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Submitted by The National Association of Friendship Centers
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Since 2004 there has been a national public awareness campaign on the issue of murdered and missing Indigenous women (MMIW) in Canada. A problem which Amnesty International and the Native Women Association of Canada stated in their 'Stolen Sisters' report 2004, is rooted in colonial laws and policies, as well as stereotypes embedded in societal attitudes which perpetuate the racism that justifies abuses by authorities

The stolen sisters report concludes that the structural and institutionalized racism embedded in Canadian laws enhances negative stereotypes and the continued marginalization of Indigenous women.

Presently there is an apathetic attitude by governments to adequately address the violations of the human rights of Indigenous women. This has caused a culture of apathy, racism and discrimination by policing authorities with impunity.

Consequently, in October 2015, Indigenous women living in Val d'Or (Quebec, Canada) charged the Sureté Du Quebec with criminal acts of violations ranging from coercion to rape.

The government of Quebec was hesitant to act but eventually called upon another police force, the Montreal Urban Police force to conduct an investigation. An independent observer was also appointed by Québec to oversee the process. This is not satisfactory as it lacks a neutral lens and is viewed by our communities as flawed and a token act to silence justice.

The Indigenous women who spoke out publicly were re-victimized by police and regional media.

An Ad hoc coalition composed notably of indigenous and non indigenous civil society organisations has begun a process to undertake discussions to call upon all levels of government and authorities to respect and promote the human rights of Indigenous women and their communities.

Discrimination and the violation of Indigenous women's human rights has been normalized by colonial laws. Such normalization legitimates the abuses committed with impunity. Violence against Indigenous women

perpetuates the disintegration of the family unit, it is another tool of colonialism which hinders reconciliation and restitution needed to rebuild Indigenous nations.

Val d'Or is a town dependent on resource development and like so many towns contains a prevalence of racist beliefs rooted in colonial created stereotypes.

We therefore recommend the following:

- That an independent review be undertaken by the Commission on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women the UNPFII and the Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights undertake a study on the extent of violence against Indigenous women according to article 22 (2) of the UNDRIP and the impacts of the abuses by policing authorities in the province of Quebec and the rest of Canada.
- The World Health Organization undertake a study on how violence against Indigenous women rooted in colonization influences the health and well-being of Indigenous women.
- The UNPFII conduct a study on how resource development is linked to the problem of violence against indigenous women.
- That Canada and its provinces in particular the province of Quebec implement the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues Twelfth session (New York, 20 - 31 May 2013, Item 7 of the provisional agenda¹, Human Rights, Study on the extent of violence against indigenous women and girls in terms of article 22 (2) of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples).
- States put in place legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks to combat violence against women, and work to improve coordination between different stakeholders with the free prior and informed consent of Indigenous women and their communities.
- Using thr UNDRIP as the framework of reconciliation and restitution: in the full and effective participation of Indigenous woment, Canada shall create a protocol, implement a national plan of action to adequately address the issue of violence against indigenous women.
- Establish, in full collaboration with Indigenous organizations dealing with women issues, adequate measures to ensure the protection of women who wish to denounce their aggressors. This includes the provision of health care professionals and the incorporation of traditional methods of healing to deal with the negative effects of

colonization and the post-traumatic stress when they are raped by police forces.

- Establish anti-racism education programs at all levels of society and government with its authorities within the framework of reconciliation under the UNDRIP.