



MANITOBA MOON VOICES INC.

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For Immediate Release

Manitoba Moon Voices Inc. Calls for Immediate Implementation of National Action Plan on MMIWG2S+

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Treaty 1, Manitoba—Recent news in the Indigenous community is a stark reminder of the critical work ahead, including the need for the immediate implementation of the National Action Plan on Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people.

“It is unacceptable that Indigenous women, girls, and gender diverse individuals continue to be the victims of violence, racism, and systemic oppression”, says Denise Cook, Manitoba Moon Voices Inc. co-chair.

Manitoba Moon Voices Inc. (MMVI) is encouraged by the release of the National Action Plan and honours those who consulted and worked so diligently to produce a plan to address the ongoing genocide against Indigenous people.

“I hope the Action Plan will be a turning point for Indigenous women and girls,” says Shannon Hoskie, Acting Executive Director of MMVI.

MMVI commits to reviewing the action plan and calls on all levels of government to act for immediate enacting of planning and changes needed to ensure the safety of all communities.

The following goals set out by the action plan are consistent with the priority areas set out by MMVI in our position statement “231 Calls for Justice: Confronting Incremental Genocide” released on September 20, 2020:

- Guaranteed annual liveable income
- Comprehensive approach to support Indigenous victims and families/friends of Indigenous murdered or missing persons such as victim services, family information liaison units, legal services, access to coroner/hospital reports, media, etc.
- Government recognizing Indigenous self-determination and inherent jurisdiction over child welfare, and support enhancements for child and family services.
- Public education/awareness campaigns on the issues Indigenous people experience and to challenge the acceptance and normalization of violence.
- Trauma-informed training for those who work with Indigenous people on topics such as history, culture, issues, anti-racism, anti-sexism, anti-homophobia, anti-transphobia, etc.
- Indigenous-led prevention and healing programs, education, and awareness campaigns for Indigenous families and communities related to violence prevention and lateral violence.
- Support Indigenous-led initiatives for Indigenous individuals, families, and communities to access cultural knowledge and 2SLGBTQIA+ programs and services.

- 24-hour in person support system for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, such as wraparound mental health services, trauma, addictions, etc.
- Collect disaggregated data (Inuit, Metis, and First Nations) to report on violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, and on progress and the effectiveness of laws, policies, and services.

MMVI calls on the province of Manitoba to also focus on the following important priorities not found in the action plan's goals, because we believe them to be of great importance in the Manitoba context.

- Financial and social support for Indigenous families that have been impacted by the disappearance of loved ones and violence inflicted on their families.
- Identifying and addressing the impacts of resource extraction camps on Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people in Manitoba.
- Recognizing the link between this genocide and current epidemics of suicide and other forms of violence in our communities
- Promoting research on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Men and Boys in Manitoba.

MMVI acknowledges and honours the sacred stories and experiences shared by the loved ones of our Missing and Murdered relatives from Indigenous communities across Manitoba and Turtle Island.

As an organization representing the interests of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people in Manitoba – both as the Provincial Territorial Member Associate of the Native Women's Association of Canada's and a member of the MMIWG-Manitoba Coalition – we commit to confronting and challenging colonialism and the gender-based violence it creates and perpetuates.

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