



What is the history of this issue and how does it impact First Nations?

For many years, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) pressed for the establishment of a national inquiry into the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. The AFN supported the establishment of a national inquiry, which would support families and ensure that all governments and policing services met their obligations to protect the fundamental human rights of Indigenous women and girls.

In 2021, the AFN Women's Council carried out a national engagement process in 10 AFN regions, for development of the National Action Plan to end violence against Indigenous women and girls. The AFN Women's Council worked with the regions to host 85 virtual sessions across Canada, with 1,144 participants through either virtual meetings, surveys, written submissions, and video submissions. The regional engagement informed the development of a First Nations National Action Plan entitled, *Breathing Life into the Calls to Justice*, in response to the 231 Calls for Justice from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). This First Nations National Action Plan will contribute to the federal government's MMIWG National Action Plan to End Violence Against Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People (MMIWG2S+ NAP) and will be a driving force in the implementation of the 231 Calls for Justice.

Following the 2021 Annual General Assembly, the AFN Executive Committee passed AFN Resolution 08/2021, *Implementation of the National Action Plan to End Violence against Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA People*. The Resolution provides a mandate for the next phase of work by calling upon the federal government to maintain a "families first" and distinction-based approach to all activities going forward. The Resolution also directs the AFN to continue advocating and to seek resources to carry out activities in support of full and meaningful implementation of the Calls for Justice and MMIWG2S+ NAP.

How has the AFN's recent advocacy affected this area?

The AFN continues to advocate that the voices of the families of missing and murdered First Nations women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people are heard and respected. This important work will ensure that the National Inquiry's *Calls for Justice* are implemented by all governments, private sectors, and service providers. The work of implementing the Calls for Justice and the MMIWG2S+ NAP is crucial to recognizing and upholding the human rights of First Nations women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

The AFN Women's Council continues to advocate and promote the safety, security, and well-being of First Nations women at both domestic and international levels.



Recently, the AFN Women's Council spoke to the Ambassador of Canada to the United Nations, H.E. Bob Rae calling for implementation of the Calls for Justice and the need to increase support for First Nation women's leadership. In April, the AFN Women's Council appeared before the House of Commons' Standing Committee on the Status of Women to provide input into their study of intimate partner and domestic violence in Canada. They also appeared before the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples who convened to conduct a review of the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Where do we hope to go in the future?

The AFN believes it is of the utmost importance to raise awareness and to work in partnership with governments in developing and implementing action plans, policies and partnerships towards implementation of the 231 Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The AFN will continue to advocate for the implementation of the National Action Plan and the 231 Calls for Justice in accordance with a "families first" approach. The AFN will also continue to advocate for survivors and families to be at the center of implementation and monitoring processes. The implementation of the Calls for Justice and the National Action Plan will not only promote and ensure the safety and security of First Nations women and girls, but also uphold their important roles in ensuring the continued improvement, growth, and success of all First Nations.