
Assembly of First Nations

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Assemblée des Premières Nations

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**SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
DECEMBER 3 – 5, 2019, OTTAWA, ON**

Resolution no. 119/2019

TITLE: Healing Programs for MMIWG2S Families

SUBJECT: MMIWG

MOVED BY: Todd McGregor, proxy, Whitefish River, ON

SECONDED BY: Chief Peter Collins, Fort William First Nation, ON

DECISION: Passed by Consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. The *United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 7 (1): Indigenous individuals have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person.
 - ii. Article 7 (2): Indigenous Peoples have the collective right to live in freedom, peace and security as distinct peoples and shall not be subjected to any act of genocide or any other act of violence, including forcibly removing children of the group to another group.
 - iii. Article 22 (1): Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of Indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities in the implementation of this Declaration.
 - iv. Article 22 (2): 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.

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119/2019
Page 1 of 3

- B.** The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Calls for Justice states:
- i.** Call for Justice 1.8: We 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 designed for Indigenous communities and families related to violence prevention and combatting lateral violence. Core and sustainable funding, as opposed to program funding, must be provided to national and regional Indigenous women's and 2SLGBTQIA people's organization.
 - ii.** Call for Justice 1.9: We call upon all governments to develop laws, policies, and public education campaigns to challenge the acceptance and normalization of violence.
 - iii.** Call for Justice 1.10: We call upon the federal government to create an independent mechanism to report on the implementation of the National Inquiry's Calls for Justice to Parliament, annually.
 - iv.** Call for Justice 1.11: We call upon the federal government – specifically, Library and Archives Canada and the Privy Council Office – to maintain and to make easily accessible the National Inquiry's public record and website.
 - v.** Call for Justice 3.7: We call upon all governments to provide continual and accessible healing programs and support for all children of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA people and their family members. Specifically, we call for the permanent establishment of a fund akin to the Aboriginal Healing Foundation and related funding. These funds and their administration must be independent from government and must be distinctions-based. There must be accessible and equitable allocation of specific monies within the fund for Inuit, Métis, and First Nations Peoples.
- C.** On June 3, 2019, the National Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) released its Final Report with 231 Calls for Justice - legal imperatives to reduce, prevent and stop violence against Indigenous Women, Girls, Survivors and Two-Spirited and Gender Diverse People (2S).
- D.** The healing and prevention programs must be Indigenous-led, rooted in Indigenous knowledge, culture and ceremony and must include families of Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women, Girls, Survivors, Two-Spirited and Gender Diverse People and communities, also known as the family first philosophy.

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

1. Call upon all agencies, institutions, and all levels of government to ensure that healing and prevention programs for families of Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women, Girls, Two-Spirited (MMIWG2S) and gender diverse people, survivors, and communities are a priority.
2. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to advocate for core, long-term and sustainable funding for healing and prevention programs for families of the MMIWG2S and Indigenous communities that is Indigenous-led and rooted in Indigenous knowledge, culture and ceremony.
3. Urge all agencies, institutions and all levels of government to follow the family first philosophy in all aspects of designing and delivering healing and prevention programs and services.

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