



Native Women's
Association of Canada

L'Association des
femmes autochtones
du Canada

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Dear Families, Communities, Stakeholders, and Commissioners,

The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) presents the third Report Card assessing the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' progress over the last number of months.

First and foremost, NWAC's concern remains with the survivors and families who have testified, plan to provide statements in the future, or who have either chosen or have not been able to participate in the Inquiry. NWAC understands that there are many good reasons for survivors and families to choose not participate in this Inquiry. Many of these reasons are outlined in this third Report Card. NWAC will continue to support an extension request as long as there are families and survivors who want to use this avenue to share their truths and their loved ones' stories.

Although previous Report Cards have assessed progress over three month periods, this third Report Card assesses a ten month period, from May 2017 - March 2018. There are a number of reasons for this decision. Between May 2017 and September 2017, there was very little activity to assess, and Inquiry operations and actions were not clearly observable. Within that time, there were many families, communities, stakeholders, and organizations calling for a full reset or a restructure of the Inquiry. NWAC was one of these organizations, and chose to focus on building a relationship with the new Executive Director, incorporating recommendations from previous Report Cards, establishing a clear system to track Inquiry progress and improvements, and encouraging an operational restructure to fix many of the issues identified in previous Report Cards.

NWAC was also seriously concerned about bringing further harm to families during a tumultuous time. There was considerable concern that NWAC would have to issue a failing report card, and that this could be a catalyst to ending the Inquiry in a way that would traumatize families who had testified or who had planned to testify.

Finally, when NWAC learned of the Inquiry's extension request, NWAC followed instruction from grassroots Indigenous women and its Board of Directors to support the extension request. NWAC further delayed the release of this Report Card anticipating an announcement regarding the extension request. However, that announcement has taken too long, and with the mounting evidence of both progression and continued struggles in the Inquiry NWAC determined that it was important to report on its observations with or without an answer on the extension request.



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NWAC releases this report card with a caution to the media and to all readers. It is our sincere hope, that this report card does not cause any further harm to survivors and families who have experienced trauma. NWAC has observed a trend in public information regarding the Inquiry that focuses on failures and struggles rather than families' and survivors' stories. NWAC's Report Cards are intended to be objective and honest observations of the progress of the Inquiry through its mandate. There is concern the evaluations in this Report Card may feed into negative publicity that takes away from the most important aspect of the Inquiry - inspiring true empathy for and understanding of the stories of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

As you read this Report Card, understand that the successes, struggles, and failures of the Inquiry primarily impact survivors and families. Although this Report Card may appear to give the Inquiry a failing grade where much harm has been caused to survivors and families, it also contains important progressions and successes. Where NWAC has issued criticism, we have also sought to provide constructive feedback and recommendations to further benefit and avoid causing harm to survivors and families.

NWAC encourages all who read this Report Card to also take the time to seek out survivors' and families' stories and either read or watch these testimonies. The most important aspect of this Inquiry is not the operations or administration, but rather the truths that survivors and families are sharing publicly, sometimes for the first time. NWAC appeals to every person from coast to coast to coast to take the time to read or listen to these stories, and challenge themselves to empathize with survivors and families. NWAC further encourages all people from coast to coast to coast to consider how they can honour and commemorate missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and further work towards reconciliation in their own lives and communities. Change need not come from government directives or legislation or reports. Change comes from us all, and it starts at home and in our own communities.