

March 11, 2016

Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Members
ATTN: Mayor and Council; Chair and Board
Via Email

**RE: Resolution 2015-B111: National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered
Aboriginal Women**

Dear Mayor and Council; Chair and Board:

I write to all UBCM members today in regard to UBCM resolution 2015-B111: *National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women*, which was considered and endorsed at the 2015 UBCM Convention. This letter provides an update on action taken in response to this resolution, and encourages member engagement in response to the severe and widespread violence faced by Indigenous women and girls in BC communities. The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS indigenous women and girls in Canada have been murdered or have gone missing at a rate four times higher than non-indigenous women, despite aboriginal women constituting less than five per cent of the Canadian population;

AND WHEREAS the homicide rate in the past decade is roughly seven time higher for indigenous women and girls than for all other women and girls in Canada:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the federal government convene a national inquiry into the widespread and severe violence faced by indigenous women and girls in Canada;

And be it further resolved that UBCM encourage their member local governments to work together, in collaboration with indigenous women's organizations, to institute a comprehensive response to the widespread and severe violence faced by indigenous women and girls.

The resolution requests that UBCM urge the federal government to convene a national inquiry regarding violence against Indigenous women and girls. On December 8th, 2015, Canada launched a National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The inquiry is in response to the urging of many Indigenous families, communities and organizations, as well as non-governmental and international organizations, who called on Canada to take action, including through the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's [Calls to Action](#).

Upon the request of Attorney General and Minister of Justice Suzanne Anton, UBCM provided feedback to inform the provincial government's response on the design of the inquiry process. The [UBCM submission](#) focused on the federal government's pre-inquiry design [discussion guide](#) questions, including National Inquiry leadership and participation, key issues, and how best to ensure concrete and practical recommendations. It expresses a desire to support and stand with those who deserve justice and healing; emphasizes associated UBCM policy; and conveys the role of local governments in ensuring safety and wellbeing in BC communities. Based on this submission and subsequent discussion with Minister Anton, feedback was also submitted directly to the federal Pre-Inquiry Secretariat.

The resolution also directs UBCM to encourage member collaboration, and cooperation with Indigenous women's organizations, in order to institute a comprehensive response to the severe violence faced by Indigenous women and girls. In many instances local governments already have established relationships with local Indigenous organizations; for those who are looking to make initial contact, a listing of Indigenous women's organizations is attached. This list provides only an overview of active organizations, and is not intended to be comprehensive, but may provide a stepping-stone for communities looking to establish a connection. By strengthening relationships with Indigenous organizations and service providers it may be possible to better support and promote work already underway, and identify opportunities for future partnership.

As leaders and protective service providers, local governments are dedicated to building and fostering safe communities that are free from violence. I sincerely thank you for considering how your local government might engage during the national inquiry process, and with Indigenous organizations within your community. UBCM will continue to engage in the inquiry process as it progresses, and inform members of opportunities to provide further feedback or participate in proceedings.

If you have any questions regarding UBCM's engagement in the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, please contact Angela Turner, UBCM Policy Analyst, at aturner@ubcm.ca or (604) 270-8226 Ext. 113.

Sincerely,



Murry Krause
Chair, First Nations Relations Committee

cc: Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments
Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities
Lower Mainland Local Government Association
North Central Local Government Association
Southern Interior Local Government Association

Indigenous Women's Organizations

A Resource for BC Local Governments

Local governments seeking to establish connections with Indigenous Women's organizations may wish to utilize the contacts below. **This document provides a broad overview of active organizations, and is not intended to be a comprehensive listing of BC Indigenous organizations.**

<p>Aboriginal Mother Centre Society 2019 Dundas St Vancouver, BC V5L 2J7 Phone: 604-558-2627 Email: info@aboriginalmothercentre.ca Website: www.aboriginalmothercentre.ca</p>	<p>Assembly of First Nations – Council of Women Suite 1600 55 Metcalfe Street Ottawa, ON K1P 6L5 Phone: 613-241-6789 Toll Free: 1-866-869-6789 Email: ceetevee123@yahoo.ca Website: www.afn.ca/en/policy-areas/afn-womens-council</p>
<p>Atira Women's Resource Society (Aboriginal Women's Outreach Program) 204-15210 N Bluff Rd White Rock, BC V4B 3E6 Phone: 604-594-7547 Email: awo@atira.bc.ca Website: www.atira.bc.ca</p>	<p>Battered Women's Support Services (Indigenous Women's Programs) PO Box 21503 1424 Commercial Dr. Vancouver, BC Canada V5L 5G2 Phone: 604-687-1868 Toll Free: 1-855-687-1868 Email: information@bwss.org Website: www.bwss.org</p>
<p>BC Native Women's Association 144 Briar Avenue Kamloops, BC V2B 1C1 Phone: 250-554-4556 ext. 211 Website: www.facebook.com/bc.nativewomensassociation/</p>	<p>BC Women's Hospital and Health Centre (Aboriginal Women's Health Program) 4500 Oak Street Vancouver, BC V6H 3N1 Phone: 604-875-3440 Email: JMorgan6@cw.bc.ca Website: www.bcwomens.ca/our-services/population-health-promotion/aboriginal-womens-health</p>
<p>Carrier Sekani Family Services 987 4th Avenue Prince George, BC V2L 3H7 Phone: 250-562-3591 Toll-free: 1-800-889-6855 Website: www.csfs.org</p>	<p>First Nations Health Authority 501-100 Park Royal South Coast Salish Territory West Vancouver, BC V7T 1A2 Phone: 604-693-6500 Toll free: 1-866-913-0033 Email: info@fnha.ca Website: www.fnha.ca</p>
<p>Helping Spirit Lodge Society 3965 Dumfries St Vancouver, BC V5N 5R3 Phone: 604-874-6629 Email: reception@hsls.ca Website: www.hsls.ca</p>	<p>Highway of Tears Initiative c/o Carrier Sekani Family Services 987-4th Avenue Prince George, BC V2L 3H7 Phone: 250-562-3591 Toll Free: 1-800-889-6855 Email: highwayoftears@csfs.org Website: www.highwayoftears.ca/</p>

<p>Métis Women of British Columbia c/o Métis Nation of British Columbia Unit #103 - 5668 192nd Street Surrey, BC V3S 2V7 Phone: 604-557-5851 Toll Free: 1-800-940-1150 Email: www.mnbc.ca/about-mnbc/women Website: www.mnbc.ca</p>	<p>Moose Hide Campaign BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres 551 Chatham St. Victoria, BC V8T 1E1 Phone: 1-800-990-2432 Email: info@moosehidecampaign.ca Website: www.moosehidecampaign.ca/</p>
<p>Native Education College 285 East 5th Ave. Vancouver, BC V5T 1H2 Phone: 604-873-3772 Email: Info@NECVancouver.org Website: www.necvancouver.org</p>	<p>Native Youth Sexual Health Network 2345 Yonge St. PO Box 26069 Broadway Toronto, Ontario M4P 0A8 Email: info@nativeyouthsexualhealth.com Website: www.necvancouver.org</p>
<p>Native Women's Association of Canada 155 International Road Unit #2 Akwasasne, Ontario K6H 5R7 Phone: 1-800-461-4043 Website: www.nwac.ca</p>	<p>Northern Rockies Aboriginal Women Society PO Box 3190 5019 52 Avenue W Fort Nelson, BC V0C 1R0 Phone: 250-233-8920 Email: ed.nraws@northwestel.net Website: www.nraws.org</p>
<p>Nicola Valley Institute of Technology 4155 Belshaw Street Merritt, BC V1K 1R1 Phone: 1-250-378-3300 Toll Free: 1-877-682-3300 Email: info@nvit.bc.ca Website: www.nvit.ca</p>	<p>Pacific Association of First Nations Women 2017 Dundas St. Vancouver, BC V5L 1J5 Phone: 604-872-1849 Email: eldersupport@gmail.com Website: www.pafnw.ca</p>
<p>Positive Women's Network 614-1033 Davie St Vancouver, BC V6E 1M7 Phone: 604-692-3000 Toll-Free: 1-866-692-3001 Email: pwn@pwn.bc.ca Website: www.pwn.bc.ca</p>	<p>Prince George New Hope Society 1046 4th Ave Prince George, BC V2L 3J1 Phone: 250-562-8680 Email: jan_newhope@hotmail.com Website: www.princegeorgenewhopesociety.ca</p>
<p>Upper Island Women of Native Ancestry PO Box 3316 105-1509 Cliffe Ave Courtenay, BC V9N 5N5 Phone: 250-334-9591 Website: www.uiwona.ca</p>	<p>Spirit of the Children Society (Women's Support Circle) 201-768 Columbia Street New Westminster, BC V3M 1B4 Phone: 604-524-9113 Email: reception@sotcs.ca Website: www.sotcs.ca</p>
<p>Warriors Against Violence Society 2425 Oxford St Vancouver, BC V5K 1M7 Phone: 604-255-3240 Email: warriors@kiwassa.ca Website: www.wav-bc.com</p>	<p>Women Against Violence Against Women (Aboriginal Women's Services) 2405 Pine Street PO Box 46851 Stn D Vancouver, BC V6J 5M4 Phone: 604-255-6344 Email: aboriginalprogram@wavaw.ca Website: www.wavaw.ca/</p>