

Hello, bonjour, kwey kwey.

- My name is Lynne Groulx and I am the Chief Executive Officer of the Native Women's Association of Canada. We are the largest national Indigenous women's organization representing and defending the rights of Indigenous women at the national and international levels.
- For more than four decades, we have worked to document the systemic violence impacting Indigenous women, their families, and communities
- We have come to the United Nations to speak about one issue. GENOCIDE – COLONIAL GENOCIDE – this is the finding of the National Inquiry on missing and murdered Indigenous women.
- It is the current government, under Prime Minister Trudeau, who launched this National Inquiry from August 2016 to June 2019 at a cost of over 92 million dollars.
- The goal of the national inquiry was to provide a systemic examination of the causes and consequences of gendered, sexualized and racialized violence against Indigenous women and girls including the harms to their families and communities, and to identify the measures necessary to address them.
- The Inquiry report found that genocide in Canada was perpetrated in application of the colonial and patriarchal policies and laws and structures established and maintained by the Canadian state over centuries until the present day.

- The National Inquiry's Final Report is an expert report of over 1000 pages - comprised of the truths of more than 2,380 family members, survivors of violence, experts and Knowledge Keepers.
- The report reveals that persistent and deliberate human and Indigenous rights violations and abuses are the root cause behind Canada's staggering rates of violence against Indigenous women.
- It also reveals marginalization in the form of poverty, insecure housing or homelessness and barriers to education, employment, health care and cultural support.
- The Inquiry report delivers 231 individual Calls for Justice directed at governments, institutions, social service providers, industries and all Canadians. There are discussions underway now to develop a national action plan.
- We need to ensure the implementation of the Calls for Justice and the transformative legal and social changes to resolve the crisis that has devastated Indigenous communities across Canada.
- Canada's past and current policies, omissions, and actions towards Indigenous women are in breach of Canada's international obligations, triggering its responsibility under international law.
- Canada is mandated by international law ^{to} ~~as~~ measures of reparation, a direct consequence of Canada's responsibility for the commission of genocide.

- We hope that Canada's Final Inquiry report and its legal analysis of genocide and findings will contribute to the necessary discussion on genocide at the international level and trigger a broadening of the definition of genocide to include colonial genocide.
- The report was released in June of 2019 and we feel it may fall off Canada's list of priorities unless international attention is given.
- We ask that the Expert Mechanism begin a research study on genocide with the intent of broadening the definition of genocide at the international level.

Thank you, Merci, Miigwetch.

Lynne Groulx

CEO

Native Women's Association of Canada

