

2020-2 Implementing the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into MMIWG

Mover: West Central Women's Resource Centre

Whereas: Indigenous women are six times more likely to be killed as a result of gender-based violence than non-Indigenous women. As stated in the National Inquiry into MMIWG, two of the four pathways that maintain colonial violence are social and economic marginalization and ignoring the agency and expertise of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people. Indigenous women are disproportionately impacted by poverty and other social determinants of health, and this social and economic marginalization is directly linked to their increased experiences of violence.

Whereas: Social and economic marginalization of Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQIA people hurts their physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health by placing them in situations where they are more likely to experience violence and trauma. The cultural loss that has been a result of colonial violence, including an inability to access traditional socio-economic and community supports, has compounded the struggles Indigenous families and survivors face with poverty, homelessness, and many other issues. The marginalization of Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQIA people often results in their exclusion from communities and local economies.

Whereas: The National Inquiry into MMIWG outlines an urgent need to fundamentally restructure many overarching social and economic systems in order to reduce the risk of violence and trauma for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people. Among the Calls for Justice are calls to prioritize the creation of measures to eliminate their socio-economic marginalization and work towards closing the gaps in current systems that create potential for exclusion, neglect, and violence. In addition, it is vitally important that Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people be represented and their voices respected when making these changes, otherwise the current problems will persist in different forms.

Whereas: The National Inquiry into MMIWG Calls for Justice call for all governments to support community-based measures and supports to reduce the socio-economic marginalization of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people. Implementing the Calls for Justice is a stated priority for the federal government. It is up to community to advocate and hold governments to their commitments.

Whereas: The Calls for Justice in the National Inquiry into MMIWG include recommendations for access to safe housing, clean drinking water, food security, and a physical environment that will not increase the risk of gender-based violence, as well as the recognition of Indigenous Peoples' right to self-determination over resources (particularly with respect to economic social development), and the rights to human dignity, life, liberty, and security. Several Calls for Justice also emphasize the importance of recognizing the agency and expertise of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people by implementing community-based supports that meet the needs of Indigenous Peoples and their local communities, as they define them. These Calls are reflected in several CED Guiding Principles including:

- Local decision making
 - Public health
 - Physical environment
 - Neighbourhood stability
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- Human dignity

Whereas: Implementing the Calls for Justice will reduce the social and economic marginalization of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people, which fits squarely within three of the theme areas of the CCEDNet Manitoba Public Policy Road Map: 1) Ending Poverty and 2) Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access, and 3) Directing Our Own Future. Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people are disproportionately represented amongst low-income Manitobans and face many barriers to inclusion and access to services and supports, which limits their ability to fully participate in communities and economies. These Calls for Justice aim to ensure the agency and expertise of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people are respected and included. As stated in the Road Map under Directing Our Own Future, end-user or stakeholders are too often left out of policy-making processes, which disproportionately impacts marginalized and dispossessed communities. The Inquiry calls for meaningful consultation and leadership for Indigenous communities, which will lead to better government and community investments and policies.

Be It Resolved That: All levels of government immediately implement the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls; beginning with resources devoted to public awareness-raising, and creation and resourcing of a central entity to implement the Calls for Justice.

Be It Resolved That: CCEDNet Manitoba and its members implement the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

How the Resolution will be Advanced: CCEDNet Manitoba will take the lead on encouraging its members to implement the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into MMIWG, as well as advocating for all levels of government to do the same.
