



Native Women's Association of Canada

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THOUSANDS OF CANADIANS CALL FOR NATIONAL PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO MISSING AND MURDERED ABORIGINAL WOMEN

February 13, 2014 (Ottawa, ON) - The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) delivered over 23,000 signatures today to the House of Commons in support of NWAC's call for a National Public Inquiry into the more than 600 missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls. "This is a national tragedy that can no longer be ignored," said President Michèle Audette.

Over the past two years NWAC has collected 23,088 signatures from concerned Canadians demanding an end to the high rate of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls. The petition calls for a National Public Inquiry, which NWAC believes to be a crucial step in implementing a comprehensive and coordinated National Action Plan to address the scale and severity of violence faced by Aboriginal women and girls on a daily basis.

February 13, 2014, marks the last day of interviews being heard by the members of the Special Parliamentary Committee into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women in Canada. The Special Parliamentary Committee was created by a Motion presented by Liberal MP Carolyn Bennett to specifically examine the high rate of murdered and missing Indigenous women and was unanimously passed through the House of Commons. The Committee has heard from multiple stake-holders, however they did not grant intervener status to NWAC, the organization that represents Aboriginal women across Canada as requested.

"How many more signatures do we need or how many more Aboriginal women and girls need to go missing or be murdered before we convince the Government of Canada that a National Public Inquiry is needed to examine this issue and implement solutions to bring an end to this national tragedy. The time for action is now!" implored NWAC President Michèle Audette.

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