



Press Statement

“We will not let Canada forget our Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls” – Congress of Aboriginal Peoples

June 3, 2019 (Ottawa, ON) – The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP) acknowledges the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls as a guiding document for concrete actions to be taken to protect Indigenous women and girls.

The National Inquiry’s Final Report was released today with 231 Calls to Justice for all governments, the private sector, and the Canadian public to act on. The report also outlines the legal imperatives obligating the federal government to act. Over the past two years, CAP participated as a Party with Standing and members of our constituency also joined in the Truth Gathering process. The Inquiry has determined that the violations of Indigenous and human rights experienced by Indigenous women and girls in Canada is genocide.

“We know too well that the government continues the pattern of colonial violence today and that the existing Indian Status rules, along with chronic underfunding of adequate, culturally-safe policies and supports, are leading to the eradication of our peoples,” states CAP National Chief Robert Bertrand. The Inquiry has taken a strong position that the federal government is legally obligated to end these practices.

Call to Justice 1.1 demands for “... all governments to ensure that equitable access to basic rights such as employment, housing, education, safety, and health care is recognized as a fundamental means of protecting Indigenous and human rights, resourced and supported as rights-based programs founded on substantive equality. All programs must be no-barrier, and must apply regardless of Status or location.”

“We are here to honour the lost women and girls. We’re hopeful that full implementation of the Calls to Justice would lead to greater safety, security and empowerment of our constituency”, concludes National Chief Robert Bertrand.

“Above all, this Inquiry is for the families who need to see this process lead to concrete solutions– to help end the continual cycle of murder and violence against Indigenous Women and Girls”, says National Vice-Chief Kim Beaudin.

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The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples is the national voice representing the rights, interests and needs of Métis, status and non-status Indians, and Southern Inuit Indigenous People living off-reserve. Today, over 70% of Indigenous people live off-reserve across Canada.