

**Open Letter from Families, Survivors, and Supporters of MMIWG2S
Calling for Immediate Action from PM Justin Trudeau to reset the National Inquiry**

October 10, 2017

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2
pm@pm.gc.ca; justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister Justin Trudeau,

Thank you for your presence at the Families of Sisters in Spirit Gathering this October 4th. We were moved to hear you rededicate yourself and the government of Canada to ensuring families are at the heart of the National Inquiry process. We agree wholeheartedly with you that creating space for families to heal and for people and communities victimized by this violence to seek justice is the only way to ensure we put an end to this ongoing national tragedy.

You heard from the collective voice and wisdom of many families and supporters at the vigil. As you heard, so many families, relations, communities, and survivors have lost all faith in the Commissioners of this National Inquiry and are asking you to work with us to rebuild a relationship with your government in order to honour the spirits of MMIWG2S. We believe in a National Inquiry that provides inclusive processes and we continually affirm that families, survivors, and communities must be at the heart of the Inquiry. A hard reset and restructuring is needed for this National Inquiry to succeed.

You have echoed the words of the current Commissioners that “it was never going to be easy.” We agree. These are our stories, our loved ones. We know very well the traumas and difficulties of this work. We were prepared for the work of this Inquiry to be a challenge, one that would build on our strengths. However, difficulty and dysfunction are not the same. The difficulty does not give the Commissioners the right to ignore so many voices and to continue harmful processes that are causing damage to our communities and creating further harms for Indigenous women, girls, trans, and two-spirit persons. We acknowledge that everyone involved may not all get along in this difficult process. But, we do expect there to be safe, inclusive spaces for many voices to be heard. We expect our families and communities to be at the heart of the process, not isolated, ignored, and targeted by further forms of harm.

Far from creating safe contexts informed by understandings of trauma and violence, the Commissioners of this Inquiry continue to dismiss the widespread concerns of families, communities, and advocates. The Inquiry continues to impose an extremely damaging process that results in unnecessary divisions among families that should be at the heart of this Inquiry. This is not lateral violence we are witnessing, it is collateral violence from a deeply flawed process.

To re-centre all families, the space needs to be made to re-build trust, engage in healing supports, and involve all communities – not just a few. The National Inquiry must be for all families and all survivors. The time has come to set the National Inquiry on a path that works alongside existing networks of support and care and strengthens supports in our communities. In the open letter sent to you on August 8th, we provided you with a way forward to reset and restructure this Inquiry and to grow it from a place of trust. The time has come to rebuild it with families and communities at its center. In this restructuring, we will honour every family and story that has been entrusted to the existing commissioners and want to ensure that nothing is lost from the important information that has been collected over the past year.

We hope that you will take up our call to establish a truly inclusive, Indigenous-led and community-driven National Inquiry. For your reflection, engagement, and response, we have included the statement made from families at the vigil on October 4th as well as a re-release of the open letter we sent to you on August 8, 2017.

Now representing over 180 family members and over 80 supporters, the letter asks that you rebuild the Inquiry with families and communities at its center.

We look forward to further conversation and to re-centering families and survivors in a much-needed National Inquiry into MMIWGT2S.

Sincerely,

A Coalition of Families, Relations, and Grassroots Organizers of MMIWGT2S from
Across Canada

Statement of Collective Wisdom from Families, Support Persons, and Survivors of MMIWG2S

Delivered on October 4, 2017 by Maggie Cywink
Families of Sisters in Spirit Annual Vigil
Ottawa, Ontario

There are so many families that would like to be here today to speak with you, to share their reflections and their knowledge.

I am honoured to speak as a family member today, but also want to give this space to so many voices that are not able to be here. Families are not being heard and are asking Canadians to listen today.

So many families, communities, and survivors have lost all faith in this National Inquiry and we need you, Prime Minister Trudeau, to listen to us today and to work with us to rebuild a relationship. We need you to hear us and to fulfil your promise to honour the spirits of our MMIWG2S.

Families have asked:

“when will the Prime Minister take this seriously ... instead of false promises toward the families? I totally lost faith in his words about the Inquiry ... I am heartbroken.”

“You made commitments. Stick to them”

“Live by your campaign promises ... an Inquiry means nothing if done in the wrong way with no family input. We are the experts”

“[Stop keeping] us from being in control [and having a say] in what is rightfully ours”

“Our missing and murdered is not being taken seriously”

“My family is still suffering day after day ... we would love some help. We don't hear from the Inquiry and we are left with no supports.”

“This Inquiry is an embarrassment to all Canadians and the world.”

By not having good relations with families and communities, the Inquiry continues to perpetuate harm and overlook simple, yet important realities.

Families and survivors have said:

“I still haven't heard back from anyone from the inquiry and I was told they'd follow up. Nothing ... again and again. Nothing.”

“Families have been delegated a passive role, and used as numbers. [The inquiry] is placing people in harm's way, it is causing crisis and harm in our communities.”

“No one from the National Inquiry has called or contacted us. They take the information and leave with no aftercare. This is not trauma informed.”

“[This is] tokenism.”

“[Our nation] has not heard from the Inquiry in spite of multiple requests to engage with them. We have 15 MMIW in our community alone.”

“The National Inquiry isn't about the Commissioners. It's about the MMIWG2S, the families, and the survivors. ... [Nothing is being done] in relation to reaching out to survivors - to our women and girls who have survived and are still trying to survive - situations of violence. They are an important part of the work the National Inquiry is supposed to do. Yet how are they being involved? I would say they are not.”

“The silence on prairies weighs heavy ... not many people or elders even know about the National Inquiry. And the ones who do know and have tried to connect with the National Inquiry, have had no luck in getting any response despite trying to reach out to them.”

“Do right by the families, actually listen as a person ... Not for a photo op or a way to gain popularity.”

“If you want to be remembered as the Prime Minister who is healing ties with first nations, then you must start with our women and families.”

"This is a critical moment in our history and your legacy will be assessed to the degree to which you successfully respond to the pressing issues of the day. So, I ask: 100 years from now, will you be looked at as the Prime Minister who changed the course of Canada's relationship with Indigenous people ... or will you be seen as yet another politician, in the very long list of politicians, who simply peddled in the age-old craft of empty promises?"

Open Letter from supporters of an inclusive, Indigenous-led and community-driven National Inquiry into MMIWGT2S

August 8, 2017

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2
pm@pm.gc.ca; justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister Justin Trudeau,

We, the families, relations, and grassroots organizers of MMIWGT2S, are in complete support of a National Inquiry. We have dedicated our lives to advocating for justice for our loved ones, and are pivotal in bringing this National Inquiry into being. We want nothing more than to see the Inquiry done well and to honour all our relations. This is our Inquiry and our voices must be included in its processes.

We have repeatedly asked the Commissioners of this Inquiry to include our voices and have worked tirelessly to guide them in how they can honour the spirits of our relations. They have continually dismissed our concerns, refused to take steps to rebuild trust, and have maintained a deeply misguided approach that imposes a harmful, colonial process on us. This has and continues to create trauma as well as insecurity and a lack of safety for our families, communities, and loved ones. By adopting the very processes that result in systemic and colonial violence, the Inquiry in its current form is unable to fulfill its mandate to address the systemic causes of violence experienced by MMIWGT2S.

We were optimistic that the open letter sent to the Chief Commissioner back in mid-May would create a dialogue and set the Inquiry on a good course. Far from this, in a way that further promotes colonial disruption, the letter was used as a way to pit families against families. The deep-seated concerns of many families went unheard and remain unaddressed to this day.

In spite of stated commitments to rebuild trust with signatories of the open letter, no one from the National Inquiry reached out to us. Families and relations of MMIWGT2S are beyond resilient and in spite of many obstacles – including ones the National Inquiry put directly in their paths – a coalition of family signatories of the open letter reached out and organized a meeting with the Commissioners of the National Inquiry in an effort to

open dialogue and set the Inquiry on a good course for redirection. The meeting took place on July 11 with no financial resources provided by the National Inquiry.

Far from rebuilding the trust of families and survivors of violence, the coalition of families left the meeting feeling deflated and knowing they could no longer trust the Inquiry to move forward with its mandate. As one family member stated, “I feel like a circle being forced into a square peg ... I now have to withdraw my support for the Inquiry.” As another family member stated: “I did not feel safe, not at all. I feel an obligation to share that my family members also wouldn’t have felt safe.” “We need to honour the spirits of these women. None of the Commissioners are doing that.”

After meeting with the Commissioners, the coalition was also invited to share their reflections with Minister Carolyn Bennett. This meeting took place on the evening of July 11, the day Marilyn Poitras resigned as a Commissioner of the National Inquiry. Marilyn Poitras cited the need for the Inquiry to reset and restructure. She confirmed what many families had been saying – that Inquiry processes are being driven by a colonial model. Rather than an Indigenous-led process, she indicated, “the model that we’re using has legal counsel driving it with an old traditional commission model of setting up hearings. The traditional colonial style says, ‘You go in, you have a hearing, people come and tell you their problems and you figure it out.’” Following her resignation, she revealed, “My main concern is that this commission is going down a tried road. We’ve been studied, we’ve been researched, we’ve gone and looked at Indians and half-breeds and Inuit people for a long time to see what’s the problem ... You tell us your sad story and we’ll figure out what to do with you. And we’re headed down that same path. And if it worked, we would all be so fixed and healthy by now. It doesn’t work.”

Unfortunately, before hearing from any family members, Minister Bennett had already expressed that she remained confident in the Commissioners ability to do the needed work of the National Inquiry. In spite of this context, the coalition of families met with the Minister, invited her into their sharing circle, and shared openly their reflections of their best efforts to rebuild trust with the Commissioners. It was with extremely heavy hearts and continued trauma facing families and communities of MMIWGT2S that the coalition officially called on the Minister to restart this misguided process and asked the Minister to formally request the resignations of the National Inquiry Commissioners. As one family member appealed, “When I leave this place, I’m going to have to tell my family that I’ve lost faith in the Commissioners. I would like you, Minister Bennett, to take action – it takes guts.”

Minister Bennett chose to also disregard families’ concerns about the Inquiry’s processes and maintained the position she publicly adopted earlier on in the day and before meeting with families. Since this time, and as was evident at the Assembly of First Nations meetings at the end of July in Regina, far too many families have had to endure more anguish and have continually had their expressed concerns dismissed.

Rather than being central in Inquiry processes, many families of MMIWGT2S continue to be treated as critics of the Inquiry by Chief Commissioner Marion Buller. Families

who have lost loved ones to violence are by no means critics and need to be heard, honoured, and treated with respect by the National Inquiry. Indeed, it is because of their leadership and persistence in seeking justice that MMIWGT2S has become an issue of national concern today.

Prime Minister, as an electoral promise, it was your government that formed this Inquiry – over one year ago – and we are asking you now to support so many families and relations that have been left out and, worse, deeply harmed, by the Inquiry’s misguided processes. We are asking for a hard reset of this National Inquiry. We are asking you to request the resignations of the existing Commissioners in order to create the needed space to rebuild an Inquiry that is Indigenous-led and community driven. We are asking you to live by your words to use an Indigenous-led, rights-based approach that honours our rights to security, to equal voice, to participate in matters that affect our lives, and to guarantee against all forms of violence and discrimination. By rooting the Inquiry in our communities, we can ensure processes that are inclusive of all families, communities, and relations of MMIWGT2S.

Why do we need a reset?

For the first year of the Inquiry, the Commissioners have been advised by a select group of families who served on the National Family Advisory Circle (NFAC). We honour the families that devoted their time to this work, but this advisory in no way represents the many families and loved ones who come from geographically and culturally diverse communities of MMIWGT2S. The Commissioners have developed no inclusive mechanism for a diversity of birth and chosen families to be heard and to inform Inquiry processes.

The Commissioners also waited a full 10-months before appointing Community Liaison Officers. The hiring of the Liaison Officers was not done with family participation and families were not consulted in the development of their job descriptions or their title as “officers.” This is not an Indigenous-led, community-driven process. By waiting so long to have any connection to communities and families, the Inquiry built its processes from a top-down colonial model that perpetuates institutionalized racism and erases the knowledges of many people living and working to build the systemic changes needed to ensure we see no more MMIWGT2S.

The health team, which was one of the last teams appointed by the Commissioners, was one of the most critical supports needed for families to feel safe and supported within a trauma and violence informed model. Even still, these supports have been directed by a Western, clinical model of trauma-informed approaches, rather than Indigenous and decolonial frameworks of trauma and violence informed processes. By hearing first from lawyers, many families and relations are unable to move forward in safety, even after health supports are now in place. In the absence of needed community supports and relationships with communities, too many voices continue to be missed by the approach of this Inquiry. Separate processes have still not been

established for people who trade or sell sex, LGBTQ2S people, or institutionalized women, girls and trans and Two-Spirit people.

Far too much damage has been done to communities by the current Commissioners and too much time has lapsed in ignoring community voices for the Community Liaison Officers to rebuild trust. Similarly, the Inquiry relies on the independent Family Information Liaison Unit's (FILU's) to be able to build relations and establish trust. However, the FILU's also have little direct connection to our families and communities and many are working out of the very criminal justice systems that have caused our communities so much harm, as was clearly evidenced in the *2004 Stolen Sisters Report* and echoed in continued documentation since this time.

By not having good relations with families and communities, the Inquiry continues to perpetuate harm and overlook simple, yet important realities. For example, in Thunder Bay, the Inquiry had been invited back in the fall of 2016 to schedule hearings in the community. As is well known, Thunder Bay has lived through incredible crises since this initial invitation was issued. Yet the Inquiry did not check in with the community and families before publicly announcing it would hold its second hearing in September 2017 in Thunder Bay. At the announcement of the schedule, the Chief Commissioner described working "on the ground" to get ready for these hearings. However, in practice, the Inquiry arbitrarily chose the dates without input or consultation with the community and families. The chosen dates were not mutually agreed to and were set without thought or regard for the timing and what would be happening in Thunder Bay at that time. The Commission released their dates right before leaders from the area called for a state of emergency to address the safety of youth in Thunder Bay. The timing of the hearings was set for when youth would potentially be returning to school. The lack of connection to our lived realities and to the leaders of our communities reflects a continued disregard for our communities and perpetuates our inability to entrust these Commissioners with the important role of honouring our loved ones and addressing the systemic causes of MMIWG2S.

The Inquiry continues to schedule community visits in our communities without any advanced warning or any transparent information. This creates confusion and wreaks havoc on our relations. Other families and communities have asked for the Inquiry to come, but have been met with silence and blatant disregard. Others press forward with no supports and try to organize families so their voices may be heard and so their healing processes may begin. This puts Indigenous anti-violence advocates in a very difficult position of, on the one hand, advocating for an Inquiry that families of MMIWG2S have fought for decades, while, on the other hand, remaining reluctant to participate in a process that replicates the harms of violent colonial systems.

So many other questions that have been asked and re-asked also remain unanswered, there is no information on how standing was granted or when standing applications will be made more accessible to others wishing to apply. There has also been no transparency about who or what agencies were provided standing and who was denied standing. There has been no update to the draft legal paths to provide clarification.

There is no clarity about the processes that will be used for the rapidly approaching hearings. Of note, this emphasis on “hearings” is also rooted in a western, colonial approach.

There remains no transparency about the expert hearings, which begin in a matter of weeks. Families and community members are being excluded from Parts I and III of the hearings by lack of information and resourcing. Webcasting such events is not a meaningful means of engagement. No information has been released about who will testify at these hearings, how they were selected as “experts,” what should be expected in terms of process, and how families can participate in these hearings. In fact, the Commission has not even advised families where the hearings commencing on August 22 will take place, other than to indicate its general location in Winnipeg.

There is no transparent understanding of the mandate, composition, scope, or role of the Forensic Unit. Although this unit was recently re-announced after much pressure from families to include an explicit provision to examine policing and the criminal justice system, as well as cases involving police misconduct or unjust criminal procedures, we have received no information about this team or their work. We still have no information about how the Inquiry will honour cases that have been deemed “closed” by police. Families that have endured violence from policing and the criminal justice system still have no assurance that their ongoing trauma and experiences will be honoured.

What is and what is not a hard-reset of a National Inquiry? What is an Indigenous-led, community-driven Inquiry?

A hard reset does not mean the Inquiry will end. It will continue and all information collected as part of the process thus far will be honoured. No information or testimony from the Whitehorse hearings will be lost. In no way is a hard reset a dismantling of the National Inquiry.

A hard-reset is what families have requested in order to restructure this Inquiry to get it right, to rebuild it in a good way, to build it with families and communities at its center and to grow it from a place of trust.

Such a reset requires time for healing, ceremony, and for the provision of the much-needed supports that should have been available to families and communities from the outset to enable communities to organize, heal, and build the Inquiry.

As was stated by a family member, “many will ask, ‘what assurance do we have that a new process won’t be similarly flawed?’ We have no expectations of an easy road ahead for this Inquiry. But we only have this historical moment to get the Inquiry right and it must be set out on a straight path, rooted in ceremony, community, and led by families and relations of MMIWGT2S.”

With supports, the Inquiry will be rebuilt from the ground up, starting with the appointment of Commissioners that are recommended by families of MMIWGT2S. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People states that “Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own Indigenous decision making institutions” (Article 13). This Inquiry has failed to follow human rights protocols in honouring the families’ recommendations for the appointments of its Commissioners.

Far from centering Indigenous knowledges, the Inquiry has been rooted in a colonial model that prioritizes a both Eurocentric medical and legal frameworks of “do no harm” and “truth gathering.” Such an approach is rooted in a broader culture of colonial violence that is inherently exploitative towards Indigenous peoples and causes ongoing trauma and violence for us as families of MMIWGT2S. These models have been prioritized above our natural orders that respect the spirits of our relations. It is in relation to one another that the possibilities of transforming cultures of violence rests. It is our right in our relations to express our intergenerational grief and root our healing in our own legal orders. An Indigenous-led process will be guided by known and trusted Indigenous leaders that have worked in our communities to make this Inquiry a national reality.

To meet its mandate, the Inquiry must now undergo a hard reset and the current Commissioners must respectfully resign to create space for families and communities to heal from the colonial approach that was adopted and instituted. We need to reset this Inquiry and build it up – in a good way – from the communities directly affected by continued violence against Indigenous women, girls, trans and Two-Spirit people.

The following priorities must be incorporated into resetting and restructuring this National Inquiry:

- 1) The spirits of MMIWGT2S must be honoured.
- 2) Voices and concerns of the families and loved ones must be heard and fully included in Inquiry processes.
- 3) Supports are needed for families, relations, and communities to organize and build up the National Inquiry processes.
- 4) The restructured process must be a human rights-based approach using the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous human rights law. This requires going back to Parliament to revise the mandate of the Commission. We suggest that relying on an independent International Human Rights Body to guide the reset and restructuring process would ensure these commitments are honoured.
- 5) People who have expert knowledge of Indigenous law and people who are trauma and violence informed, decolonial, and who are rooted in gender-based understandings must form the process of the Inquiry itself, including Indigenous people who have worked at the grassroots level to develop knowledges in these areas.

- 6) The regional and cultural specificity of Indigenous approaches to violence, justice, healing, and kinship must be central to the Inquiry.
- 7) There must be put into place immediately a National Plan of Action that includes supports for healing and community-led responses.

Prime Minister Trudeau, we are asking you today to give us back our Inquiry. We have met with Minister Bennett and she has refused to listen clearly to what families are saying. Instead, she has been relying on minor tweaks and small changes to a deeply-flawed process. It is time for your government to listen to families, communities, and grassroots advocates, and Indigenous leaders and to call for the resignations of the Commissioners and a reset to the Inquiry and to set this work on a path to ending colonial violence.

In hopes of action and an inclusive process to honour all MMIWGT2S,

Signed,

Family of Shelley Joseph

Aileen Joseph, Mohawk, Wolf Clan, Six Nations Grand River Territory, mother of
Shelley Joseph, murdered July, 2004

Sheena Joseph, Mohawk, Wolf Clan, Six Nations Grand River Territory, daughter
of Shelley Joseph, murdered July, 2004

Alexa Joseph, Six Nations, Tuscarora Wolf Clan, granddaughter of Shelly Joseph

Gavin Joseph, Six Nations, Tuscarora Wolf Clan, grandson of Shelly Joseph

Family of Paula Joy Martin, murdered April 21, 1996

Chasity Martin, Turtle Clan Six Nations, Ontario - niece

Randy Martin, Six Nations - brother

Karen Locke, Six Nations - sister

Chad Martin, Six Nations - nephew

Randee Joy Martin, Six Nations - niece

Bradley Kenneth Hill, Six Nations - son

Krystal Gayle Martin, Six Nations - niece

Chaley Elizabeth Martin, Six Nations - great-niece

Chase Everett Martin, Six Nations - great-nephew

Josie Nepinak, Family member and Executive Director of Awo Taan Healing Lodge

Family of Tashina General

Denise General, Cayuga Nation, Wolf Clan, Six Nations of the Grand River
Territory, Mother of Tashina General Missing January 2008; Found Murdered
April 2008

Madison General - brother

Mel General - grandfather

Kelly General - aunt

Chad General - uncle

Scott General - uncle

Tara General - aunt

Eric Hill – friend

Beverley Jacobs, Kanienkehaka, Bear Clan, Lawyer, Six Nations of the Grand
River Territory. Cousin of Tashina General.

Family of Sonya Nadine Mae Cywink MMIWGT2S missing from London and found at the
Southwold Earthworks, Elgin County, Ontario (1963-1994)

Maggie Cywink, sister

Alex Cywink, brother - sister

Anastasia Cywink - sister

O. Naomi Abotossaway - sister

Scott Madahbee - nephew

Jordi Jacko, nephew

Lee Jacko, nephew

Wyatt Jacko, nephew

Len Riley, nephew

Mark Abotossaway, nephew

Ozzy Madahbee, brother-in-law

Tom Wopperer, brother-in-law

Friends and loved ones of Sonya Nadine Mae Cywink

Laura Heidenheim

Emma Heidenheim

Linda Heidenheim

Eric Heidenheim

Adam Gualiteri
Melissa Gonzalez
Antonietta Emmanuel
Joshua Howe
Michael Rebellato
Josephine Tse
Shanna McCutcheon
Tate Brombal
Candice Ing
Asia Aoki
Sarah MacGregor
Rejeanne Allaire

Elaine Belanger-Ostergaard – Mother of Brenda Wolfe

Danielle Ewenin, Kawacatoose First Nation, sister's murder in Calgary in 1982 remains unsolved

Lillian Ewenin, Kawacatoose First Nation, sister's murder in Calgary in 1982 remains unsolved; my son was murdered in 2015 – his killer plead guilty to manslaughter and served only 8-years

Family of Hylena Rivera

Linda John – Mother
Jillian Isaacs – Sister
Renee Hess – Grandmother
Karen John – Maternal Auntie
Rhonda Powless – Maternal Auntie
Ruben Rivera – son
Jillian Isaacs – daughter
Alexandrine Maldonado – daughter

Leona Davis, mother of Charity Keesic

Joyce Carpenter, momma of Patricia Carpenter (Trish) whose body was found Sept 92 in a construction site in downtown Toronto

Bridget Tolley, daughter of Gladys Tolley killed by SQ Police in 2001

Families of Sisters In Spirit (FSIS)

Family of Rose Blackned, from Nemiscau, Quebec body was found in Val D'Or, Quebec

Silas Blackned – son, victim of a Missing and Murdered Indigenous Mother

Cynthia Blackned – sister

Maxine Goforth. Mother of Kelly Goforth, murdered by Regina serial killer Clayton Eichler

Ruth ScalpLock, Siksika Nation

Sheila North Wilson, Grand Chief, Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak

Ava Hill, Chief, Six Nations of the Grand River Territory

K. Fran Davis, Six Nations member

Cathy L. Clause, Six Nations, WWOSSN Committee Member

Terri Monture, Staff Representative, Canadian Media Guild. Mohawk, Six Nations of the Grand River. Childhood friend of Shelley Joseph.

Joanne Dubois, Six Nations, WWOSSN Committee Member

Lori Harris, Six Nations, Mohawk Bear Clan, WWOSSN Committee Member

Family of Tanya Hill, murdered on March 5, 2011, unresolved

Kristen Hill, Six Nations, family member

Sonya Hill, Six Nations, family member

Rhonda Hill-Maracle, Six Nations - mother

Kiana Hill, Six Nations, family member of Tanya Hill, unresolved murder

Kale Lee Hill, Six Nations, family member of Tanya Hill unresolved murder

Gwen Styres, Six Nations, Aunt of Tanya Hill, unresolved murder

Crystal Styres, Six Nations, family member of Tanya Hill, unresolved murder

Shaylin Styres, Six Nations, family member of Tanya Hill, unresolved murder

Michael Cooper, Six Nations, family member of Tanya Hill, unresolved murder

Derek Williams, Six Nations, family member of Tanya Hill, unresolved murder

Joe Maracle, Six Nations, family member of Tanya Hill, unresolved murder

Joe Maracle Jr., Six Nations, family member of Tanya Hill, unresolved murder

Leroy Hill, Six Nations, family member of Tanya Hill, unresolved murder

Arlene Hill, Six Nations, family member of Tanya Hill, unresolved murder

Alex Kedoh Hill, Six Nations, family member of Tanya Hill, unresolved murder

Family of Josephine Thompson

Amelia H. Thompson – niece
Family of Josephine Chakasim
Rachel Chakasim – sister
Amelia H. Thompson – niece
Mary Gagnon – sister of Germaine Gagnon
Family of Pauline (Wesley) Louttit
Joanne Louttit – daughter – Attiwapiskat
Ray Louttit – Attiwapiskat
Family of Simone *Sanderson*
Betty-ann Sanderson - grandmother
Oliver Sanderson - grandfather
Laura OoChoo, daughter of Elsie Marie Oochoo, April 21, 2014
Lenny Genereaux – nephew of Vivian Cada
Family of Jennifer Catcheway
Bernice Catcheway - Mother
Wilfred Catcheway – Father
Laura LaCrosse – daughter of Deborah Sloss-Clarke
Family of Pamela Holopainen
Vanessa Brousseau - sister
Renee Holopainen - cousin
Family of Adeline Legarde
Wanda Legarde – daughter
Juliette Legarde – daughter
Family of Shirley and Dawn Ashawasega
Elwood Ashawasega, - son and brother
Tammy Ashawasega – daughter and sister
Family Members of Katherine Loone
Alice Loone – mother
Stacey Scott – sister
Sabrina Loone – sister
Christine Ashamock – sister

Derek Loone – brother

Family of Elaine Vawn LaForme from Mississauga of the New Credit First Nation

Lynn LaForme - sister of Elaine Vawn LaForme (deceased)

Jessica LaForme - niece

Diane Johnson - sister

Linda White - brother

Barry LaForme - brother

Glen LaForme - brother

Nadine LaForme - niece

Joshua LaForme - nephew

Norma White - niece

Tosha Yellow – niece

Shawn LaForme

Richard LaForme

Krista Shore – Nehiyaw Iswewak- Peepeekisis First Nation/Treaty 4 Territory - daughter of

Barbara Ann Shore (Nov 27, 1956-Feb 6, 1996)

Staci Duchene-Six Nations, Mohawk. Family member and Advocate for MMIWG

Isaac Murdoch, Serpent River First Nation, family member, activist

Alex Wilson, Idle No More, Opaskwayak Cree Nation

Sarah Hunt, Kwaguł (Kwakwaka'wakw) scholar, activist, relation

Natalie Clark, scholar, activist Indigenous girls group facilitator, and violence counsellor

Jeffery McNeil, Tk'emlúps te Secwepemc

Maria Campbell, author, community activist

Julie Kaye, community-based researcher, University of Saskatchewan; Research Advisor,

Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women

Muriel Stanley Venne, President and Founder of the Institute for the Advancement of

Aboriginal Women

Ellen Gabriel, Kanehsatà:ke Kaniien'kehá:ka Nation and Indigenous Human rights activist

Christi Belcourt, Advocate/Mom/Daughter, Metis/Espanola, ON

Audrey Huntley, No More Silence

Alison C. Recollet-Simon, Bear Clan, Wikwemikong Unceded Territory Supporter

Colleen Dell. Research Chair in One Health & Wellness, Professor of Sociology.

University of Saskatchewan

Callie Cochrane, Métis Lawyer

Arlene Sams, Edmonton

Nellie Carlson, Indian Rights for Indian Women

Addendum – As of October 2, 2017

Family of Shelley May Anderson, missing from Haileybury and Cobalt, Ontario since September 15, 2009

Myrna Anderson - mother

Judith Anderson - sister

Keith Anderson - brother

Melanie Dene, member of Mikisew Cree First Nation - cousin of Shelly Tannis Dene, missing since August 2013 from Edmonton, Alberta

Vivian (Tootsie) Tuccaro – mother of Amber Alyssa Tuccaro

Family of Renee Neganiwina

Darlene Neganiwina - mother

Lenny Genereux - cousin

Family of Bella Laboucan-McLean

Billy Joe Laboucan - father

Sharla Peltier – friend

Stan Peltier – friend

Mary-Annie Blackned - sister of Rose Blackned

Family of Deborah Sloss-Clarke

Mary Lou Smoke - sister

Dan Smoke - brother-in-law

Family of Melissa Maureen Nicholson, unsolved murder, Victoria, BC 1992

Family of Delaine Corrina Copenace – Missing and Murdered, 16 years old (April 8, 1999-March 22, 2016) Kenora, Ontario

Anida Ross - Delaine's mom

Dayna Copenace – twin sister to Delaine

Darian Copenace – sister

Lori-Delaney Copenace – sister

Aires Delaine Christopher Blackhawk - nephew

Family and Friends of Delaine Copenace

Floranda Kootenay, family member, Stoney Nakoda

M.Mickilus L.M. Laramie-Belcourt, family member, looking for Kathleen Noah

Elaine V. Antone, survivor

Ms. Denise Aquash - aunt of Katrina Kiyosh (1988-2005)

Family of Danita Bigeagle

Mother of Danita Faith Bigeagle

Aunt Merna Bigstone

Family Member of Josephine Williams, Denise Etherington, Grand daughter

Michelle Robinson, family member, Calgary

Verna Dee Applegarth, mother of murdered Daughter, Calgary

Russelle Burns, family member, Calgary

Cheryl Bowers, family member of murdered nephew, Calgary

Marie Borynsky, family member of murdered nephew, Calgary

Cheryl Chagnon-Greyeyes, family member of missing and murdered loved one

Robyn Lawson, Nehiyaw/Metis Writer, Mother, Cousin of Roberta Ferguson, missing for
28 years

Marie P. Burke, daughter has been missing since December 8, 2004 from Edmonton

Bonnie Bonser-Nosworthy, Survivor/Activist

Family of Yvonne and Jackie Crazybull

Sandra Crazybull

Lauren Crazybull

Family and Friends Supporters of Sonya Nadine Mae Cywink

Tammy Madahbee – niece

Madison Madahbee – great nephew

Nancy Cooper – friend

Kathy Roque – friend

John McCauley - friend

Kimmy Moody-Bosse - friend
Chantal Perrault-Diehl, supporter
Pamela Sauerbrei
Sherry Recollet
Barbara Nahwegahbow
Janice V. Trudeau
Louise T. Jacko
John McCauley
Rion Motley
Tom Wopperer
Kimmy Moody-Bosse
Linda Deibel, Mother of Tasha Smith
Lance Copegog, Deputy Youth Chief of the Beausoleil First Nation Youth Council.
Pamela Palmater - Mi'kmaq, Chair in Indigenous Governance at Ryerson University
Stolen Sisters & Brothers Awareness Movement
Odelle Pike, Newfoundland Aboriginal Women's Network
Thohahente Kim Weaver, Turtle Clan, Kanièn'kehà:ka, from Kenhtéke
Chris Cutler, Supporter of MMIWG, Community Builder, Women and Children Advocate
Deron Ahsén:nase Douglas - Bear Clan, Kahnawà:ke Kanien'kehá:ka Nation, Artist and
Supporter.
Robert Gendron, Ally, Treaty 1, Metis Homeland
Janet Lumb, Asian Canadian concerned citizen
Katherine McCarthy, Mi'kmaq, sister and friend, author of Invisible Victims: Missing and
Murdered Indigenous Women in Canada.
WAVAW Rape Crisis Centre
Michael Mantha, MPP Critic Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
Billy Mersasty
Diane Osawamick
Eriel Deranger, Executive Director, Indigenous Climate Action
Stephen Stewart, friend and supporter
John Clarke, Organizer, Ontario Coalition Against Poverty

Vanessa Watts, Mohawk and Anishinaabe, Bear Clan, Six Nations of the Grand River,
McMaster University

Tracey Tully, Advocate, New Zealand

Beatrice Hunter, Labrador Land Protector

Lizanne Theresa Rita Leclair, Blue Sparkling Water Woman, Bear Clan, mother of five
Kaummajuk Holly Jarrett

Barbara Aggybare, supporter

Leanna Marshall

Angel Larkman

Sarah Winterton

Annita Lucchesi, Southern Cheyenne scholar, activist and educator

Rupert Wilson

Katherine McKay

Rhonda Spence, Anishinabe. Advocate/Supporter of MMIW in Edmonton, Alberta and
Survivor of Violence.

Jackie Bromley, community supporter, Blood Reserve

Samantha Efthimiou, community supporter, Calgary

Sheri Doxtator, Alley of families and citizen of Oneida Nation of the Thames

Josephine Savarese, Associate Professor, Department of Criminology and Criminal
Justice, St. Thomas University, Fredericton NB

Rolanda manitowabi, Wikwemikong Unceded

Joey-Lynn Wabie, Algonquin First Nation

Maureen Sands, supporter

Ms S Howard, supporter, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, England, UK

Kelly Kruger

Jayden Kohoko, Algonquins of Pikwakanagan

Natashia Dick, Algonquins of Pikwakanagan

Jade-Rogers-Baptiste, Algonquins of Pikwakanagan

Kiana Meness, Algonquins of Pikwakanagan

Danielle Meness, Algonquins of Pikwakanagan

Draylin Commanda, Algonquins of Pikwakanagan

April C. Wallin

Jennie Missa

Alisha Alvarado

Kaley Hall

Mary Ja

Aaliyah Baldeo

Beverly Lightfoot, RN, concerned citizen

Larry K. Bird, Supporter

cc: Sophie Grégoire Trudeau
Marion Buller, Chief Commissioner of the National Inquiry on MMIWG
The Honourable Dr. Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs
The Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, Minister of Justice and Attorney General
The Honourable Maryam Monsef, Minister of Status of Women
Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of
Indigenous Peoples
Chief Perry Bellegarde, Assembly of First Nations
Chief Kevin Hart, AFN Regional Chief, Manitoba, MMIWG Portfolio
All Provincial and Territorial Premiers:
 The Honourable John Horgan, Premier of British Columbia
 The Honourable Rachel Notley, Premier of Alberta
 The Honourable Brad Wall, Premier of Saskatchewan
 The Honourable Brad Pallister, Premier of Manitoba
 The Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario
 Monsieur Philippe Couillard, Premier of Québec
 The Honourable Brian Gallant, Premier of New Brunswick
 The Honourable Stephen McNeil, Premier of Nova Scotia
 The Honourable Wade MacLauchlan, Premier of Prince Edward Island
 The Honourable Dwight Ball, Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador
 The Honourable Sandy Silver, Premier of Yukon
 The Honourable Bob McLeod, Premier of the Northwest Territories
 The Honourable Peter Taptuna, Premier of Nunavut