ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JULY 17, 18 & 19, 2012, TORONTO, ON

Resolution no. 01/2012

TITLE:	Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in Canada, 2012
SUBJECT:	Justice, Community Safety
MOVED BY:	Chief Garrison Settee, Pimicikamak Okimawin, Cross Lake, MB
SECONDED BY:	Chief Perry Bellegarde, Little Black Bear First Nation, SK
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

A. The government of Canada has endorsed the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Article 22.2 of the Declaration states: "States shall take measures in conjunction with Indigenous Peoples to ensure that Indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination".

B. Chiefs-in-Assembly adopted Resolution 61/2010 which, among other things, noted that the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) prepared evidence that there are more than 582 missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls across Canada, and called upon Canada to jointly establish an independent, public commission of inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada.

C. According to the 2009-2010 Annual Report of the Canadian Human Rights Commission, young Indigenous women are five times more likely than other Canadian women to die as a result of violence and families who went to police authorities to report their loved ones missing were met with indifference.

D. Chiefs-in-Assembly adopted Resolution 02/2011 which called on the Federal Government to convene a Royal Commission on Violence against Indigenous Girls and Women to make concrete and specific recommendations to end violence against Indigenous girls and women at a national level.

E. The Government of Canada has not established either a commission of inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada or a Royal Commission on Violence against Indigenous Girls and Women, and has in fact eliminated funding for NWAC's Sisters in Spirit Project.

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F. Canada has failed to take effective action on this national and international human rights crisis despite the fact that number of missing and murdered Indigenous women has increased.

G. In response to the evidence developed and submitted by NWAC and the Canadian Feminist Alliance for International Action (FAFIA), in October 2011 the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) decided to initiate an inquiry procedure under article 8 of the Optional Protocol of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women regarding disappearances and murders of Aboriginal women and girls in Canada.

H. In June 2012, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, the Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak and the Southern Chiefs Organization called on Manitoba and Canada to respectively conduct a provincial and a national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women, to include hearings to listen to issues that affect Indigenous families of missing and murdered women and girls; to review police policies and procedures on searches and investigation, including procedures respecting the initiation and conduct of investigations in Canada of missing women and suspected multiple homicides; to examine communications and notifications between officials, police and the families of missing and murdered women; and, to examine the socio-cultural and socio-economic risk factors affecting Indigenous women and girls.

I. In July 2012, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations called on Saskatchewan to support the call for Canada to conduct a national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women.

J. On every October 4, NWAC's Sisters in Spirit Candlelight Vigils are held across Canada to honour the lives of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, to support grieving families and provide opportunities for healing, and is a movement for social change.

K. There is an urgent need for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) to establish a National Integrated RCMP and Police Task Force on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, in order to coordinate the several specific initiatives being carried out between the RCMP, other police services, First Nations and government officials, including those in Vancouver, the "Highway of Tears" in northern British Columbia, Edmonton, Winnipeg and Whitehorse.

L. Chiefs have affirmed that there is an immediate and pressing need to seek justice for Indigenous women and girls in Canada and ensure that they have the same opportunities to see the fulfillment of their rights, regardless of where they reside.

M. It is the responsibility of <u>all</u> leaders and citizens to redress systemic racism and to eliminate the violence perpetrated against Indigenous girls and women within Canada.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Make a personal and public declaration to take full responsibility to be violence free and commit to taking all actions available to them to uphold and ensure the rights of Indigenous women and girls.

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2. Affirm:
   a. that further to Resolution 61/2010, the AFN call upon Canada to jointly establish an independent, public commission into missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada.
   b. that further to Resolution 02/2011, the AFN call upon Canada to convene a Royal Commission on Violence against Indigenous Girls and Women to make concrete and specific recommendations to end violence against Indigenous girls and women at a national level.
   c. the direction for the AFN to demand that the Government of Canada support community based-initiatives and national programs that seek to promote public awareness and carry out advocacy and research about violence against Indigenous women; restore funding to the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) for maintenance of a national database on missing and murdered Indigenous women; and, ensure proper facilities and services are available within communities for those whom are victims or have lost their loved ones through acts of violence.
   d. the direction to the AFN and the National Chief to strongly advocate for the full protection and safety of First Nations women across Canada.
3. Direct the National Chief and the AFN to engage in and to support the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) inquiry procedure regarding disappearances and murders of Aboriginal women and girls in Canada initiated under Article 8 of the Optional Protocol of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and to urge the Committee to visit Canada and to call on the Government of Canada to fully cooperate with all stages of the CEDAW inquiry procedure regarding disappearances and murders of Aboriginal women and girls in Canada.
4. Designate October 4 as an annual National Day of Remembrance on which all First Nation governments and communities will join in Sisters in Spirit Candlelight Vigils and commemorations of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and participate in actions in support of the families of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.
5. Direct the AFN to convene a National Forum and Special Chiefs Assembly on Justice and Community Safety in 2012-13 in collaboration with NWAC, to include focus on murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls, and broader actions to end violence.
6. Call for a National Day of Action on missing and murdered Indigenous Women and Girls to take place on October 18, 2012 inclusive of national and regional activities.
7. Direct the AFN to call on the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) to establish a National Integrated RCMP and Police Task Force on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, in order to coordinate the several specific initiatives being carried out between the RCMP, other police services, First Nations and government officials, including those in Vancouver, the "Highway of Tears" in northern British Columbia, Edmonton, Winnipeg and Whitehorse.

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