

Decolonization Learning Journey

A four-part Learning Journey with Mi'kmaw Elders and knowledge sharers.



Proudly partnered with:



Community Sector Council of Nova Scotia Decolonization Learning Journey – Resource document Series 2 - Webinar #4 Oct 13th, 2020

Hosting team:

- Elder Jane Meader, Elder, BACS & Med
- Mary Beth Doucette, Assistant Professor and Purdy Crawford Chair in CBU's Shannon School of Business, Cape Breton University
- Nicole Cammaert, Associate Executive Director, CSCNS

Guest speaker:

Denise Pictou Maloney

Topic:

National Inquiry Into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls

What is MMIWG?

- The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) took place in Canada from December 2015 – June 2019. The inquiry reported on the systemic causes of all forms of violence against Indigenous women and girls, including sexual violence. It examined the underlying social, economic, cultural, institutional, and historical causes that contribute to the ongoing violence and particular vulnerabilities of Indigenous women and girls in Canada. The inquiry also explored the existing institutional policies and practices to address violence, including those that are effective in reducing violence and increasing safety.^{1 2}
- 2,386 individuals participated in the Truth Gathering Process, 1,484 family members and survivors provided testimony, 819 individuals shared through artistic expressions, 83 experts, Knowledge-Keepers and officials provided testimony, 15 community hearings were held, and there were nine Knowledge Keeper, expert and institutional hearings.
- Indigenous women make up 16% of all female homicide victims, and 11% of missing women, even though Indigenous people make up 4.3% of the population of Canada.³
- The National Inquiry's Final Report reveals that persistent and deliberate human and Indigenous rights violations and abuses are the root cause behind Canada's staggering rates of violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people. The two-volume report calls for transformative legal and social changes to resolve the crisis that has devastated Indigenous communities across the country.^{4 5}

¹ Canadian MMIWG National Inquiry website: <https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/>

² See a timeline of key milestones from the National Inquiry: <https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/timeline/>

³ Read more: <https://www.afn.ca/policy-sectors/mmiwg-end-violence/>

⁴ Read the final report: <https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/final-report/>

⁵ CBC news piece about the final report: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1-Gn3wu8bnl>

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- Wapna'kikewi'skwaq - Women of First Light is a non-profit group lead by Indigenous women from Wabanaki Territory. Women of the First Light is about bringing the Wabanaki people together to give a deeper understanding of the universe. Each language holds a piece and bringing them together broadens the understanding of the cosmos and our relationships with it. Our purpose is to heal our communities, families and society by remembering and returning to the traditional ways of our ancestors. We work to bring back the balance and restore the role of Clan Mothers.⁶

Supports

- Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls support line: 1-844-413-6649
 - An independent, national, toll-free support call line is available to provide support for anyone who requires assistance. This line is available free of charge, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Indigenous Service Canada- survivors, family members and those affected by the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls are able to access mental health counselling, emotional support, community-based cultural support services and some assistance with transportation costs: 1-866-414-8111
- Hope for Wellness Help Line
 - Call 1-855-242-3310 (toll-free) or connect to the online Hope for Wellness chat.
 - Available to all Indigenous peoples across Canada who need immediate crisis intervention. Experienced and culturally sensitive help line counsellors can help if you want to talk or are distressed. It's toll-free and open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- A National Indian Residential School Crisis Line has been set up to provide support for former Residential School students. You can access emotional and crisis referral services by calling 24-Hour National Crisis Line: 1-866-925-4419
- Neighbours, Friends and Families (Abuse and Violence Support Line): 1-855-225-0220 (toll-free, 24/7)
- Adult Protection Services: 1-800-225-7225
- Child Protection Services
 - 1-877-424-1177 (daytime crisis line)
 - 1-866-922-2434 (evening crisis line)
- Eskasoni 24/7 Crisis Line: 1-855-379-2099
- Kids Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868
- Avalon 24/7 Sexual Assault Helpline: 902-421-1188
- Nova Scotia 24/7 Community and Social Services Helpline: 211
- Mi'kmaw Family Healing Centre (Millbrook, part of the National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence)- Tel.: 902-893-8483
- Mi'kmaw Family Healing Centre (We'koqma'q, part of the National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence)- Tel.: 902-756-3440

⁶ Read more: <https://www.womenoffirstlight.com/>

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- Provincial Crisis Line: Operated by Mental Health and Addictions, Nova Scotia Health Authority
 - Toll Free (24 hours): 1-888-429-8167
 - General Inquiries: (902) 429-8167
- If you or someone you know is thinking about suicide, call the Canada Suicide Prevention Service at 1-833-456-4566 (24/7) or text 45645 (4 pm to 12 am ET).
- Trans Lifeline's Hotline is a peer support service run by trans people, for trans and questioning callers- 877-330-6366



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