



Media Advisory

Friday, February 2, 2018

The Truth Gathering Process - Four New Community Hearings and Statement Gathering Events

Vancouver, BC - Chief Commissioner Marion Buller and Commissioners Audette, Robinson and Eyolfson are announcing three community hearings and two statement gathering events as part of the Truth Gathering Process.

Community hearings:

- Moncton, NB: February 13-14, 2018
- Rankin Inlet, NU: February 19-22, 2018 (announced before Holiday season)
- Vancouver, BC: April 4-8, 2018

Statement gathering events:

- Prince George, BC: February 5-9, 2018
- Watson Lake, YK: February 27 - March 1, 2018

The National Inquiry has held nine community hearings from coast-to-coast-to-coast. More than 697 families and survivors have shared stories of their lost loved ones and their experience of violence against Indigenous women and girls, including LGBTQ2S people. Approximately six hundred more are registered to participate in the Truth Gathering Process.

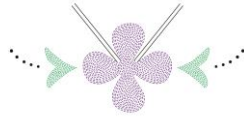
The Commissioners' mandate is to examine and report on the systemic causes of all forms of violence against Indigenous women, girls and LGBTQ2S people in Canada by looking at patterns and underlying factors. The mandate also includes examining institutional practices and policies implemented in response to violence experienced by Indigenous women and girls, including examining police investigation practices and responses, as part of this public investigation.

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Released by:

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This is how you can participate in the National Inquiry

If you want to share your story with the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, here is what you need to know:

- *There are six steps to share your story.*
- *The National Inquiry is guided by the following principles: participant centered, collaborative, holistic, and is rooted in compassion.*
- *Families, survivors and loved ones have choices in how to share, in a comfortable and safe way.*

1) Registration

It all starts with you choosing to become a participant and reaching out to us. There are five ways you can register with the National Inquiry to share your lost loved one(s) story or your own truth as a survivor of violence.

- Phone us toll free at 1-844-348-4119
- Fax us at 604-775-5009
- Send us a letter at PO Box 500, Station A – Vancouver BC V6C 2N3
- Email us at profile@mniwg-ffada.ca
- In-person during one of our community visits before a hearing which will be posted on our website

Please include your name, phone number, email, and location when you contact us so that we can reach out to you.

The current wait period is one week before you will receive an initial email or call from one of our health team staff to set up a telephone meeting.

2) Initial Contact and Conversation

The first person you will hear from will be a member of our health team. This is an important step that allows us to gather basic information to help us to understand what is needed to support you as you journey through the process of telling your story. Once you are ready, you will then be referred to a member of the legal team to begin the next step in the process.

3) Sharing your story

A member of the legal team will contact you next. These legal advocates will help to prepare you to share your truth in the best way possible. Counsel will also help families and survivors to gather the documents needed (including coroner, police, and crown reports), so your truth is told in the best way.



Here are the ways you can share your truth:

- Before a Commissioner in a public community hearing.
- Before a Commissioner in a private and confidential hearing.
- In a circle, with members of your family, or other families, loved ones or survivors, before a Commissioner.
- Before a Statement Taker in a private place with no Commissioner (the Commissioners will then read/view your statement and take your truth into account in making their findings and recommendations).
- By artistic expressions like artwork, a song, poetry, or a video or audio tape that you have prepared.

4) Preparation

The next person you will speak to will be from the Community Relations team. They will work with you on planning to tell your story. It may be planning your travel to and from a community hearing or to a location to be with a Statement Taker.

5) Sharing your Truth

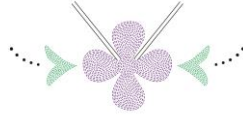
Community hearings will take place across the country. This is where you will speak before one or more of the Commissioners either in public or in a confidential setting or with a Statement Taker in private. You will have a schedule of the events for the hearing and you will know when you are expected to speak before a Commissioner. You will have your health supports beside you, as well as one of our legal team members to help you through the process. There will be both Opening and Closing traditional ceremonies that you can voluntarily participate in.

6) After-Care

After you have shared your truth with the National Inquiry, you will continue to work with the health team on your aftercare needs and support.

Once you have gone through the six steps we would also ask you to tell us about your experience participating in the National Inquiry. This will help us understand and improve how we work. It will help us do our work better as well as recognize achievements that build resiliency and strength to ensure the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls is an empowering and healing process.

**If you need to speak to someone immediately please contact the 24/7 toll free support line at
1-844-413-6649 (available in English, French, Cree, Ojibway & Inuktitut).**



Fact Sheet - Costs that May be Covered to Participate in a National Inquiry Community Hearing

Transportation

- Flights
- Mileage if driving. The current rate is 0.505 per kilometer.
- Rental car with gas
- Bus
- Ferry
- Taxi

Meals

- Breakfast \$19.10
- Lunch \$18.90
- Dinner \$47.35

Costs will be covered for meals on travel days and for meal periods where on site meals are not provided. If meals are provided, then no claim can be made for that meal period.

Accommodation

Accommodation will be booked and paid for directly for Families and Survivors and their Support during your scheduled participation.

Support

Costs for witness and one support person will be covered.

Childcare

Childcare will be covered for the witness and/or support person.

The Community Relations team that will assist you, will explain exactly what costs will be covered for your participation.

These rates only apply for travel in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, & New Brunswick.