

## Summary of Calls for Justice

The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (National Inquiry) Final Report contains 18 main Calls for Justice. Each Call for Justice contains several sub-sections which include the Commissioners' detailed recommendations. There are specific Calls for Justice for Inuit, Métis and 2SLGBTQQIA people. A summary of the many (but not all) relevant *Calls for Justice* for First Nations is provided below.

### ***Calls for Justice for All Governments***

#### **1. Human and Indigenous Rights and Governmental Obligations:**

- The Commissioners call upon federal, provincial, territorial, municipal, and Indigenous governments in partnership with Indigenous Peoples, to develop and implement a National Action Plan to address violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people.
- The Commissioners call upon all governments, with the full participation of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people, to immediately implement and fully comply with all relevant rights instruments, including but not limited to *United Nations Declarations on the Rights of Indigenous People* (UN Declaration) including recognition, protection, and support of Indigenous self-governance and self-determination, as defined by UNDRIP and by Indigenous Peoples, including that these rights are guaranteed equally to women and men, as rights protected under section 35 of the Constitution.
- The Commissioners call upon all governments, and in particular *Indigenous governments* and *Indigenous representative organizations*, to take urgent and special measures to ensure that Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people are represented in governance and that their political rights are respected and upheld.
- The Commissioners call upon all governments to eliminate jurisdictional gaps and neglect that result in the denial of services, or improperly regulated and delivered services, that address the social, economic, political, and cultural marginalization of, and violence against, Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people.
- The Commissioners call upon all governments to create specific and long-term funding, available to *Indigenous communities and organizations*, to create, deliver, and disseminate prevention programs, education, and awareness campaigns.
- The Commissioners call upon governments to create a human rights ombudsman and to also create an independent mechanism to report on the implementation of the National Inquiry's Calls for Justice to Parliament, annually.

#### **2. Culture**

- The Commissioners call upon all governments to acknowledge, recognize, and protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples to their cultures and languages as inherent rights, and constitutionally protected as such under section 35 of the Constitution.

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- The Commissioners call upon all governments to recognize Indigenous languages as official languages, with the same status, recognition, and protection provided to French and English and to create a permanent empowerment fund devoted to supporting Indigenous-led initiatives for Indigenous individuals, families, and communities to access cultural knowledge.

### **3. Health and Wellness**

- The Commissioners call upon all governments to provide adequate, stable, equitable, and ongoing funding for Indigenous-centered and community-based health and wellness services that are accessible and culturally appropriate, and to establish community-based trauma-informed programs for survivors of trauma and violence.
- The Commissioners call upon all governments to ensure substantive equality in the funding of services for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people, as well as substantive equality for Indigenous-run health services.

### **4. Human Security**

- The Commissioners call upon all governments to uphold the social and economic rights of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people by ensuring that Indigenous Peoples have services and infrastructure that meet their social and economic needs. All governments must immediately ensure that Indigenous Peoples have access to safe housing, clean drinking water, and adequate food.
- The Commissioners call upon all governments to recognize Indigenous Peoples' right to self-determination in the pursuit of economic social development.
- The Commissioners call upon all governments to support the establishment and long-term sustainable funding of Indigenous-led low-barrier shelters, safe spaces, transition homes, second-stage housing, and services for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people.
- The Commissioners call upon all governments to ensure that adequate plans and funding are put into place for safe and affordable transit and transportation services.

### **5. Justice**

- The Commissioners call upon the federal government to implement the recommendations from the Manitoba Justice Inquiry, RCAP and the TRC and to also review and reform the laws regarding sexualized violence and intimate partner violence, utilizing the perspectives of feminist and Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people.
- The Commissioners call upon all governments to immediately and dramatically transform Indigenous policing from its current state as a mere delegation to an exercise in self-governance and self-determination over policing. To do this, the federal government's First Nations Policing Program must be replaced with a new legislative and funding framework and to establish robust and well-funded Indigenous civilian police oversight bodies.

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- The Commissioners call upon provincial and territorial governments to develop an enhanced, holistic, comprehensive approach for the provision of support to Indigenous victims of crime and families and friends of Indigenous murdered or missing persons.
- The Commissioners call upon all governments to recruit and retain more Indigenous justices of the peace and judges including the Supreme Court of Canada and to create a Deputy Commissioner of Indigenous Corrections position.
- The Commissioners call upon all provincial and territorial governments to expand and adequately resource legal aid programs and to amend data collection and intake-screening processes to gather distinctions-based and intersectional data about Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people.
- The Commissioners call upon the federal government to consider violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people as an aggravating factor at sentencing, and to amend the *Criminal Code* accordingly, with the passage and enactment of Bill S-215.

### ***Calls for Justice: Industries, Institutions, Services and Partnerships***

#### **6. Media and Social Influencers**

- The Commissioners call upon all media, news corporations and outlets, and, in particular, government-funded corporations and outlets; and more generally, people working in the entertainment industry to take decolonizing approaches to their work and publications in order to educate all Canadians about Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people.

#### **7. Health and Wellness Service Providers**

- The Commissioners call upon all governments and health service providers to recognize that Indigenous Peoples – First Nations, Inuit, and Métis, including 2SLGBTQQIA people – are the experts in caring for and healing themselves, and that health and wellness services are most effective when they are designed and delivered by the Indigenous Peoples they are supposed to serve, in a manner consistent with and grounded in the practices, worldviews, cultures, languages, and values of the diverse Inuit, Métis, and First Nations communities they serve.

#### **8. Transportation Services and Hospitality Industry**

- The Commissioners call upon all transportation service providers and the hospitality industry to undertake training to identify and respond to sexual exploitation and human trafficking, as well as the development and implementation of reporting policies and practices.

#### **9. Police Services**

- The Commissioners call upon all actors in the justice system, including police services, to build respectful working relationships with Indigenous Peoples by knowing, understanding, and respecting the people they are serving and to review all police policies and procedures to allow for more Indigenous inclusion.

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- The Commissioners call upon all police services to partner with front-line organizations that work in service delivery, safety, and harm reduction for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people to expand and strengthen police services delivery; to establish and engage with a local civilian Indigenous advisory committee to advise the detachment operating within the Indigenous community; to establish a national task force to review and, if required, to reinvestigate each case of all unresolved; and to develop and implement guidelines for the policing of the sex industry and to create a specific complaints mechanism about police for those in the sex industry.
- The Commissioners call upon police services to undertake training and education of all staff and officers so that they understand and implement culturally appropriate and trauma-informed practices, especially when dealing with families of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people.

### **10. Attorneys and Law Societies**

- The Commissioners call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments, and Canadian law societies and bar associations, for mandatory intensive and periodic training of Crown attorneys, defence lawyers, court staff, and all who participate in the criminal justice system, in the area of Indigenous cultures and histories, including distinctions-based training.

### **11. Educators**

- The Commissioners call upon all elementary, secondary, and post-secondary institutions and education authorities to educate and provide awareness to the public about missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people, and about the issues and root causes of violence they experience and also for educational service providers to develop and implement awareness and education programs for Indigenous children and youth on the issue of grooming for exploitation and sexual exploitation.

### **12. Social Workers and Those Implicated in Child Welfare**

- The Commissioners call upon all federal, provincial, and territorial governments to recognize Indigenous self-determination and inherent jurisdiction over child welfare.
- The Commissioners call upon on all governments, including Indigenous governments, to transform current child welfare systems fundamentally so that Indigenous communities have control over the design and delivery of services for their families and children and to develop and apply a definition of “best interests of the child” based on distinct Indigenous perspectives.
- The Commissioners call upon all governments to prohibit the apprehension of children on the basis of poverty and cultural bias; to provide financial supports and resources so that family or community members of children of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people are capable of caring for the children left behind; to ensure that, in cases where apprehension is unavoidable, child welfare services prioritize and ensure that a family member or members, or a close community member, assumes care of Indigenous children; and to prohibit targeting and apprehending infants (hospital alerts or birth alerts) from Indigenous mothers right after they give birth.

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- The Commissioners call for the establishment of a Child and Youth Advocate in each jurisdiction with a specialized unit with the mandate of Indigenous children and youth; for the implementation of the CHRT's standards regarding Jordan's Principle and the Spirit Bear Plan and to fully investigate deaths of Indigenous youth in care.

### **13. Extractive and Development Industries**

- The Commissioners call upon all resource-extraction and development industries to consider the safety and security of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people, as well as their equitable benefit from development, at all stages of project planning, assessment, implementation, management, and monitoring. Also, that governments and bodies mandated to evaluate, approve, and/or monitor development projects to complete gender-based socio-economic impact assessments on all proposed projects as part of their decision making and ongoing monitoring of projects.
- The Commissioners call upon resource-extraction and development industries and all governments and service providers to anticipate and recognize increased demand on social infrastructure because of development projects and resource extraction, and for mitigation measures to be identified as part of the planning and approval process.

### **14. Correctional Services**

- The Commissioners call upon Correctional Service Canada to take urgent action to establish facilities described under sections 81 and 84 of the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act* to ensure that Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people have options for decarceration.
- The Commissioners call upon all governments and Correctional Service Canada to ensure comprehensive mental health, addictions, and trauma services for incarcerated Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people; prohibit transfer of federally incarcerated women in need of mental health care to all-male treatment centres; to expand the use of Elders in decision making; to provide mother and child programming and to eliminate strip searches.

### **15. Calls for Justice for All Canadians**

- The Commissioners call upon all Canadians to denounce and speak out against violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people; to decolonize by learning the true history of Canada and Indigenous history; to develop knowledge and read the *Final Report*; to become allies; to develop relationships with Indigenous peoples; and to help hold all governments accountable to act on the Calls for Justice, and to implement them according to the important principles we set out.