



MANITOBA MOON VOICES INC.

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231 Calls for Justice: Confronting Incremental Genocide

A POSITION STATEMENT PREPARED BY MANITOBA MOON VOICES INC. (MMVI)

(September 2, 2020)

During this time, especially with the COVID-19 Pandemic, many of us find it hard to connect with the outside, with nature, with the plant medicines, and ceremonies. A lot of us are still suffering mentally, emotionally, spiritually but part of our work is relying on our strengths of survival, this is not the first pandemic that we have experienced. We have to learn from our traditions, our ceremonies, our teachings, and our language on how we do this together and we have to make space, to be patient, listen carefully, and sometimes we have to wait, wait for our answers to come to us. Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQIA people are essential to the survival, future, and wellness of our communities because we are protectors of the land and water.

The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls found that incremental genocide committed and condoned by the Canadian state forms the root cause of violence Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA people face daily. When our relatives are lost through such violence or by unknown circumstances, it affects every one of us, as they are all valuable and have purpose and place in our lives and communities.

MMVI acknowledges and honors the sacred stories and experiences shared by the loved ones of Our Missing and Murdered Relatives from Indigenous communities across Manitoba and Turtle Island.

MMVI acknowledges and affirms the 231 Calls for Justice in Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Legal Analysis of Genocide: Supplementary Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

MMVI, as an organization representing the interests of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA people in Manitoba, a Provincial Territorial Member Associate (PTMA) of the Native Women's Association of Canada's (NWAC) and a member of the (MM)IWG-Manitoba Coalition, is committed to:

- Promoting the MMIWG Inquiry's 231 Calls for Justice to our membership and acting on priority areas in Manitoba.
- Collaborating and supporting the (MM)IWG-Manitoba Coalition to achieve its objectives.
- Collaborating and liaising with NWAC to ensure Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQIA have a voice and influence at the national level.
- Centering the traditional roles of Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQIA people, by honouring their responsibilities and strengthening the knowledges and skills they carry for our families, communities, organizations, Nations, and Territories.

- Championing and advocating for Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA Peoples’ right to directly participate at all decision-making tables at the municipal, provincial, federal, and Indigenous governance levels.
- Advocating for financial and social support with government for Indigenous families that have been impacted by the disappearance of loved ones and violence inflicted on their families.
- Advocating for a universal basic income to ensure that Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people, have equitable access to the social determinants of health that include food, shelter, education, culture, employment, justice, health care, and safety.
- Educating the MMVI membership about the impacts of the child welfare system on Indigenous families and identifying and implementing strategies to empower Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people to lead in decision-making.
- Promoting and providing Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people access to land-based knowledge, healing, and land reclamation initiatives.
- Promoting an awareness among MMVI members about genocide and identifying and addressing the acts of Canadian incremental genocide* that are impacting our Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA People in Manitoba.
- Identifying and addressing the impacts of resource extraction camps on Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people in Manitoba.
- Advocating for recognition that the incremental genocide responsible for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people also results in equally detrimental impacts affecting us all, including the Suicide Epidemic in our communities, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Men and Boys and other forms of violence.
- Promoting research on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Men and Boys in Manitoba.

MMVI Board of Directors

- Thelma Morrisseau - Co Chair
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- Audrey Richard - Board Member
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- Albert McLeod
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* The National Inquiry is of the opinion that the definition of genocide in international law, as it stands, encompasses the past and current actions and omissions of Canada towards Indigenous Peoples. Genocide is a root cause of the violence perpetrated against Indigenous women and girls, not only because of the genocidal acts that were and still are perpetrated against them, but also because of all the societal vulnerabilities it fosters, which leads to deaths and disappearances and which permeates all aspects of Canadian society today.