in reporting mechanisms for reporting missing persons. This could be developed in conjunction with implementation of a National Data Base.
- The MWWG recommends that jurisdictions work with law enforcement/police agencies to ensure that the public is made aware of reporting practices for missing persons in their jurisdiction; to evaluate the adequacy of current educational mechanisms; and consider how to make information more accessible through websites. This could include a national public

education campaign about missing persons" issues and police policies and procedures in order to change misconceptions.

November 2012 (International) *Statement to the UN Commission on the Status of Women – 57th Session. Assembly of First Nations*

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.6/2013/NGO/70

1. As Canada is a federal State, the creation of an inclusive, outcome-oriented intergovernmental mechanism, comprised of indigenous women and girls, elected leadership and federal and provincial ministers, is recommended to develop a comprehensive action and implementation plan to address the high incidence of violence against indigenous peoples.

February 2013 (International) *Those Who Take Us Away: Abusive Policing and Failures in Protection of Indigenous Women and Girls in Northern British Columbia, Canada.*

Human Rights Watch <https://www.hrw.org/report/2013/02/13/those-who-take-us-away/abusive-policing-and-failures-protection-indigenous-women>

- With leadership from indigenous communities, develop and implement a national action plan to address violence against indigenous women and girls that addresses the structural roots of the violence as well as the accountability and coordination of government bodies charged with preventing and responding to violence;

May 2014. (Federal) *Missing and Murdered Women: A National Operational Review.* RCMP

<http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/pubs/mmaw-faapd-eng.htm>

(1) Enhancing efforts on unresolved cases

Additionally, the RCMP has dedicated resources to develop a National Missing Persons Strategy. The strategy will guide the RCMP's approach to missing persons cases and will increase the quality of investigations in the following ways:

- Ensuring the necessary level of supervision and guidance is provided on all missing persons investigations;
- Ensuring available victim services are provided to support the families;
- Providing ongoing and timely communication to the family or reporting party;
- Conducting interviews with located individuals to determine possible risk factors for prevention and early intervention;
- Updating the RCMP National Missing Persons policy to incorporate best practices;
- Initiating the mandatory use and completion of a national missing persons intake form; and,
- Implementing a mandatory national risk assessment tool as an investigative aid.

March 2014. (Federal) *Invisible Women: A Call to Action A Report on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in Canada. Report of the Special Committee on Violence Against Indigenous Women.*

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/content/hoc/Committee/412/IWFA/Reports/RP6469851/IWFArp01/IWFArp01-e.pdf>

Recommendation 15

That the federal government examine opportunities to improve the incorporation of best practices into existing programs and services available to Aboriginal women and girls.

December 2014 (International) *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in BC Canada*
Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
<http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/reports/pdfs/Indigenous-Women-BC-Canada-en.pdf>

The IACHR strongly supports the creation of a national-level action plan or a nation-wide inquiry into the issue of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls, in order to better understand and address the problem through integral approaches. The IACHR considers that there is much more to understand and to acknowledge in relation to the missing and murdered indigenous women. This initiative must be organized in consultation with indigenous peoples, particularly indigenous women, at all stages from conception, to establishing terms of reference, implementation and evaluation.

Indigenous Women's Leadership & Self-Determination

October 2004 (Federal) *Stolen Sisters: A Human Rights Response to Discrimination and Violence Against Indigenous Women in Canada*. **Amnesty International**
<http://www.amnesty.ca/sites/amnesty/files/amr200032004enstolensisters.pdf>

3. Take immediate action to protect women at greatest risk

Federal, provincial and municipal governments should subject all social programs to a periodic review to ensure the accessibility and resourcing of programs for Indigenous women and families is at least on a par with those available to non-Indigenous people in Canada.

5. Address the social and economic factors that lead to Indigenous women's extreme vulnerability to violence

Federal and provincial governments, with the full participation of Indigenous women, should organize a high level intergovernmental and interdepartmental meeting to ensure proper coordination and information sharing on initiatives to address the safety and welfare of Indigenous women and girls.

January 2008 (Federal) *Summary Report: A Call for Action*. **National Aboriginal Women's Summit –Nfld** <http://www.laa.gov.nl.ca/laa/naws/pdf/SummaryReport.pdf>

11. Aboriginal women must be actively involved and take their rightful place in self-determination and processes must be developed to ensure that their unique and important roles in Aboriginal governments be recognized.

12. Economic development for First Nation, Métis and Inuit women is a priority.

13. Educational outcomes for Aboriginal women must be improved through accessible affordable educational opportunities and increased financial resources.

14. Gender equity is a right and must guide all policies and legislation while taking into account the distinctiveness of First Nations, Métis and Inuit women.

17. Governments must work jointly with First Nation, Métis and Inuit to facilitate governance, capacity building and accountability with an emphasis on supporting the roles of Aboriginal women.

19. National Aboriginal Organizations, Federal, Provincial, Territorial, and all governments ensure that “culturally-based” GBA processes are established, and that Aboriginal women be resourced to define for themselves the impact of any proposed legislation, policy, programs and services.

20. Implementing a culturally relevant gender based analysis (CRGBA) framework in all legislative, policy and programming at all government levels will provide critical insight into the current situation forcing outcomes to be more holistic, and inclusive.

21. Full participation of Aboriginal women at all decision making tables is needed so they are well served in all legislative, policy and programming initiatives affecting Aboriginal people.

22. A lifelong learning strategy must be developed in key areas of early childhood development, primary, secondary, and post-secondary education, and skills development, and retention, which addresses the unique circumstances of Aboriginal women.

March 2009 (Federal) *Voices of our Sisters in Spirit: A Report to Families and Communities*.
Native Women’s Association of Canada
http://ywcacanada.ca/data/research_docs/00000023.pdf

- Governments and Native Women’s Association of Canada work together cooperatively to identify gaps and barriers to the protection of and full enjoyment of human rights by Aboriginal women by reviewing outcomes using a report card model, and evaluate the effectiveness of measures implemented to date to ameliorate these gaps and barriers.
- Governments work with Native Women’s Association of Canada to conduct a culturally relevant gender based analysis of funding formulas and report results to Aboriginal organizations.

March 2011 (B.C.) *Stopping Violence Against Aboriginal Women: A Discussion Paper to Support Community Focus Groups*. **British Columbia Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation**

Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal leadership/governments should:

- Welcome Aboriginal women to all decision-making tables; and
- Support Aboriginal women to give input into how health and social services are developed and delivered.

Communities can:

- Build partnerships with one another to join strengths and resources.

July 2011 (B.C.) *Report on Outcomes and Recommendations from Working Sessions Collaboration to End Violence: National Aboriginal Women’s Forum*. **AMR Consulting** http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/consulting-with-first-nations/first-nations/report_collaboration_to_end_violence_forum.pdf

1. The Need for All Responses to be Community Engaged and Community Led

- Aboriginal leaders and community members need to take ownership of the response to violence against Aboriginal women and initiate activities in their own communities to prevent and address violence.
- Aboriginal community members need to reinstitute community governance by establishing formal structures that support their ability to work together to address violence against Aboriginal women and other community issues.
- Ongoing consultation and communication must be established between government and Aboriginal women on policies, decisions, planning, projects or activities that affect or involve them.

January 2012 (M.B.) *Comprehensive Final Report Pitawik – Hear Me - Manitoba Aboriginal Women's Gatherings.*

- There is a need, stated at each gathering, for women to have some formal, organized bodies that provided a regular forum for them to come together to meet, discuss, share their concerns and build leadership capacity. This is to happen at the community level, allowing for women to gain support and share their stories, but also at the local, provincial, national and international levels, inserting Aboriginal women's voices into the larger political agenda and securing increased Aboriginal women's leadership.
- As the keepers of the culture, women are interested in the revitalization of culture and language, paying particular attention to the inclusion of youth and Elders.

November 2012 (International) *Statement to the UN Commission on the Status of Women – 57th Session. Assembly of First Nations*
http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.6/2013/NGO/70

2. Government at all levels should broadly pursue relationship and policy principles that restore the role of indigenous women and girls in decision-making, policy and strategy development in order to reduce the social and economic circumstances that place them in situations of increased vulnerability and overrepresentation in the correctional and criminal justice systems.

3. The Government of Canada should recognize and support the full implementation of First Nations' jurisdiction over justice systems, institutions and law-making and ensure capacity in First Nations' design and delivery of programmes, services and supports aimed at restoring harmony, balance and wellness in communities.

December 2014 (International) *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in BC Canada*
Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
<http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/reports/pdfs/Indigenous-Women-BC-Canada-en.pdf>

Initiatives, programs and policies related to indigenous women should be tailored to their needs and concerns, including whether they are living on reserve or off reserve. Their consultation is crucial for the success of any initiative, especially given the context of historical and structural discrimination. In this regard, Canada should adopt measures to promote the active participation of indigenous women in the design and implementation of initiatives, programs and policies at all levels of government that are directed to indigenous women, as well as those that pertain to indigenous peoples more broadly.

The selection of indigenous women to participate in these initiatives should be made in consultation with recognized associations of indigenous peoples and of indigenous women and their leadership.

Systems for Information, Data and Statistics

October 2004 (Federal) *Stolen Sisters: A Human Rights Response to Discrimination and Violence Against Indigenous Women in Canada* **Amnesty International**
<http://www.amnesty.ca/sites/amnesty/files/amr200032004enstolensisters.pdf>

2. Support research into the extent and causes of violence against Indigenous women

- The federal government should ensure adequate funding for comprehensive national research on violence against Indigenous women, including the creation of a national registry to collect and analyze statistical information from all jurisdictions.
- The federal government should request the United Nations' Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people and Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, to jointly study and document patterns of violence against Indigenous women, including in Canada.

October 2007 (SK) *Final Report of the Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons* **Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons**
<http://publications.gov.sk.ca/documents/9/30559-missing-persons-final.pdf>

- Recommendation 12.2: The Saskatchewan Minister of Justice should raise with the Federal Ministers responsible for Justice the need to amend federal legislation to ensure that when police are investigating a missing person case they have access to information under federal jurisdiction relevant to the investigation.
- Recommendation 20: The Saskatchewan Minister of Justice should raise at the next meeting of Ministers Responsible for Justice the need for national consideration of whether and how a voluntary national information base or linked information bases on potential missing persons could be created.

June 2011 (B.C.) *The Tragedy of Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women in Manitoba: We Can Do Better* **The SisterWatch Project of the Vancouver Police Department and the Missing and Murdered Women Memorial March.** <http://vancouver.ca/police/assets/pdf/reports-policies/missing-murdered-aboriginal-women-canada-report.pdf>

9. There should be harmonized legislation in all provinces and territories, such as recently passed in Alberta, to provide rapid police access to government databases (e.g., health and social assistance) that would be useful in missing persons investigations.

January 2012 (preliminary report released 2010) (Federal) *Issues Related to the High Number of Murdered and Missing Women in Canada* **Coordinating Committee of Senior Officials – Missing Women Working Group**
<http://www.scics.gc.ca/CMFiles/831-016005-we11HOP-1262012-7454.pdf>

- Recommendation # 22: The MWWG recommends that FPT Ministers Responsible for Justice support, as a priority, the work of the Multi-Provincial Strategy on Missing Persons & Unidentified Remains to establish a national missing person database containing both police

missing person information and information on unidentified human remains. This database should be accessible to and searchable by both police and coroners or medical examiners, with designated sections accessible to the public by website.

- Recommendation #26: The MWWG recommends that FPT Ministers Responsible for Justice support further exploration of the recommendation by the Saskatchewan Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons that a more systematic and comprehensive approach be taken to data collection on missing persons in Canada and that the Ministers ask the CACP to consider the following approaches with respect to data entry/collection:
 - Use of a common intake and investigation forms;
 - Increased reporting of missing persons cases onto CPIC; and
 - Aggregate reporting from police reports at the local, provincial/territorial or national level subject to resources.
- Recommendation # 34: The MWWG recommends that jurisdictions conduct a feasibility study on the development of a voluntary database containing information on individuals considered to be at high risk of going missing, including developing criteria for such a database; and that the federal government lead the feasibility study, including a review of any legislative authority required for the collection and use of this information.
- Recommendation # 35: The MWWG recommends that jurisdictions support further consideration of the feasibility and utility of a Missing Persons Index, including potential resolutions to privacy concerns relating to the possible cross-matching feature of the sub-indices, and also subject to the ongoing review of the DNA Data Bank scheme.
- Recommendation # 36: The MWWG recommends that Ministers recommend to CACP that they support local and national police agencies in developing a strategy to raise awareness and use of all available databases by considering the development of a national police electronic resource, such as a web page, containing current information on available databases as well as resources such as those contained by National Flagging Coordinators on specific offenders for use in investigations of serial homicides, and a description of each with contacts for additional information.
- Recommendation #9: The MWWG recommends that FPT Ministers Responsible for Justice direct officials to engage in discussions with health professionals and other affected professional bodies to ensure that the existing protocols and legislation in each jurisdiction are adequate to address the public safety exemptions or whether legislative changes are required.

February 2013 (International) *Those Who Take Us Away: Abusive Policing and Failures in Protection of Indigenous Women and Girls in Northern British Columbia, Canada.*
Human Rights Watch <https://www.hrw.org/report/2013/02/13/those-who-take-us-away/abusive-policing-and-failures-protection-indigenous-women>

To the Royal Canadian Mounted Police:

- Collect and make publicly available (as ethically appropriate) accurate and comprehensive, disaggregated data that includes an ethnicity variable on violence against indigenous women and girls in cooperation with indigenous community organizations and the National Centre for Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains (NCMPUR); the development of NCMPUR should be part of a national RCMP strategy for the elimination of violence against indigenous women and girls that ensures consistency in data collection, immediate reporting, and access to information by police, coroners, and medical examiners;

May 2014. (Federal) *Missing and Murdered Women: A National Operational Review*. RCMP
<http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/pubs/mmaw-faapd-eng.htm>

(1) Enhancing efforts on unresolved cases

RCMP Divisions have been provided with data from this project and have been directed to review all outstanding cases within their areas of responsibility to ensure all investigative avenues have been explored; and, ensure units responsible for missing and murdered cases are resourced sufficiently. Progress will be monitored at RCMP National Headquarters.

Of the unresolved cases of missing and murdered Aboriginal females, approximately 46% fall within the jurisdiction of other provincial or municipal police forces. The RCMP will provide partners with data relevant to their jurisdictions to assist in their efforts on these outstanding cases.

(2) Focusing prevention efforts

The RCMP will use the data gathered to enhance its efforts at preventing Aboriginal females from going missing or being murdered.

(3) Increasing public awareness

The RCMP will continue to work with stakeholders and partners to encourage the lawful and appropriate public release of data from this exercise.

Also, the RCMP will provide information collected during the project to Statistics Canada so that any new information can be included as part of its official holdings. Once this is completed, the information will be available for future publications or analysis via regular Statistics Canada disclosure mechanisms.

(4) Strengthening the data

The list of outstanding murdered and missing Aboriginal females compiled for this project represents the most comprehensive list of police-reported murdered and missing data to date. It is important that it remains current because it provides a single common operating baseline from which agencies can assess and deploy response strategies.

To that end, the data on missing women has been shared with the National Centre for Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains (NCMPUR), which will work to publish these cases on its [Canada's Missing](#) website. This will greatly expand the number of cases that are in NCMPUR's holdings and that are publicly available on its website.

To continue to ensure there is solid data available for operational decision-making and to ensure members record the most relevant information possible for Statistics Canada, the RCMP will roll out changes to how it collects data on homicides and missing persons. As a result of this project, the RCMP will ensure that Aboriginal origin is captured as part of Homicide Surveys.

March 2014. (Federal) *Invisible Women: A Call to Action A Report on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in Canada. Report of the Special Committee on Violence Against Indigenous Women*.
<http://www.parl.gc.ca/content/hoc/Committee/412/IWFA/Reports/RP6469851/IWFArp01/IWFArp01-e.pdf>

Recommendation 4

That the federal government implement a national DNA-based missing person's index

Recommendation 10

That the federal government in cooperation with municipal, provincial and territorial governments examine the possibility of collecting police data on violence against Aboriginal women and girls that includes an ethnicity variable.

December 2014 (International) *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in BC Canada*
Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
<http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/reports/pdfs/Indigenous-Women-BC-Canada-en.pdf>

The IACHR recommends the development of data collection systems that collect accurate statistics on missing and murdered indigenous women, by consistently capturing the race of the victim or missing person. Capturing accurate data is the basis for moving forward in any initiative.

2015 (federal) Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada
http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf

39. We call upon the federal government to develop a national plan to collect and publish data on the criminal victimization of Aboriginal people, including data related to homicide and family violence victimization.

Inter-jurisdictional Issues

March 2009 (Federal) *Voices of our Sisters in Spirit: A Report to Families and Communities*
Native Women's Association of Canada
http://ywcacanada.ca/data/research_docs/00000023.pdf

Governments work with Native Women's Association of Canada and other national organizations to develop a process to broaden Jordan's Principle to include all jurisdictional issues affecting Aboriginal peoples.

July 2011 (B.C.) *Report on Outcomes and Recommendations from Working Sessions*
Collaboration to End Violence: National Aboriginal Women's Forum
http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/consulting-with-first-nations/first-nations/report_collaboration_to_end_violence_forum.pdf

10. Engaged and Accountable Leadership

- Federal government departments or agencies should set family violence as a priority and allocate appropriate funding to support community-led activities in this area. The federal government should also share and strategically coordinate funding between and across departments and agencies and, if appropriate, with other levels of government.
- Provincial government departments or agencies should set family violence as a priority and allocate appropriate funding to support community-led activities in this area. It should share and strategically coordinate funding between and across departments and agencies and, if appropriate, with other levels of government; lobby and advocate at federal, provincial and territorial levels and establish violence prevention as an area for statutory activity.

- Municipal governments should provide in-kind support and share resources (e.g., public space for camps) and funding to support community-led activities.

11. Funding

- Federal, provincial and territorial governments should ensure that funding is coordinated, timely and capable of meeting community needs.

December 2014 (International) *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in BC Canada*
Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
<http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/reports/pdfs/Indigenous-Women-BC-Canada-en.pdf>

The IACHR recognizes the existence of a wide variety of initiatives to address the situation of violence against indigenous women in Canada. However, based on the information received and analyzed, the IACHR strongly urges the need for better coordination among the different levels and sectors of government. The IACHR stresses that both federal and provincial governments are responsible for the legal status and conditions of indigenous women and girls and their communities.

Policing Standards

Missing Person Investigation Protocols

October 2004 (Federal) *Stolen Sisters: A Human Rights Response to Discrimination and Violence Against Indigenous Women in Canada* **Amnesty International**
<http://www.amnesty.ca/sites/amnesty/files/amr200032004enstolensisters.pdf>

3. Take immediate action to protect women at greatest risk

Police should work closely with Indigenous women's organizations and other frontline groups to identify and implement appropriate and effective protocols for action on missing persons cases, with a view to developing standards for police response in keeping with the risks to Indigenous women and girls.

- Police forces should provide specialized staffing to review and coordinate responses to missing persons cases.
- As part of ongoing review and implementation of laws regarding the sex trade in Canada, give police clear instructions to ensure that the fundamental rights of women involved in the sex trade are protected in the course of all law enforcement activities.

June 2006 (B.C.) *The Highway of Tears Symposium Recommendation Report* **Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, Carrier Sekani Family Services, Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, Prince George Native Friendship Centre, Prince George Nechako Aboriginal Employment & Training Association, Prince George Nechako Aboriginal Employment & Training Association**
<http://highwayoftears.org/uploads/Highway%20of%20Tears%20Symposium%20Recommendations%20Report%20-%20January%202013.pdf>

Recommendation #2

That while the RCMP does a commendable job in patrolling the highway; these patrols can no longer drive past a hitchhiker who fits the victim profile.

October 2007 (SK) *Final Report of the Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons* **Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons**
<http://publications.gov.sk.ca/documents/9/30559-missing-persons-final.pdf>

III. Improving Responses to Missing Persons Cases:

Recommendation 9.1: The Saskatchewan Police Commission should review its current policy and work with all police agencies in Saskatchewan to develop and implement an overarching provincial Missing Person Policy for all municipal police agencies, and encourage the RCMP to adopt the policy in Saskatchewan.

Recommendation 9.2: The Saskatchewan Police Commission should give consideration to incorporating the following standards in the policy:

1. A missing person report must be taken immediately when information comes to the attention of police, regardless of the length of time the person has been missing or the location where the person went missing.
2. A standardized specialized in-take form for recording a missing person report and a specialized investigative checklist should be used.

3. A common assessment tool should be developed to help assess the priority of the investigation.
4. Immediate investigation of missing persons in suspicious circumstances.
5. Once it is established that a person is missing, the case will be entered on CPIC as soon as possible.
6. Continued communication with the families of missing people.
7. A media and public communications protocol for disseminating information about missing persons and requesting the public's help in locating a missing person.
8. The police, upon identifying a chronic runaway situation, should develop approaches to link with other agencies to support appropriate intervention
9. All police forces should assign a police officer responsible for coordination of missing persons files and establish a backup process to avoid gaps in effectively responding to missing person reports.
10. In order to effectively implement the above approach to recording and managing investigations on missing person cases, standardized training and practice guides should be developed.
11. There is a need for a more systematic and consistent approach to collecting data on:
 - a. missing person reports;
 - b. actual missing persons;
 - c. basic demographic information about missing persons; and
 - d. CPIC data entry.

Recommendation 10: A process is required to ensure that all suspicious and at-risk missing person reported incidents (young children, medical, elderly, high risk life style) are fanned out to all relevant police agencies in the province immediately.

June 2011 (B.C.) *The Tragedy of Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women in Manitoba: We Can Do Better* **The SisterWatch Project of the Vancouver Policy Department and the Missing and Murdered Women Memorial March.** <http://vancouver.ca/police/assets/pdf/reports-policies/missing-murdered-aboriginal-women-canada-report.pdf>

7. There should be a national 1-800 phone number in support of the MC/MPUR website and a "clearing house/centre for excellence" model that serves both the public and police agencies. There must be effective coordination with the provinces to ensure no case falls between the cracks.

8. Every province should have a 1-800 phone number and a missing persons website as part of a "clearing house/ centre for excellence model" as described above. At the provincial level, in addition to supporting police agencies, there must be emphasis on ensuring reporting missing persons is simple and low-barrier, and that no report is missed or mishandled because of a lack of communication and/or coordination between jurisdictions.

June 2011 (M.B.) *Never Forgotten: Summit on Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women and Girls.*
Bruce & Boivin Consulting Group.

A. Immediate Response

1. **Develop and implement a First 48 Hours Action Plan for Police Services.** Immediate response teams are established to implement a 48 Hour Action Plan in response to reports of a missing Aboriginal woman or girl.
 - In the first hour following a report of a missing Aboriginal woman or girl:
 - Incident number assigned and provided to family
 - Amber-style alert issued
 - All police stations in Canada advised of missing person

- Photo and other identifying information distributed to all police agencies in Canada
 - In the first 48 hours:
 - Investigator assigned
 - Media release prepared
 - Known witness and suspects interviewed
 - All leads investigated
 - The family is provided throughout with ongoing and complete updates, as appropriate.
2. **Establish position of Immediate Response Coordinator.** As part of the immediate response team, the Coordinator would be responsible for liaising with families and media, connecting information between different police forces and other involved agencies, and mediating any issues that might arise between police, families and other agencies.

B. A More Effective Response

1. **Implement a coordinated response to reports of missing Aboriginal women or girls.** The response would:
- Bring together representatives of police services, other components the criminal justice system, emergency responders, health services, family and community services, and military personnel (for search activities only).
 - Develop and incorporate appropriate and effective national standardized protocols and criteria for action that are consistent with the needs of Aboriginal people.
 - Draw on the resources of the national office of the Single Window (as above) to support the implementation of national standardized protocols, the design and delivery of relevant training and education, and developing and lobbying for legislation to support an effective coordinated response and national protocols.
 - Be supported by changes or additions to existing law (as needed) to support the response.
 - Share information, expertise, tools and resources across departments, organizations, mandates, jurisdictions and regions, as needed and appropriate.
 - Actively solicit information relating to specific cases, through the use of tip lines, rewards for information and witness protection supports.
 - Work with communities to develop plans for coordinated community-based response to missing persons. This would complement law enforcement activities.
 - Use new technology (internet, social networking, mobile communications, etc.) to support information sharing and public education
 - Ensure that response teams are appropriately resourced, i.e., that they are adequately staffed to meet demand.

January 2012 (preliminary report released 2010) (Federal) *Issues Related to the High Number of Murdered and Missing Women in Canada* **Coordinating Committee of Senior Officials – Missing Women Working Group**
<http://www.scics.gc.ca/CMFiles/831-016005-we11HOP-1262012-7454.pdf>

Recommendation # 18

The MWWG encourages FPT Ministers Responsible for Justice to ensure that police in their respective jurisdictions create appropriate standards for missing person cases, including that:

- A report is taken immediately when information comes to the attention of police, regardless of the length of time the person has been missing or the location where the person went missing.

- A standardized, specialized in-take form for recording a missing person report and a specialized investigative checklist is used.

Recommendation # 18

The MWWG encourages FPT Ministers Responsible for Justice to ensure that police in their respective jurisdictions create appropriate standards for missing person cases, including that:

- A report is taken immediately when information comes to the attention of police, regardless of the length of time the person has been missing or the location where the person went missing.
- A standardized, specialized in-take form for recording a missing person report and a specialized investigative checklist is used.

Recommendation # 19

The MWWG recommends that jurisdictions support and encourage police to develop, as recommended in the Saskatchewan Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons report:

- A common assessment tool to help assess the priority of the investigation.
- A practice of entering cases on CPIC as soon as possible after it is established that the person is missing.

November 2012 (BC) *Forsaken: The Report of The Missing Women Commission of Inquiry*
Missing Women Commission of Inquiry, The Honourable Wally T. Oppal,
Commissioner <http://www.missingwomeninquiry.ca/obtain-report/>

4.6 That Provincial Government direct the Director of Police Services to consult with the BC Association of Municipal Chiefs of Police, the RCMP and community representatives to recommend the wording of a statutory provision on the legal duty to warn and a protocol on how it should be interpreted and applied.

5.8 That all police forces in British Columbia consider developing and implementing guidelines on the model of the Vancouver Police Department's Sex Work Enforcement Guidelines based on these 15 components:

- Definition of "missing person;"
- Criteria for the acceptance of reports;
- Jurisdiction;
- Missing Person Risk Assessment Tool;
- Provincial Missing Person Reporting Form;
- Standards related to interaction with family/reportees;
- Initial steps – background information;
- Supervisory responsibility/quality control;
- Forensic evidence standards;
- Coroners' Liaison;
- Monitoring outstanding missing person cases;
- Automatic annual review of unsolved cases;
- Closing missing person files;
- Prevention and intervention; and
- The role and authority of the BCPMPC.

7.3 That the provincial standards require a proactive missing persons process whereby police must take prevention and intervention measures including "safe and well" checks when an individual is found.

7.4 That best practice protocols be established for (1) enhanced victimology analysis of missing persons, (2) investigative steps in missing person cases, (3) collaborative missing person investigations collection, (4) storage and analysis of missing persons data, and (5) training specific to missing person investigations.

February 2013 (International) *Those Who Take Us Away: Abusive Policing and Failures in Protection of Indigenous Women and Girls in Northern British Columbia, Canada.*

Human Rights Watch <https://www.hrw.org/report/2013/02/13/those-who-take-us-away/abusive-policing-and-failures-protection-indigenous-women>

To the Royal Canadian Mounted Police:

- Develop a timeline for NCMPUR to complete and implement specialized and standardized protocols for police response when indigenous women and girls are reported missing or found murdered; these protocols should be part of the national RCMP strategy and be made in cooperation with indigenous organizations; protocols should include:
 - Clear, publicly available communication standards for informing family and the general community about the progress of an investigation as it proceeds, and what they can or are expected to do to contribute to an investigation during its different phases;
 - Goals to involve an Aboriginal liaison officer in all cases of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls to work with affected families and the police;
 - Oversight, accountability mechanisms that track a police investigation of a missing or murdered indigenous woman or girl from the time such an incident is reported;
 - Goals to review police response to missing and murdered indigenous women and girl cases at regular intervals to compile and make public a report on best practices and lessons learned that can then contribute to more successful police investigations and community response in the future.

December 2014 (International) *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in BC Canada*
Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
<http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/reports/pdfs/Indigenous-Women-BC-Canada-en.pdf>

The IACHR recommends that the State implement a policy aimed at ensuring an appropriate response when a report of a missing person, in particular an indigenous women, is filed.

Access to Information

October 2007 (SK) *Final Report of the Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons*
Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons
<http://publications.gov.sk.ca/documents/9/30559-missing-persons-final.pdf>

Recommendation 11: Police should establish protocols with community agencies to provide a formal system to fan out "Missing Persons Information".

Recommendation 12.1: The provincial government should amend provincial legislation to permit the disclosure of information on missing persons to police conducting a missing persons investigation as information necessary to protect the mental or physical health or safety of an individual.

January 2012 (preliminary report released 2010) (Federal) *Issues Related to the High Number of Murdered and Missing Women in Canada* **Coordinating Committee of Senior Officials – Missing Women Working Group**
<http://www.scics.gc.ca/CMFiles/831-016005-we11HOP-1262012-7454.pdf>

Recommendation #20

The MWWG recommends that FPT governments consider the need for legislation that would allow police access to personal information of persons reported missing.

November 2012 (BC) *Forsaken: The Report of The Missing Women Commission of Inquiry* **Missing Women Commission of Inquiry, The Honourable Wally T. Oppal, Commissioner** <http://www.missingwomeninquiry.ca/obtain-report/>

8.1 That Provincial Government enact missing persons legislation to grant speedy access to personal information of missing persons without unduly infringing on privacy rights. I recommend the adoption of single purpose legislation, as in Alberta and Manitoba, with a provision for a comprehensive review of the operation of the Act after five years

Improving Organizational Policy, Structure and Process

March 2011(MB) *Wiping Away the Tears: A Gathering for Families of Missing and Murdered Women* **Province of Manitoba – Manitoba Action Group on Vulnerable and Exploited Women**

Justice/Police:

- The Integrated Task Force be made up of Aboriginal officers, both male and female.
- Police provide ongoing and consistent communications such as case updates or follow-up procedures.

January 2012 (preliminary report released 2010) (Federal) *Issues Related to the High Number of Murdered and Missing Women in Canada* **Coordinating Committee of Senior Officials – Missing Women Working Group**
<http://www.scics.gc.ca/CMFiles/831-016005-we11HOP-1262012-7454.pdf>

Recommendation #39:

The MWWG recommends that jurisdictions consider the provision of targeted funding to police agencies to ensure that there are adequate resources for dealing with cold case files.

Recommendation # 43

The MWWG recommends that jurisdictions consider testing and evaluating community mobilization processes, such as adaptations of the Community Solutions to Gang Violence initiative in urban communities with a high population of vulnerable women.

Recommendation # 52

The MWWG recommends that jurisdictions support justice agencies in developing plans for supporting those who have close contact with offensive material in cases involving missing and murdered women given the disturbing nature of these files.

November 2012 (BC) *Forsaken: The Report of The Missing Women Commission of Inquiry*
Missing Women Commission of Inquiry, The Honourable Wally T. Oppal,
Commissioner <http://www.missingwomeninquiry.ca/obtain-report/>

4.11 That the BC Association of Municipal Chiefs of Police and the RCMP establish a working group to develop a best practices guide for the establishment and implementation of formal discussion mechanisms to facilitate communication and collaboration that transcends the institutional hierarchy within a police agency.

4.13 That the Police Complaint Commissioner, working with police forces across the Province, take steps to develop, promote and refine informal methods of police discipline, particularly in marginalized communities such as the DTES and with Aboriginal communities.

4.14 That Provincial Government engage with the RCMP in order to bring them into the provincial complaints process.

7.5 That Provincial Government establish a provincial partnership committee on missing persons to facilitate the collaboration of key players in the ongoing development of best practice protocols for missing person cases. The committee should be chaired by a senior government official and include representatives of the missing and murdered women's families, Aboriginal organizations, community groups, service providers, police, and Victim Services.

7.6 That Provincial Government establish an agency independent of all police agencies with the purposes to include co-ordinating information, identifying patterns, establishing base rates, checking on police investigations, ensuring accountability for linked interjurisdictional series, and warning the public. It should provide oversight and analytic functions, but it should not be an investigating entity.

February 2013 (International) *Those Who Take Us Away: Abusive Policing and Failures in Protection of Indigenous Women and Girls in Northern British Columbia, Canada.*
Human Rights Watch <https://www.hrw.org/report/2013/02/13/those-who-take-us-away/abusive-policing-and-failures-protection-indigenous-women>

To the Royal Canadian Mounted Police:

- Ensure that properly trained officers are stationed at detachments in the north for a sufficient amount of time to develop strong relationships with the local community;
- Eliminate searches and monitoring of women and girls by male police officers in all but extraordinary circumstances and require documentation and supervisor and commander review of any such searches; prohibit cross-gender strip searches under any circumstances;
- Prohibit the use of conducted energy weapons (Tasers) on youth and re-examine the rules for the use of police dogs and pepper spray on youth with a view to limiting their use to extraordinary circumstances that are then documented and subject to supervisor and commander review; all RCMP and municipal police policy on conducted energy weapons, police dogs and pepper spray should be made publicly accessible;

- Enforce existing rules mandating that parents or guardians be contacted immediately in the case of their child's arrest and that youth not be detained in cells with adults or children of the opposite sex;
- Consider, in consultation with indigenous communities in northern British Columbia, changing the criteria for cases to be investigated by the E-PANA task force to include a greater number of the murders and disappearances of women in the north;

March 2014. (Federal) *Invisible Women: A Call to Action A Report on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in Canada. Report of the Special Committee on Violence Against Indigenous Women.*

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/content/hoc/Committee/412/IWFA/Reports/RP6469851/IWFArp01/IWFArp01-e.pdf>

Recommendation 11

That the federal government engage Aboriginal communities and municipal, provincial, and territorial governments to examine options to improving procedures among police services to facilitate multipartite investigations.

Promotion of Gender Equality

November 2012 (BC) *Forsaken: The Report of The Missing Women Commission of Inquiry Missing Women Commission of Inquiry, The Honourable Wally T. Oppal, Commissioner* <http://www.missingwomeninquiry.ca/obtain-report/>

4.1 That the Minister of Justice direct the Director of Police Services to undertake equality audits of police forces in British Columbia with a focus on police duty to protect marginalized and Aboriginal women from violence. These audits should be carried out by an external agency and with meaningful community involvement.

4.2 That Provincial Government set a provincial standard establishing that police officers have a general and binding duty to promote equality and to refrain from discriminatory policing.

Emergency Readiness

June 2006 (B.C.) *The Highway of Tears Symposium Recommendation Report. Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, Carrier Sekani Family Services, Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, Prince George Native Friendship Centre, Prince George Nechako Aboriginal Employment & Training Association, Prince George Nechako Aboriginal Employment & Training Association*
<http://highwayoftears.org/uploads/Highway%20of%20Tears%20Symposium%20Recommendations%20Report%20-%20January%202013.pdf>

Recommendation #2

That the Emergency Readiness Plan contain specific timelines for the actions of the Community Emergency Readiness Teams commencing from the time a missing person "s report is first received.

October 2007 (SK) *Final Report of the Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons*
Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons
<http://publications.gov.sk.ca/documents/9/30559-missing-persons-final.pdf>

Recommendation 14.1: The province and local government need to enhance search and rescue resources province-wide by standardizing provincial policy and providing provincial core funding to ensure volunteer sustainability.

Recommendation 14.2: The province, communities and search and rescue organizations need to work cooperatively to ensure effective Search and Rescue responses by:

- Creating a provincial SAR Advisory Council of representative and mandating agencies, for strategic and operational direction to SARSAV;
 - Creating a standard policy regarding the use of SAR teams;
 - Ensuring that municipalities and communities take ownership of SAR volunteer teams;
 - Providing basic SAR training and equipment to volunteers free of charge;
 - Ensuring trained SAR teams, SAR managers and trainers are available throughout all areas of the province;
 - Creating a central provincial database for all SAR events, training and personnel;
 - Ensuring consistent and timely involvement of SAR teams in a missing person's event;
 - Providing specialized training for SAR volunteers, i.e. emergency management and recognizing the need for SAR teams in a disaster event, crime scene or evidence recovery;
 - Developing heavy urban SAR capacity;
 - Ensuring support systems are in place for long term and/or remote searches;
 - Ensuring liability protection for volunteers; and
 - Ensuring Critical Incident Stress Management support to SAR volunteers.
- Recommendation 15: The various Saskatchewan police forces need to establish protocols on when and how to engage search and rescue capacity in a missing person's event.

March 2011 (B.C.) *Stopping Violence Against Aboriginal Women: A Discussion Paper to Support Community Focus Groups* **British Columbia Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation**

Highway of Tears

Governments, Aboriginal leadership and communities should:

- Work together to create a community Emergency Readiness Plan that will help to make sure cases of missing persons are responded to quickly and effectively.

Governments, Aboriginal leadership and communities should:

- Work together to develop crisis response plans and teams so that missing women cases are dealt with quickly and effectively;
- Work together to make sure that support services for families of missing or murdered women are delivered by Aboriginal agencies and staff; and
- Take action to improve the relationship between Aboriginal peoples and the RCMP.

Communication with Families

January 2012 (preliminary report released 2010) (Federal) *Issues Related to the High Number of Murdered and Missing Women in Canada* **Coordinating Committee of**

Senior Officials – Missing Women Working Group

<http://www.scics.gc.ca/CMFiles/831-016005-we11HOP-1262012-7454.pdf>

Recommendation # 14

In order to increase the likelihood that disappearance of marginalized women will be reported in a timely fashion, the MWWG recommends that jurisdictions encourage police to develop specialized positions or specific units within police agencies so that:

- knowledgeable personnel are given clear responsibility for contact with families and the public in missing person reports; and
- identified police personnel can link with vulnerable communities to increase awareness about reporting missing persons, specifically to:
- let people know that the reporting of a missing person is not limited to immediate family members, and;
- reassure individuals who may be associated with criminal lifestyles that they can access police services and report a disappearance without fear of arrest.

Recommendation # 15

The MWWG supports the Saskatchewan Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons " Report in urging that police continually communicate with families of missing persons in order to provide ongoing updates to them on the status of the case.

Records Management

October 2004 (Federal) *Stolen Sisters: A Human Rights Response to Discrimination and Violence Against Indigenous Women in Canada* **Amnesty International**
<http://www.amnesty.ca/sites/amnesty/files/amr200032004enstolensisters.pdf>

3. Take immediate action to protect women at greatest risk

Police should work closely with Indigenous women's organizations and other frontline groups to identify and implement appropriate and effective protocols for action on missing persons cases, with a view to developing standards for police response in keeping with the risks to Indigenous women and girls.

- In consultation with Indigenous peoples' organizations and organizations representing ethnic minorities, protocols should be developed to ensure that police consistently record and appropriately use data on the ethnicity of the victims and perpetrators of violent crimes.

January 2012 (preliminary report released 2010) (Federal) *Issues Related to the High Number of Murdered and Missing Women in Canada* **Coordinating Committee of Senior Officials – Missing Women Working Group**
<http://www.scics.gc.ca/CMFiles/831-016005-we11HOP-1262012-7454.pdf>

Recommendation #25

The MWWG recommends that jurisdictions support the following Saskatchewan Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons recommendation:

- All police forces should assign a police officer responsible for the coordination of missing persons' files and establish a backup process to avoid gaps in effectively responding to missing person reports, in conjunction with recommendation 14 that calls for the identification of a specific unit within police services.

Recommendation #41

The MWWG recommends that jurisdictions review their record retention policies for police, prosecutions and courts with a view to assessing the extent to which access to historical records would assist in solving cases, such as the identification leading to new DNA samples being collected for those historical cases and thus linking them to DNA crime scenes on other unsolved cases.

Case Linkage and Serial Offenders

January 2012 (preliminary report released 2010) (Federal) *Issues Related to the High Number of Murdered and Missing Women in Canada* **Coordinating Committee of Senior Officials – Missing Women Working Group**
<http://www.scics.gc.ca/CMFiles/831-016005-we11HOP-1262012-7454.pdf>

Recommendation # 37

The MWWG recommends that jurisdictions encourage,

- where appropriate, police forces to review the resources and policies relevant to ViCLAS in order to increase and maintain the coverage of serious crimes within this system, and to ensure that trained specialists are available to provide analysis to investigators;
- police investigators, who receive a “potential linkage” report from ViCLAS, to follow up with additional investigation on a timely basis ;
- police investigators and forensic lab personnel, when they receive notification that a DNA linkage has been made on an outstanding case, to advise ViCLAS so that the ViCLAS personnel can update their database.

Recommendation # 38

The MWWG recommends that jurisdictions encourage police agencies across Canada to:

- consider strategies to promote the empirical testing of specialized tools for narrowing the field of suspects in cases involving serial predators.
- consider mechanisms for sharing current research information and promising practices relevant to these specialized tools, including profiling and instruments to assist in the assessment of potential suspects in serial murder cases.

Recommendation #30

The MWWG recommends that cases matching the profile of women particularly vulnerable to serial predators be flagged as priority cases when a missing person report is received.

August 2010 (B.C) *Missing Women Investigation Review Summary Report* **Vancouver Police Department** <http://vancouver.ca/police/media/2010/mw-summary-report.pdf>

- continue to support the new provincial analysis unit to examine missing persons cases and to provide further attention to eliminating barriers to making missing persons reports.

Culture, Diversity and Collaboration

January 2012 (preliminary report released 2010) (Federal) *Issues Related to the High Number of Murdered and Missing Women in Canada* **Coordinating Committee of**

Senior Officials – Missing Women Working Group

<http://www.scics.gc.ca/CMFiles/831-016005-we11HOP-1262012-7454.pdf>

Recommendation # 27

The MWWG recommends that jurisdictions:

- review the police response to missing Aboriginal person cases to understand barriers (cultural and systemic) to reporting and investigation and determine how police responses could be improved.
- encourage police to consider the need to develop standardized police intake forms and appropriate assessment criteria based on the risk profile of Aboriginal women and other marginalized women to ensure an appropriate and consistent police response.

Recommendation #23

In order to target police resources effectively, the MWWG recommends that jurisdictions support, where appropriate, police consideration of:

- developing approaches to target high risk youth;
- establishing collaborative approaches with relevant non-police agencies to assess the level of police intervention required in particular missing person cases, such as chronic run-away children;
- setting policies and procedures consistent with the involvement of and advice from the relevant non-police agencies;
- evaluating approaches currently in use in order to determine the gains, if any, in efficiencies and effectiveness in responding to missing persons reports, and;
- sharing the results of evaluations on collaborative operational polices with other interested police agencies.

Police Training

October 2004 (Federal) *Stolen Sisters: A Human Rights Response to Discrimination and Violence Against Indigenous Women in Canada* **Amnesty International**
<http://www.amnesty.ca/sites/amnesty/files/amr200032004enstolensisters.pdf>

4. Provide training and resources for police to make prevention of violence against Indigenous women a genuine priority

- All police forces should receive adequate training to ensure an understanding of violence against women in a range of settings including family violence, child sexual exploitation and violence against women in the sex trade.
- The scenarios used in police training should incorporate issues of cultural sensitivity and violence against women.

Sept. 2005 (B.C.) *Researched to Death: B.C. Aboriginal Women and Violence* **Pacific Association of First Nations Women, Ending Violence Association of BC, BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre**
[http://www.endingviolence.org/files/uploads/Researched To Death Final 2005.pdf](http://www.endingviolence.org/files/uploads/Researched%20To%20Death%20Final%202005.pdf)

3. Training and Education

- The Aboriginal community and non-Aboriginal people, organizations, law enforcement, legal society, judicial system and government agencies must receive education on the history of colonialism, cultural genocide, sexism, racism, forced assimilation, family violence, and violence against women in the sex trade.

March 2009 (Federal) *Voices of our Sisters in Spirit: A Report to Families and Communities* **Native Women's Association of Canada**
http://ywcacanada.ca/data/research_docs/00000023.pdf

4. Improved access to justice for Aboriginal women and girls and their families.

Implement mandatory comprehensive training for all new recruits and all existing personnel in all police forces on issues, concerns and history of Aboriginal peoples. This training should focus on real issues and outcomes, must address the gap in understanding that exists between officers and Aboriginal peoples because of cultural differences, and not be limited by political or operational considerations.

June 2011 (M.B.) *Never Forgotten: Summit on Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women and Girls.* **Bruce & Boivin Consulting Group.**

- 2. Undertake activities to address inequities between the responses to missing Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal women and girls.** Require all law enforcement and other personnel who work directly with families, along with key policy and decision makers, to undertake WEWAP (Working Effectively with Aboriginal People), anti-racism, anti-oppression and other appropriate training that will enhance their understanding of the issue of violence against Aboriginal women and girls. Where appropriate, introduce a Train-the-Trainer component, to support capacity for ongoing and in-house training.

3. **Use sensitive and appropriate language in relationship to missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls.** This includes ensuring that terminology does not misrepresent, dishonour, judge or stigmatize victims or their families and that the meanings or definitions associated with specific terms do not restrict the response (for example, setting 'confirmed abduction' as criteria may delay action in some cases). Ensure that appropriate training is provided whenever and wherever needed.

January 2012 (preliminary report released 2010) (Federal) *Issues Related to the High Number of Murdered and Missing Women in Canada* **Coordinating Committee of Senior Officials – Missing Women Working Group**
<http://www.scics.gc.ca/CMFiles/831-016005-we11HOP-1262012-7454.pdf>

Recommendation #11

The MWWG recommends that jurisdictions encourage law enforcement training authorities to include in police training information about the multiple factors that are characteristic of individuals who commit serial sexual offences.

Recommendation #21

The MWWG recommends that FPT governments support training and education for personnel responsible for records in departments of health, social assistance, and other government agencies to be aware of the need for timely police access to records in cases of missing persons and to encourage development of protocols for the sharing of that information relative to permissible legislative exceptions such as "law enforcement purposes."

The MWWG recommends that jurisdictions encourage police training on missing person investigations to incorporate specific information respecting Aboriginal people and particularly Aboriginal women, in order to enhance cultural sensitivity and mitigate any potential distrust on behalf of the families caused by past relationships.

Recommendation #31

The MWWG recommends that jurisdictions encourage police, as recommended in the Saskatchewan Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons" Report, to develop standardized training and practice guides for recording and managing investigations in missing person cases.

November 2012 (BC) *Forsaken: The Report of The Missing Women Commission of Inquiry*
Missing Women Commission of Inquiry, The Honourable Wally T. Oppal, Commissioner <http://www.missingwomeninquiry.ca/obtain-report/>

4.12 That police officers be required to undergo mandatory and ongoing experiential and interactive training concerning vulnerable community members:

- Active engagement in overcoming biases, rather than more passive sensitivity training (sometimes called anti-oppression training);
- More intensive and ongoing training in the history and current status of Aboriginal peoples in the province and in the specific community, particularly with respect to the ongoing effects of residential schools and the child welfare system;
- Training and resources to make prevention of violence against Aboriginal women a genuine priority;
- Training to ensure an understanding of violence against women in a range of settings including family violence, child sexual exploitation and violence against women in the sex trade; in

particular, the scenarios used in police training should incorporate issues of cultural sensitivity and violence against women;

- Training in recognizing the special needs of vulnerable individuals and how to meet those needs, including recognition of a higher standard of care owed by the police to these individuals

February 2013 (International) *Those Who Take Us Away: Abusive Policing and Failures in Protection of Indigenous Women and Girls in Northern British Columbia, Canada.* **Human Rights Watch** <https://www.hrw.org/report/2013/02/13/those-who-take-us-away/abusive-policing-and-failures-protection-indigenous-women>

To the Royal Canadian Mounted Police:

- Expand training for police officers to counter racism and sexism in the treatment of indigenous women and girls in custody and to improve police response to violence against women and girls within indigenous communities; such training should be developed through collaboration between indigenous and human rights organizations, the Canadian Police College, and the Department of Public Safety Canada; and focus specifically on Canada's colonial history that has predisposed indigenous women to suffer from gross levels of violence and on human rights norms, including women's and girls' rights to live free from violence and discrimination and be treated with dignity and respect in custody;

March 2014. (Federal) *Invisible Women: A Call to Action A Report on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in Canada.* **Report of the Special Committee on Violence Against Indigenous Women.** <http://www.parl.gc.ca/content/hoc/Committee/412/IWFA/Reports/RP6469851/IWFARP01/IWFARP01-e.pdf>

Recommendation #12

That the federal government encourage Aboriginal organizations, the Canadian Police College and municipal, provincial and territorial governments to improve police officer training, including continuing education, to foster cultural understanding and sensitivity.

Community-Police Relationships

October 2004 (Federal) *Stolen Sisters: A Human Rights Response to Discrimination and Violence Against Indigenous Women in Canada* **Amnesty International**
<http://www.amnesty.ca/sites/amnesty/files/amr200032004enstolensisters.pdf>

4. Provide training and resources for police to make prevention of violence against Indigenous women a genuine priority

- Meetings with Indigenous women leaders and other community members should be organized to build understanding of the specific risks to Indigenous women in Canadian society and establish and strengthen relationships of trust between police and Indigenous communities.
- All police departments should review issues of workload, staffing levels and job rotation to ensure officers have the opportunity to become familiar with and can develop relations of trust with the specific communities

Sept. 2005 (B.C.) *Researched to Death: B.C. Aboriginal Women and Violence* **Pacific Association of First Nations Women, Ending Violence Association of BC, BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre**
[http://www.endingviolence.org/files/uploads/Researched To Death Final 2005.pdf](http://www.endingviolence.org/files/uploads/Researched%20To%20Death%20Final%202005.pdf)

4. Policy and Research

- Since the rate of Aboriginal women incarcerated is increasing a mandatory appointment of Aboriginal women on the National Parole Board is a necessity.
- Specific actions and protocols need to be implemented, designed and supported by the federal and provincial government for missing Aboriginal women and youth cases.
- The creation of protocols for respectful working relationships with the justice system to support this end is also needed.
- Judicial support needs to also be implemented for law enforcement officers.
- Specific actions need to be taken to protect Aboriginal women.

October 2007 (SK) *Final Report of the Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons* **Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons**
<http://publications.gov.sk.ca/documents/9/30559-missing-persons-final.pdf>

Recommendation 19: The provincial government, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, First Nations, and Métis communities and organizations should be encouraged to develop and enhance mutually supportive strategies to ensure that:

- First Nations and Métis communities have the capacity to respond to a crisis when a person goes missing;
- Trained Search and Rescue capacities exist in all communities that incorporate and are sensitive to the culture, language, traditions and values of those communities;
- First Nations schools participate in prevention and response approaches similar to the recommendations for provincial school involvement; and
- Relationships between the police (RCMP and municipal police forces) and First Nations and Métis communities are strengthened in missing person cases.

March 2009 (Federal) *Voices of our Sisters in Spirit: A Report to Families and Communities* **Native Women's Association of Canada**
http://ywcacanada.ca/data/research_docs/00000023.pdf

- Police forces develop cooperative relationships with Native Women's Association of Canada to establish the basis for future collaborative work on developing information sharing protocols in the medium term.
- Governments and police work with Native Women's Association of Canada to develop and implement a process for police reporting to NWAC on current missing person protocols or processes in use in jurisdictions across Canada.

August 2010 (B.C.) *Missing Women Investigation Review Summary Report Vancouver Police Department* <http://vancouver.ca/police/media/2010/mw-summary-report.pdf>

The Vancouver Police Department (VPD):

- that the current efforts by the VPD to forge improved relationships with the sex trade workers of the Downtown Eastside continue to be strongly supported by VPD management.

July 2011 (B.C.) *Report on Outcomes and Recommendations from Working Sessions Collaboration to End Violence: National Aboriginal Women's Forum. AMR Consulting.* http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/consulting-with-first-nations/first-nations/report_collaboration_to_end_violence_forum.pdf

9. Relationship-Building, Partnership and Accountability

- Departments and agencies in all levels of government should explore opportunities for interdepartmental and intergovernmental partnerships, as well as partnerships with Aboriginal government, leadership and communities.
- Police services, Aboriginal leaders and grassroots community organizations should explore ways to establish mutually empowered and accountable working relationships.
- Cultural competency and sensitivity training (including components focused on Aboriginal history and historical trauma) and anti-racism and anti-oppression training should be instituted for employees in all positions and at all levels of police and criminal justice systems.

June 2011 (B.C.) *The Tragedy of Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women in Manitoba: We Can Do Better The SisterWatch Project of the Vancouver Police Department and the Missing and Murdered Women Memorial March.* <http://vancouver.ca/police/assets/pdf/reports-policies/missing-murdered-aboriginal-women-canada-report.pdf>

10. Other police agencies facing similar challenges to Vancouver should consider using the SisterWatch program as a model for community collaboration and targeting of those engaged in predatory violence against marginalized Aboriginal women.

November 2012 (BC) *Forsaken: The Report of The Missing Women Commission of Inquiry Missing Women Commission of Inquiry, The Honourable Wally T. Oppal, Commissioner* <http://www.missingwomeninquiry.ca/obtain-report/>

4.7 That police forces work with local communities to develop communication strategies for the issuance of warnings that ensure the message is conveyed to community members who are most at risk of the specific threat.

4.10 That police forces integrate into training, performance standards, and performance measurement the ability of police officers to develop and maintain community relationships, particularly with vulnerable members of the community who are often at risk of being treated unequally in the delivery of public services.

5.1 That SisterWatch be evaluated to provide a basis for further refinements and with a view to establishing best practices for meaningful police-community partnerships; and that these best practices be shared with other police forces to encourage them to develop and maintain ongoing, collaborative community forums.

5.2 That all entities with proposed responsibilities under the Living in Community Action Plan commit to these priority actions that together form a strong basis for enhancing the safety of women engaged in the survival sex trade. 5.3 That other communities be encouraged to undertake the type of collaborative community engagement strategy employed by Living in Community to develop an integrated strategy for enhancing the safety of women engaged in the survival sex trade.

5.4 That Provincial Government fund additional full-time Sex Trade Liaison Officer positions in the Lower Mainland.

5.5 That the City of Vancouver create and fund two community-based liaison positions to be filled by individuals who have experience in the survival sex trade.

5.6 That Provincial Government undertake a community consultation, needs assessment and feasibility study concerning the reestablishment of an independent society comparable to the former Vancouver Police Native Liaison Society.

5.7 That the VPD establish a position of Aboriginal Liaison Officer whose responsibilities would include assisting Aboriginal persons in their interactions with the Missing Persons Unit.

Police Accountability

October 2004 (Federal) *Stolen Sisters: A Human Rights Response to Discrimination and Violence Against Indigenous Women in Canada* **Amnesty International**
<http://www.amnesty.ca/sites/amnesty/files/amr200032004enstolensisters.pdf>

4. Provide training and resources for police to make prevention of violence against Indigenous women a genuine priority

The actions of police, including compliance with policies on the investigation of missing persons cases, should be subject to independent civilian oversight.

- Funding should also be provided for the creation of independent advocates and liaison workers for Indigenous people in contact with police.
- Officers found to have failed to act on reports of missing women, or to have carried out biased or inadequate investigation of violence against women, should be subject to appropriate discipline.
- Clear policies and practices should be established with respect to the timely provision of information, including autopsy results and coroners reports, to the families of missing and murdered persons.

June 2011 (M.B.) *Never Forgotten: Summit on Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women and Girls*. **Bruce & Boivin Consulting Group**.

H. Shared Responsibility and Accountability

3. Undertake a comprehensive investigation into the high number of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls. The investigation should explore events preceding their disappearance or murder, along with their personal history and the history of their interactions with various service systems.

4. Form a stakeholder group to implement and monitor the strategic coordinated response to this issue. Activities undertaken by this group should include taking an inventory of and assessing the effectiveness of:

- Existing opportunities for community members to report suspicious activity or individuals or dangerous situations
- Existing programs or initiatives for stakeholders

The group should also develop a process or tool through which organizations that want to participate in the response can assess the cultural sensitivity and capacity of their own activities and organization and develop their own strategy for contributing to the response. Organizations should be required to complete this step before coming to the table.

5. Establish a public inquiry into the Amber McFarland and Jennifer Catcheway cases. The inquiry should be undertaken by a committee that includes representation from Aboriginal leaders, the Aboriginal Issues Committee of Cabinet, and other government departments and agencies. Work to establish the inquiry should begin immediately. Findings should inform protocols incorporated into the coordinated response.

6. Work to ensure that all police forces in Manitoba are subject to the jurisdiction of independent civilian bodies.

November 2012 (BC) *Forsaken: The Report of The Missing Women Commission of Inquiry*
**Missing Women Commission of Inquiry, The Honourable Wally T. Oppal,
Commissioner** <http://www.missingwomeninquiry.ca/obtain-report/>

11.1 That the accountability structure for the Greater Vancouver police force incorporate a holistic approach that provides oversight on both an individual and systemic level and is fully responsive and responsible to the communities it serves.

11.2 That the Police Act be amended to provide that the Mayor is an ex officio member of the Board, but has no voting authority.

11.3 That additional steps need to be taken to ensure representation of vulnerable and marginalized members and Aboriginal peoples on police boards.

11.4 That police boards have access to greater resources from the Division of Police Services to gather and analyze information to enable them to better carry out their oversight functions.

February 2013 (International) *Those Who Take Us Away: Abusive Policing and Failures in Protection of Indigenous Women and Girls in Northern British Columbia, Canada.*
Human Rights Watch <https://www.hrw.org/report/2013/02/13/those-who-take-us-away/abusive-policing-and-failures-protection-indigenous-women>

- Establish independent civilian investigations of reported incidents of serious police misconduct, including incidents of rape and other sexual assault, in all jurisdictions;

December 2014 (International) *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in BC Canada*
Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
<http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/reports/pdfs/Indigenous-Women-BC-Canada-en.pdf>

The IACHR considers that full compliance with the already established recommendations of the Oppal report is necessary and will bring about important advances. Drawing from those recommendations, the IACHR stresses the importance of appointing a new Chair of the Advisory Committee on the Safety and Security of Vulnerable Women as soon as possible. Canada should ensure that the different policing services in BC understand their jurisdiction and responsibilities when conflicts of policing jurisdiction arise. Canada should also establish or strengthen accountability mechanisms – preferably through independent bodies – for officials handling investigations and prosecutions, and should provide access to legal aid and support services to the families of missing or murdered indigenous women, with the families being able to freely choose their own representative.

Guarantee that family members or other affected parties of missing and murdered indigenous women can obtain legal aid that is effective and with which these parties feel comfortable, again taking into account the context of discrimination and marginalization. Ensure adequate oversight of officials responsible for responding to and investigating crimes of violence against women, and ensure that administrative, disciplinary or criminal measures are available to hold such officials accountable.

Provide indigenous women and their relatives who are seeking assistance from officials with an available and effective procedure to file complaints in the case of noncompliance by such officials with their duties under the law, and information on how to initiate and pursue that procedure.

Major Case Management

August 2010 (B.C.) *Missing Women Investigation Review Summary Report Vancouver Police Department* <http://vancouver.ca/police/media/2010/mw-summary-report.pdf>

Vancouver Police Department (VPD):

- that the VPD ensure adequate major case management training is provided;
- that the Inspectors selected to be in charge of the Major Crime Section have the necessary experience;
- that the Executive be fully briefed on major cases;
- that the major case management model is followed for task force investigations;
- that the VPD ensure replacement officers in a major case investigation team are fully briefed on the investigation; and

The VPD should encourage the Provincial Government and the B.C. Association of Chiefs of Police to:

- create a protocol or framework for the rapid formation of multi-jurisdictional major case investigations, including mechanisms to seek assistance, and for extraordinary funding for such investigations;
- develop provincial standards for the management of major cases in BC, and that support be provided for the RCMP's major case management accreditation process, which should include municipal police departments;
- strike a Provincial committee of key stakeholders to study and make recommendations regarding a single uniform computerized case management system by police agencies throughout British Columbia for major cases; and

January 2012 (preliminary report released 2010) (Federal) *Issues Related to the High Number of Murdered and Missing Women in Canada Coordinating Committee of Senior Officials – Missing Women Working Group* <http://www.scics.gc.ca/CMFiles/831-016005-we11HOP-1262012-7454.pdf>

Recommendation #32

The MWWG recommends that a move toward compatible MCM software be considered by police agencies across Canada in order to coordinate between police agencies in major investigations.

Recommendation #33

The MWWG recommends that jurisdictions encourage police forces, as they develop improvements to MCM, to also explore strategies that would promote sharing these best practices with other police forces in a timely manner.

November 2012 (BC) *Forsaken: The Report of The Missing Women Commission of Inquiry* **Missing Women Commission of Inquiry, The Honourable Wally T. Oppal, Commissioner** <http://www.missingwomeninquiry.ca/obtain-report/>

8.2 That Provincial Government mandate the use of Major Case Management (MCM) for major crimes and that the Director of Police Services develop these MCM standards in consultation with the police community and through a review of best practices in other jurisdictions.

8.3 That the Director of Police Services mandate accountability under the MCM standards by requiring that police forces:

- Provide an explanation as to why MCM was not used for a “major crime” in an annual report to the Director of Police Services;
- Notify the Director of Police Services of all “major crime” investigations that are not under active investigation and have remained open for more than one year. Upon receipt of such notification, the Director will appoint another police department to conduct an independent audit of the prior investigation and conduct such additional investigatory steps as it deems necessary, and report its finding to the Director and the originating police agency; and
- Conduct annual internal audits of a statistically valid random selection of MCM investigations to ensure proper compliance with the model.

8.4 That issues related to a single electronic MCM system for British Columbia, as well as compatibility with cross-Canada systems, be reviewed as part of the consultation on MCM standards set out above.

8.5 That Provincial Government take active steps to support the development of a National DNA Missing Persons Index and to assist in overcoming the impasse on outstanding concerns over its creation and operationalization.

10.1 That the Director of Police Services mandate provincial standards for multi-jurisdictional and multi-agency investigations to be incorporated into the provincial MCM standards referred to in recommendation 8.2.

10.2 That the Director of Police Services consult with the BC Association of Police Chiefs and the RCMP to create a protocol or framework for multi-jurisdictional major case investigations to ensure the timely and seamless implementation of multi-agency teams, including a provision for an independent panel to resolve disputes regarding when the protocol should be triggered.

10.3 That Provincial Government commit to moving expeditiously to implement a regional Real Time Crime Centre.

Legal System

December 2014 (International) *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in BC Canada*
Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

<http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/reports/pdfs/Indigenous-Women-BC-Canada-en.pdf>

The IACHR also recommends that police officers, including both RCMP and Vancouver Police, and public sector functionaries, such as prosecutors, judges and court personnel, receive mandatory and ongoing training in the causes and consequences of gender-based violence in general and violence against indigenous women in particular. This includes training on the police duty to protect indigenous women from violence.

2015 (federal) Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Calls_to_Action_English_2.pdf

27. We call upon the Federation of Law Societies of Canada to ensure that lawyers receive appropriate cultural competency training, which includes the history and legacy of residential schools, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal–Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.

28. We call upon law schools in Canada to require all law students to take a course in Aboriginal people and the law, which includes the history and legacy of residential schools, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal–Crown relations.

This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and antiracism.

29. We call upon the parties and, in particular, the federal government, to work collaboratively with plaintiffs not included in the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement to have disputed legal issues determined expeditiously on an agreed set of facts.

30. We call upon federal, provincial, and territorial governments to commit to eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in custody over the next decade, and to issue detailed annual reports that monitor and evaluate progress in doing so.

Prosecutions

Sept. 2005 (B.C.) *Researched to Death: B.C. Aboriginal Women and Violence*. **Pacific Association of First Nations Women, Ending Violence Association of BC, BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre**
<http://www.endingviolence.org/files/uploads/Researched To Death Final 2005.pdf>

2. Programs and Services

- The Attorney General's office needs to design a program that addresses the coordination problems found in child sexual abuse cases on reserve.

January 2012 (preliminary report released 2010) (Federal) *Issues Related to the High Number of Murdered and Missing Women in Canada* **Coordinating Committee of Senior Officials – Missing Women Working Group**
<http://www.scics.gc.ca/CMFiles/831-016005-we11HOP-1262012-7454.pdf>

Recommendation #8

The MWWG recommends that there be consideration by federal, provincial and territorial officials to better provide the tools needed to address preparatory conduct involved in facilitating sexual offences under the Criminal Code.

Recommendation #41

The MWWG recommends that jurisdictions review their record retention policies for police, prosecutions and courts with a view to assessing the extent to which access to historical records would assist in solving cases, such as the identification leading to new DNA samples being collected for those historical cases and thus linking them to DNA crime scenes on other unsolved cases.

Recommendation #42

The MWWG recommends that jurisdictions give consideration to the incorporation of early Crown involvement on suspicious missing persons' files where foul play is suspected.

Recommendation #47

The MWWG recommends that Heads of Prosecution and the FPT Working Group on Victims participate in the development of and distribution of best practices for police, prosecutors and Victims Services respectively to use when dealing with victims' families, witnesses and the media in missing and murdered person cases.

Recommendation #49

The MWWG recommends that jurisdictions ensure that media involvement in any large and complex trial should be managed within a framework supported by the Judiciary.

Recommendation #50

The MWWG recommends that jurisdictions consider the recommendation of the Panel on Justice and the Media that consideration be given to formally implementing the guidelines established in the "Protocol Regarding Public Statements in Criminal Proceedings" document.

Recommendation #51

The MWWG recommends that Heads of Prosecution and FPT Working Group on Victims examine the issue of victim and witness support best practices in this context. The best practices identified in the Pickton and Svekla prosecutions may provide a valuable starting point for this examination.

November 2012 (BC) *Forsaken: The Report of The Missing Women Commission of Inquiry*
**Missing Women Commission of Inquiry, The Honourable Wally T. Oppal,
Commissioner** <http://www.missingwomeninquiry.ca/obtain-report/>

4.3 That Provincial Government amend the BC Crown Policy Manual to explicitly include equality as a fundamental principle to guide Crown Counsel in performing their functions.

4.4 That Provincial Government develop and implement a Crown Vulnerable Women Assault Policy to provide guidance on the prosecution of crimes of violence against vulnerable women, including women engaged in the sex trade.

4.5 That Provincial Government adopt a policy statement in the BC Crown Policy Manual requiring that a prosecutor's evaluations of how strong the case is likely to be when presented at trial should be made on the assumption that the trier of fact will act impartially and according to the law.

5.10 That courts consider making increased use of diversionary or alternative measures to deal with bench warrants and breaches of conditions.

March 2014. (Federal) *Invisible Women: A Call to Action A Report on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in Canada. Report of the Special Committee on Violence Against Indigenous Women.*
<http://www.parl.gc.ca/content/hoc/Committee/412/IWFA/Reports/RP6469851/IWFARP01/IWFARP01-e.pdf>

Recommendation 2

That the federal government continue strengthening the criminal justice system to ensure, among other things, that violent and repeat offenders serve appropriate sentences.

December 2014 (International) *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in BC Canada*
Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
<http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/reports/pdfs/Indigenous-Women-BC-Canada-en.pdf>

The IACHR also recommends that police officers, including both RCMP and Vancouver Police, and public sector functionaries, such as prosecutors, judges and court personnel, receive mandatory and ongoing training in the causes and consequences of gender-based violence in general and violence against indigenous women in particular. This includes training on the police duty to protect indigenous women from violence.

Victim Services & Family Supports

October 2003 (B.C.) *The "Start of Something Powerful": Strategizing for Safer Communities For BC Aboriginal Women.* **Pacific Association of First Nations Women, BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre, BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs**
<http://www.endingviolence.org/files/uploads/SaferCommforBCAboriginalWom.pdf>

Funds be allocated for a new community based victim assistance program located in a region with high Aboriginal population, utilizing funds from the Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General.

Sept. 2005 (B.C.) *Researched to Death: B.C. Aboriginal Women and Violence.* **Pacific Association of First Nations Women, Ending Violence Association of BC, BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre**
<http://www.endingviolence.org/files/uploads/Researched To Death Final 2005.pdf>

- On-going funding is needed to support culturally relevant Aboriginal programming and services that are designed, delivered and implemented by healthy, Aboriginal women, Elders and community workers.
- The programming and services need to include a counselling component specific to intergenerational trauma issues and be delivered from a holistic approach to healing, meaning, that the victim, offender, the victims" and offender"s family would all need support in their healing to create long term community change.
- The programming and services would work towards this community supported healing with a direct understanding that there are community "power dynamics" that need to be recognized and interrupted for the healing to occur.
- The Aboriginal communities' leadership, community members and the communities' workers must work as a team to support this community development approach to women's safety.
- To ensure the reduction of violence there needs to be connections between the Aboriginal community and non-Aboriginal community's services.
- A community based committee that has a pro-active role in networking within community (members, employees and those that need assistance), outside agencies, justice system personnel and other related resources/supports would aid in this change.

June 2006 (B.C.) *The Highway of Tears Symposium Recommendation Report* **Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, Carrier Sekani Family Services, Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, Prince George Native Friendship Centre, Prince George Nechako Aboriginal Employment & Training Association, Prince George Nechako Aboriginal Employment & Training Association**
<http://highwayoftears.org/uploads/Highway%20of%20Tears%20Symposium%20Recommendations%20Report%20-%20January%202013.pdf>

3. Victim Family Counselling and Support

Recommendation #1

That a permanent Regional First Nation Crisis Response Plan be developed and implemented for First Nation communities, and Aboriginal families (Urban and Rural) experiencing a traumatic event.

Recommendation #2

That a roster of fully qualified Aboriginal; mental health therapists, grief counselors, critical incident stress counselors, and other counselors of relevant specialty, be developed.

Recommendation #3

That an exceptionally qualified First Nation Crisis Response Team be assembled, receive training on their roles, and be ready for deployment to any of the Rural First Nation communities, or Urban Aboriginal family, from which a victim disappears.

Recommendation #4

That Aboriginal Agencies, or First Nation Communities, qualified to deliver such services, be assigned to provide long term counselling and support to Aboriginal victims' families upon their request and direction.

Recommendation #5

That the RCMP re-establish and maintain communication with each of the victim's families.

Recommendation #6

That a First Nation Advocate be provided to bridge the long-standing communications and awareness gap which exists between the RCMP and First Nation victim's families.

4. Community Development and Support

Recommendation #1

That a Highway of Tears Legacy Fund be established as one source, among others, to develop and support multi-community, and multi-agency efforts in victim prevention, emergency readiness planning and team response, and victim family counselling and support.

October 2007 (SK) *Final Report of the Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons*
Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons
<http://publications.gov.sk.ca/documents/9/30559-missing-persons-final.pdf>

I. Responding to Issues Raised by Families:

Recommendation 1: Supports need to be developed by the Provincial Partnership Committee or other partner organizations to help families deal with a missing person situation:

- Families require a simple checklist to follow of actions they can or should take, such as determining who the family contact person is with the police, with the media, or the type of information they might look for to assist the police in the investigation;
- Families require a media kit or information on dealing with the media to help them understand the issues and relationship that may develop during an investigation in terms of providing information to the media or responding to media inquiries; and
- Family members who are involved in supporting a missing person investigation may need financial and emotional support from community members or organizations.

Recommendation 2: The media is encouraged to develop best practice standards in dealing with missing person cases which include consistent, neutral messaging sensitive to the family and cultural circumstances.

Recommendation 3: Families of missing persons should be supported by governments and involved agencies to develop a support network.

Recommendation 4: The provincial government should review existing common law and legislation dealing with missing persons and develop a timely, comprehensive legislative response to deal with the estate of the missing person.

Recommendation 5.1: The provincial government, in partnership with police services, First Nations, Métis and Aboriginal organizations, and local governments, should consult with families of missing persons to determine the form or forms that a provincial memorial to missing persons could take and how it would be implemented and maintained.

Recommendation 5.2: The Saskatchewan Minister of Justice should raise the topic of creating a national memorial to missing persons at the next Ministers Responsible for Justice meeting.

Recommendation 13: The mandate of Victim Services should include the provision of support to families of missing people.

Recommendation 18: The provincial government should fund a caseworker pilot with a police service. This caseworker would work with the "found" missing person and their family to deal with the causes of the person going missing by discussing how to avoid future situations and linking the individual and/or family with available resources to deal with the underlying causes of the person going missing to try to avoid repeat situations.

January 2008 (Federal) *Summary Report: A Call for Action. National Aboriginal Women's Summit –Nfld* <http://www.laa.gov.nl.ca/laa/naws/pdf/SummaryReport.pdf>

24. All NAO's must work in partnership with all levels of government, mainstream organizations and each other to ensure: a) that existing victims services are adaptable to needs of Aboriginal victims of crime; b) that existing services and structures are respectful of traditional approaches to justice. Police officers, judges and lawyers must learn about the legislative and policy-related history that impact only Aboriginal peoples in Canada, especially Aboriginal women and the key factors which lead Aboriginal women into the justice system.

26. Aboriginal communities must be supported for the continued implementation and expansion of collaborative and cooperative Restorative Justice Approaches, where this is appropriate and supported by the Aboriginal community.

28. Provide support and recognition to traditional healers, and opportunities for Aboriginal women to help develop traditional healing policies and programs and encourage meaningful dialogue between Aboriginal healers and revitalize their cultures and communities through increased research and educational opportunities.

March 2009 (Federal) *Voices of our Sisters in Spirit: A Report to Families and Communities Native Women's Association of Canada*
http://ywcacanada.ca/data/research_docs/00000023.pdf

- Governments collaborate with Native Women's Association of Canada to identify and develop approaches that focus on the needs of families who have female members who are missing or who have been murdered.
- Governments (federal, provincial/territorial) work cooperatively with Native Women's Association of Canada to conduct an environmental scan of Victims Services programs to

identify what is available, what level of usage exists, gaps and the overall effectiveness of these services in meeting the needs of individuals.

- Establish and fund processes and avenues for individuals to connect with court supports, court access and Community Justice protocols, including funding for Aboriginal court workers in all jurisdictions and adequate legal aid for Aboriginal individuals requiring this assistance.

March 2011 (B.C.) *Stopping Violence Against Aboriginal Women: A Discussion Paper to Support Community Focus Groups*. **British Columbia Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation**

- Provide long-term funding and increase the amount of funding for programs and services that deal with violence against Aboriginal women;
- Make sure that programs and services are based in Aboriginal ways of knowing and healing;
- Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal leadership/governments should make sure that women can easily find information about the programs and services that are available to them.
- Support the creation of local services that are delivered by Aboriginal women and that meet cultural needs of Aboriginal women;
- Make sure that police and other professionals have the training they need to understand the cultures and situations of the Aboriginal women they work with;
- Make sure that non-Aboriginal staff working in small communities understand the difficult issues around privacy;
- Work with Aboriginal communities to provide a range of healing and reconciliation programs and supports for victims, their families, and the wider community;

March 2011(MB) *Wiping Away the Tears: A Gathering for Families of Missing and Murdered Women* **Province of Manitoba – Manitoba Action Group on Vulnerable and Exploited Women**

Counselling:

- A specific person or counsellor should be assigned to address the counselling needs of families of missing and murdered women.
- Counsellors who specialize in this area are obtained.
- Sharing Circles or Support Groups be established for families affected by this issue.
- Establish accessibility to Aboriginal traditional supports such as elders who can assist families.
- A person or persons be directed to carry out check-in phone calls to the families on a regular basis.

Communication:

- A phone tree be created so that families can stay connected, share information and have the ability to support one another.

Justice/Police:

- Specific police contacts are implemented and made known to the families.
- The police receive sensitivity training, discrimination awareness, education training and communication skills training regarding the issue of working with families of missing and murdered women.
- A fund is created to help families with the expenses associated with searching for a loved one and with help in accessing counselling, perhaps in the form of a foundation.

C. Support for Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women and Girls and Their Families

1. Improve communication with families.

- Consult with them about what they need, including how they want to communicate with services
- Police services and other organizations appoint liaison officers who will keep families up-to-date and maintain ongoing contact with them. This will include ensuring that appropriate personnel respond to any inquiries or communications from family members.
- Provide forums and arenas in which families can gather and family members can express themselves, without being interrupted, rushed, probed or delayed.

2. Offer culturally appropriate victim support programs that are easily accessible and open 24/7.

3. Provide a single window through which families can access the services and supports they need. This single window would have a national office, along with regional locations that would house localized response units with staff and volunteers and support the local implementation of a coordinated immediate response system incorporating national standardized protocols. The single window would provide families with 24-hour access to and/or information about:

- Police services (law enforcement) and other agencies
- Reporting and tips hotline
- Initiating an Amber-type alert
- Elders, other families who have had similar experiences, a trauma team to help them with healing and recovery, and other supports for emotional and spiritual wellness
- Foundations, trust funds, government departments or other agencies that will provide funding and other resources to support searches, travel and other aspects of their attempts to find their loved one, identify a perpetrator or heal from or manage the impacts of their loss.
- Who should be enlisted? A working group, with representation from the provincial and federal governments and Aboriginal leadership and organizations.

The national office of the single window would also be responsible for supporting the implementation of national standardized protocols, along with the design and delivery of relevant training and education, and developing and lobbying for legislation to support an effective coordinated response and national protocols.

4. Develop and distribute a toolkit that provides practical information and guidance to the families of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls. This should include information about how to report a missing person, how to navigate the systems they will engage with, and how to connect with and access resources.

5. Establish a national organization and database for families. This organization would establish a web-based application to gather and share information (as it becomes available) on all cases of missing and murdered women and girls. In addition to this closed content, which would be available on to families, the website would also feature some open content for public education.

6. Establish advocacy or ombudsman services for families that they can turn to if they are having difficulty accessing or navigating the resources and service systems they need. These services would be supported by government funding.

7. **Establish a foundation or trust fund through which families would be able to access financial support.** Funds to establish and administer this entity would be provided by the Provincial Victims' Trust. Representatives of Aboriginal organizations, families, the Helen Betty Osborne Memorial Foundation, government and law enforcement agencies should be enlisted to join a Working Group for this project. Additionally, the national EI Act should be amended to support family members' ability to take time off work when they are searching for a loved one.

July 2011 (B.C.) *Report on Outcomes and Recommendations from Working Sessions Collaboration to End Violence: National Aboriginal Women's Forum.* **AMR Consulting**
http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/consulting-with-first-nations/first-nations/report_collaboration_to_end_violence_forum.pdf

2. Holistic Continuum of Programs and Services

- A continuum of programs and services that assist women and girls who are at risk of or have experienced violence and their children, families and communities and that can be accessed throughout an individual's full life cycle should be available in every community.
- Programs and services that draw on or are based on culture and tradition should be available in all Aboriginal communities.
- Wherever reasonably possible, programs and services should be delivered in the home communities of people using those programs and services.

6. Equitable Access to Programs and Services

- All provinces and territories should dedicate funding to provide emergency support to victims of domestic violence

7. Improved Integrated Networks of Resources and Services

- Crisis response teams should be in place in all First Nation, Métis and Inuit communities, with adequate funding to train community members and sustain activities.

January 2012 (preliminary report released 2010) (Federal) *Issues Related to the High Number of Murdered and Missing Women in Canada* **Coordinating Committee of Senior Officials – Missing Women Working Group**
<http://www.scics.gc.ca/CMFiles/831-016005-we11HOP-1262012-7454.pdf>

Recommendation # 15

The MWWG supports the Saskatchewan Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons "Report in urging that police continually communicate with families of missing persons in order to provide ongoing updates to them on the status of the case.

Recommendation # 16

The MWWG supports the recommendation made in the Saskatchewan Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons" Report that tools be created for use as an information resource for families of the missing and/or murdered, such as a simple checklist for families to follow that outlines steps they could take during investigation and prosecution of the case.

Recommendation # 17

Building on recommendations in the Saskatchewan Report, the MWWG recommends that jurisdictions give consideration to an expansion of the Victims Services mandate to include provision of support to

families of missing persons, and that protocols be developed between police and victim services for engagement and support of the families once that need has been identified.

Recommendation #44

The MWWG recommends that jurisdictions encourage and support, as appropriate, police services to consider using an Aboriginal liaison officer to work with Aboriginal families, wherever possible, and police and Aboriginal organizations/agencies to develop and implement protocols for working together and with Aboriginal families and communities.

Recommendation # 51

The MWWG recommends that Heads of Prosecution and FPT Working Group on Victims examine the issue of victim and witness support best practices in this context. The best practices identified in the Pickton and Svekla prosecutions may provide a valuable starting point for this examination.

November 2012 (BC) *Forsaken: The Report of The Missing Women Commission of Inquiry*
**Missing Women Commission of Inquiry, The Honourable Wally T. Oppal,
Commissioner** <http://www.missingwomeninquiry.ca/obtain-report/>

3.2 That Provincial Government establish a compensation fund for the children of the missing and murdered women.

3.3 That Provincial Government establish a healing fund for families of the missing and murdered women. These funds should be accessed through an application process pursuant to established guidelines.

6.3 That Provincial Government provide additional funding to Aboriginal women's organizations to create programs addressing violence on reserves, so that fewer women and youth are forced to escape to urban areas.

7.9 That provincial authorities develop an enhanced, holistic, comprehensive approach for the provision of support to the families and friends of missing persons. This should be based on a needs assessment carried out in consultation with the provincial partnership committee on missing persons.

March 2014. (Federal) *Invisible Women: A Call to Action A Report on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in Canada. Report of the Special Committee on Violence Against Indigenous Women.*
<http://www.parl.gc.ca/content/hoc/Committee/412/IWFA/Reports/RP6469851/IWFArp01/IWFArp01-e.pdf>

Recommendation 3

That the federal government maintain its commitment to develop the Canadian Victims Bill of Rights including initiatives aimed at making the criminal justice system more responsive to the needs of victims, such as keeping them informed and providing them with appropriate standing, access and assistance throughout the process.

December 2014 (International) *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in BC Canada*
Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
<http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/reports/pdfs/Indigenous-Women-BC-Canada-en.pdf>

Regarding the ongoing investigations of missing and murdered women, the IACHR stresses the importance of the principle of due diligence. In this regard, the State should:

- Give special judicial protection and guarantees to family members and relatives, especially by improving mechanisms to ensure that such parties have access to information about the development of the investigation and about their rights in any legal proceedings. Effective access by indigenous people to such protection is especially important given the context of historical and structural discrimination.
- Provide integral social and support services to all family members of missing and murdered indigenous women, as well as to indigenous women who want to remove themselves from an abusive situation.
- Further develop the steps taken to provide reparations to families of missing and murdered indigenous women in cases where the State has failed to exercise due diligence.

2015 (federal) Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada
http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf

40. We call on all levels of government, in collaboration with Aboriginal people, to create adequately funded and accessible Aboriginal-specific victim programs and services with appropriate evaluation mechanisms.

Witness Protection

November 2012 (BC) *Forsaken: The Report of The Missing Women Commission of Inquiry*
Missing Women Commission of Inquiry, The Honourable Wally T. Oppal,
Commissioner <http://www.missingwomeninquiry.ca/obtain-report/>

4.8 That Provincial Government fund three law reform research projects on aspects of the treatment of vulnerable and intimidated witnesses:

- The effects of drug and alcohol use on memory and how to support those experiencing dependency or addiction to provide testimony;
- Police, counsel and the judiciary's bias and perceptions of credibility of people with drug addictions or who are engaged in the survival sex trade; and
- Potential changes to the law of evidence to better allow vulnerable witnesses, including those who have been sexually assaulted, those suffering from addictions, and those in the sex industry, to take part in court processes.

4.9 That Provincial Government develop guidelines to facilitate and support vulnerable and intimidated witnesses by all actors within the criminal justice system based on the best practices identified by the Commission through its review of protocols and guidelines existing in other jurisdictions.

Corrections

January 2012 (preliminary report released 2010) (Federal) *Issues Related to the High Number of Murdered and Missing Women in Canada* **Coordinating Committee of Senior Officials – Missing Women Working Group**

<http://www.scics.gc.ca/CMFiles/831-016005-we11HOP-1262012-7454.pdf>

Recommendation # 5

The MWWG recommends that FPT Ministers Responsible for Justice consider undertaking or encouraging the continuation of research into the escalation of violence in criminal sexual predation as related to risk assessment processes.

Recommendation # 6

The MWWG recommends that FPT Ministers Responsible for Justice, in cooperation with other partners, should continue to provide adequate levels of monitoring, social support and intervention to sex offenders to interrupt patterns of serial predation.

Recommendation # 7

The MWWG recommends that jurisdictions support research that monitors and evaluates the efficacy of measuring levels of psychopathy in offenders as a means of intervention.

Recommendation #10

The MWWG recommends that jurisdictions support the use of risk assessment and monitoring of serious offenders, and support the work of Corrections authorities to continue improving these approaches.

Recommendation # 12

The MWWG recommends that jurisdictions provide support to justice institutions, including correctional facilities and forensic psychiatric institutions, to develop and implement research-based therapeutic interventions that have the potential to interrupt paraphilic fantasies and the escalation of violence in sexual offenders.

November 2012 (BC) *Forsaken: The Report of The Missing Women Commission of Inquiry*
**Missing Women Commission of Inquiry, The Honourable Wally T. Oppal,
Commissioner** <http://www.missingwomeninquiry.ca/obtain-report/>

5.13 That the BC Association of Municipal Police Chiefs and the RCMP, with support from the Director of Police Services, should develop a protocol containing additional measures to monitor high-risk offenders, including recommendations for the efficient and timely sharing of information.

2015 (federal) Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

[http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Calls to Action English2.pdf](http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Calls%20to%20Action%20English2.pdf)

31. We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to provide sufficient and stable funding to implement and evaluate community sanctions that will provide realistic alternatives to imprisonment for Aboriginal offenders and respond to the underlying causes of offending.

34. We call upon the governments of Canada, the provinces, and territories to undertake reforms to the criminal justice system to better address the needs of offenders with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), including:

- Providing increased community resources and powers for courts to ensure that FASD is properly diagnosed, and that appropriate community supports are in place for those with FASD.
- Enacting statutory exemptions from mandatory minimum sentences of imprisonment for offenders affected by FASD.
- Providing community, correctional, and parole resources to maximize the ability of people with FASD to live in the community.
- Adopting appropriate evaluation mechanisms to measure the effectiveness of such programs and ensure community safety.

35. We call upon the federal government to eliminate barriers to the creation of additional Aboriginal healing lodges within the federal correctional system.

36. We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to work with Aboriginal communities to provide culturally relevant services to inmates on issues such as substance abuse, family and domestic violence, and overcoming the experience of having been sexually abused.

37. We call upon the federal government to provide more supports for Aboriginal programming in halfway houses and parole services.

38. We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to commit to eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal youth in custody over the next decade.

Communication, Media & Awareness

October 2007 (SK) *Final Report of the Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons*
Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons
<http://publications.gov.sk.ca/documents/9/30559-missing-persons-final.pdf>

II. Responding to Prevention, Awareness and Public Education Issues:

Recommendation 6: The SACP [Saskatchewan Association of Chiefs of Police] is encouraged to promote the concept of a national website or linked websites and the Saskatchewan Minister of Justice is encouraged to raise the need for a national website or linked websites on missing persons at the next meeting of Ministers Responsible for Justice.

Recommendation 7.0: As a priority, the Provincial Partnership Committee or another agency, with relevant community stakeholders, should be tasked to develop information/education materials to provide a factual overview of all aspects of missing person situations.

Recommendation 7.1: Agencies that deal with at risk populations should establish teams to conduct presentations on awareness, prevention and personal safety to social and professional networks throughout the province.

Recommendation 7.2: The Provincial Partnership Committee or another agency should be tasked to compile and maintain an inventory of agencies involved in missing person cases to support networking and a publicly accessible inventory of existing or new educational materials on prevention and personal safety.

Recommendation 7.3: Police, as part of communications with the public, should ensure that information about police policy, procedure and practices related to missing persons cases and the role that the public can play in assisting in missing cases is generally available.

Recommendation 8: Saskatchewan Learning should include awareness about the risks of going missing or facing missing children and youth in all schools through health education programs and encourage educators and School Community Councils to continue to build awareness through access to materials, speakers, or other programming.

March 2011(MB) *Wiping Away the Tears: A Gathering for Families of Missing and Murdered Women* **Province of Manitoba – Manitoba Action Group on Vulnerable and Exploited Women**

Media:

- The stigma attached to missing and murdered loved ones by media be addressed because the negative images and stereotyping created through media will only continue to perpetuate the devaluation of Aboriginal women and girls.

Education:

- An awareness campaign be launched by government to bring more awareness to the issue of missing and murdered women.
- Higher levels education be made available at the community level (high schools in communities).
- Other family members are approached to choose other missing and murdered women to be honoured at the annual Manito Ahbee Celebration.

- Awareness packages be created to help families deal with media and what to do when you suspect your loved one has gone missing.

June 2011 (M.B.) *Never Forgotten: Summit on Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women and Girls.* **Bruce & Boivin Consulting Group.**

D. Public Awareness and Education

1. Initiate a public awareness campaign that increases sensitivity to and awareness of the issue of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls. The campaign should:

- Help increase understanding of the cultures, history and present-day experiences (including the impacts of colonization) of Aboriginal peoples in Canada.
- Address myths, stereotypes and misconceptions about Aboriginal people and emphasize the diversity within the Aboriginal population.
- Present factual information about and practical strategies to address the sexual exploitation of youth and violence (against women and girls) in Aboriginal communities.
- Include education on anti-racism.
- Provide on-line and printed materials with practical information on what to do if someone is lost or missing. These should be distributed through health centres, band offices, police offices, schools, friendship centres, community centres
- Utilize a broad range of media and venues for outreach and awareness, including print, TV, radio, internet and social media (Facebook, twitter, apps), fax campaigns, milk cartons or other products, swag, fax campaigns, hosting conferences and community events, and ads on buses, trucks, and locations along well-travelled routes.
- Language and images used in the campaign should be respectful, non-judgemental, and capture and reflect the humanity of victims and their families.
- Activities would be led by a working group, with representation from Aboriginal women and Aboriginal organizations.

G. Aboriginal Ownership and Delivery

1. Aboriginal leaders need to become more involved and politically engaged in this issue. . The campaign should:

- Help increase understanding of the cultures, history and present-day experiences (including the impacts of colonization) of Aboriginal peoples in Canada.

2. Build on existing community resources, establish an all-Aboriginal owned and operated community response. This would provide a one-stop-shop with culturally sound services to address all identified aspects of issues relating to missing and murdered Aboriginal women, girls, boys, transgendered people, two-spirit people and their families.

July 2011 (B.C.) *Report on Outcomes and Recommendations from Working Sessions Collaboration to End Violence: National Aboriginal Women's Forum.* **AMR Consulting**
http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/consulting-with-first-nations/first-nations/report_collaboration_to_end_violence_forum.pdf

13. Public Education and Awareness

- As individuals and organizations, take action to educate the media about violence against Aboriginal women and girls, encourage media to report responsibly and respectfully about Aboriginal peoples, cultures and history, and acknowledge and honour them when they do.

January 2012 (preliminary report released 2010) (Federal) *Issues Related to the High Number of Murdered and Missing Women in Canada* **Coordinating Committee of Senior Officials – Missing Women Working Group**
<http://www.scics.gc.ca/CMFiles/831-016005-we11HOP-1262012-7454.pdf>

The MWWG recommends that jurisdictions work with law enforcement/police agencies to ensure that the public is made aware of reporting practices for missing persons in their jurisdiction; to evaluate the adequacy of current educational mechanisms; and consider how to make information more accessible through websites. This could include a national public education campaign about missing persons" issues and police policies and procedures in order to change misconceptions.

Recommendation #24

The MWWG recommends that jurisdictions support the recommendations of the Saskatchewan Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons" Report that the police develop media and public communications protocols to implement best practices to disseminate information about missing persons and to request the public's help in locating a missing person.

Recommendation # 28

The MWWG recommends that jurisdictions encourage police forces to work with Aboriginal organizations to develop and disseminate tools and information about the reporting process for missing women that reflects different literacy levels and is available in a range of languages/formats.

Recommendation #40

The MWWG recommends that jurisdictions encourage police forces to examine policies on releasing information on „cold cases" to media and „co-victims", with a view to determining the best strategies for determining how and when to provide this information in order to advance investigations and to provide assurance to families and friends that appropriate attention is being given to the case.

Recommendation #45

The MWWG recommends that jurisdictions encourage police investigators involved in cases of missing or murdered women to design and implement effective media plans in order to ensure proactive and strategic use of media sources for educating and soliciting information from the public concerning details of the investigation.

Recommendation #46

The MWWG recommends that media best practices should be developed in consultation with police and media and made public.

Recommendation #47

The MWWG recommends that Heads of Prosecution and the FPT Working Group on Victims participate in the development of and distribution of best practices for police, prosecutors and Victims Services respectively to use when dealing with victims" families, witnesses and the media in missing and murdered person cases.

Recommendation # 48

The MWWG recommends that jurisdictions consider the recommendation made in the 2005 FBI symposium on serial murder that investigators should consult with behavioral experts on the

development of a proactive media strategy in order to circumvent issues related to interactions between the offender and the media.

Recommendation # 49

The MWWG recommends that jurisdictions ensure that media involvement in any large and complex trial should be managed within a framework supported by the Judiciary.

Recommendation # 50

The MWWG recommends that jurisdictions consider the recommendation of the Panel on Justice and the Media that consideration be given to formally implementing the guidelines established in the "Protocol Regarding Public Statements in Criminal Proceedings" document.

November 2012 (BC) *Forsaken: The Report of The Missing Women Commission of Inquiry*. **Missing Women Commission of Inquiry, The Honourable Wally T. Oppal, Commissioner** <http://www.missingwomeninquiry.ca/obtain-report/>

7.7 That provincial authorities create and maintain a provincial missing person website aimed at educating the public about the missing persons process and engaging them in proactive approaches to prevention and investigation.

7.8 That provincial authorities establish a provincial 1-800 phone number for the taking of missing person reports and accessing case information.

7.10 That representatives of the media be invited to be members of the provincial partnership committee and that the committee should develop a protocol on issues related to the role of the media in missing person investigations. 7.11 That the provincial partnership committee develop a proposal for either an enhanced BCPMPC to meet additional responsibilities relating to the needs of members of the public and, in particular, reporters; or to create an independent civilian-based agency for this purpose.

March 2014. (Federal) *Invisible Women: A Call to Action A Report on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in Canada*. **Report of the Special Committee on Violence Against Indigenous Women**. <http://www.parl.gc.ca/content/hoc/Committee/412/IWFA/Reports/RP6469851/IWFArp01/IWFArp01-e.pdf>

Awareness Campaign

Recommendation 1

That the federal government learn from the stories of the families of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls and work with the provinces, territories and municipalities to create a public awareness and prevention campaign focusing on violence against Aboriginal women and girls in Canada.

May 2014. (Federal) *Missing and Murdered Women: A National Operational Review*. RCMP <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/pubs/mmaw-faapd-eng.htm>

(3) Increasing public awareness

To further discussions about policing issues involving Aboriginal women, the RCMP will maintain its dedicated NWAC liaison — an RCMP employee who works collaboratively with NWAC to develop public awareness tools and resources focused on the prevention of violence against Aboriginal women.

As a partner in the federal Family Violence Initiative, the RCMP's National Crime Prevention Services distributes funding to detachments to work with non-profit community organizations and all levels of government. This funding is used to support initiatives that address the issue of family violence as part of the Family Violence Investment Project. The RCMP will re-focus the funding for this project to target high-risk communities.

Crime Prevention

January 2012 (preliminary report released 2010) (Federal) *Issues Related to the High Number of Murdered and Missing Women in Canada* **Coordinating Committee of Senior Officials – Missing Women Working Group**
<http://www.scics.gc.ca/CMFiles/831-016005-we11HOP-1262012-7454.pdf>

Recommendation # 3

The MWWG recommends that:

- Jurisdictions work with justice system partners such as local police; community justice services; Aboriginal court workers; and victim services to support Aboriginal communities and organizations to assess safety risks to Aboriginal women and to develop local plans to respond to those risks.
- As a priority Aboriginal organizations or organizations that work with high-risk Aboriginal populations be funded to support individual or group safety planning awareness and engagement, taking into account, in particular, the specific barriers women face, and their lack of protections on or off reserve.

Recommendation # 4

- The MWWG recommends that the FPT Community Safety and Crime Prevention Working Group should be asked to examine the need to make the personal safety of women a priority, with particular consideration given to those factors shown to increase the risk of violence from predators.

May 2014. (Federal) *Missing and Murdered Women: A National Operational Review*. RCMP
<http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/pubs/mmaw-faapd-eng.htm>

(2) Focusing prevention efforts

Based in part on the data collected, the RCMP will identify communities with the highest risk of violence against women. Within these communities, intervention, diversion and family violence prevention initiatives will be focused towards at-risk individuals to maximize support and referrals to appropriate community treatment programs, such as the community-led, police-assisted program, Aboriginal Shield.

The RCMP will also work with other government departments and agencies to introduce and initiate crime prevention programs within these communities. For example, the RCMP will collaborate with Public Safety Canada and other federal partners to help these communities identify issues and mobilize resources through the Community Safety Plan process.

The RCMP will also track the progress of prevention and intervention initiatives through detachment performance plans to ensure appropriate accountability of local commanders.