



Native Women's Association of Canada

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ongoing Tragedy!

February 28, 2014 (Ottawa) - The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) is reaffirming its' call for a National Public Inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls in Canada as the tragedy continues.

Just in the past six months, NWAC has noted that at least eight Aboriginal women have been murdered. *"These statistics should raise the alarm for all Canadians," stated President, Michèle Audette. Much too frequently, somewhere in Canada, families feel the pain and loss of a loved one who has been a victim of violence. This happens way too often for our Aboriginal people, and to the most vulnerable in our society, the women and girls."*

On behalf of NWAC, President Audette would like to publicly express heartfelt sympathies to the families who have suffered recent losses under such horrible circumstances:

- Goforth, Kelly Nicole: 21 year old woman found on September 25, 2013 in Regina, SK;
- Ballantyne, Heather: 40 year old woman found on October 29, 2013 in Pellican Narrows, SK;
- Desjarlais, Cassandra Joan: 24 year old woman October 31, 2013 in Regina, SK
- McKinney, Miranda: 50-year-old woman found on November 3, 2013, from Swan Lake, MB
- Roberts, Jodi: 24 year old woman found on November 27, 2013 near Sucker River, SK;
- Boisvert, Tricia: 36 year old woman found on January 23, 2014 near Quyon, QC;
- Gabriel, Rocelyn: 20 year old woman found on January 26, 2014 in Portage la Prairie, MB;
- Saunders, Loretta, 26 year old found on February 26, 2014 near Salisbury, NB.

Through the five-year Sisters in Spirit initiative (2005 – 2010), NWAC was able to identify 582 missing and/or murdered Aboriginal women and girls in Canada. Continued tracking

of occurrences have indicated that the numbers continue to climb; recent reports now list over 800 incidents of missing or murdered Aboriginal women and girls.

On February 14, 2014, NWAC delivered a petition signed by over 23,000 Canadians in support of NWAC's call for a National Public Inquiry and National Action Plan.

Anyone with information on the above noted cases (or any other case) can leave an anonymous tip to Crime Stoppers by calling toll-free 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

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For more information please contact:

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