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Reading List: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Peoples

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A Note About Content

This reading list contains materials that address the ongoing crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People (MMIWG2S). The content may include descriptions or discussions of gender-based and colonial violence, systemic racism and discrimination, trauma, grief, and loss, police and institutional failures, personal testimonies and lived experiences

These topics can be deeply distressing or triggering. Please engage with care and prioritize your well-being. Support is available through community organizations, crisis lines, and mental health services.

National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Support Line

- Toll-free: 1-844-413-6649
- 24 hours per day, 7 days a week
- Service available in English, French, Cree, Anishnaabemowin (Ojibway) and Inuktitut

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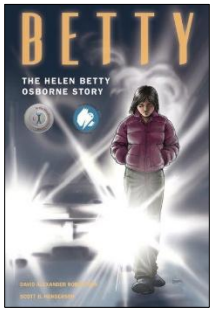
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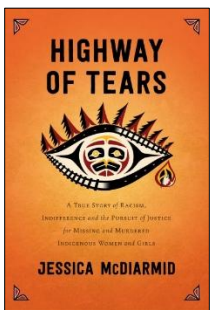
Trade Publications



Betty: The Helen Betty Osborne Story

David Robertson, Scott Henderson (HighWater Press)

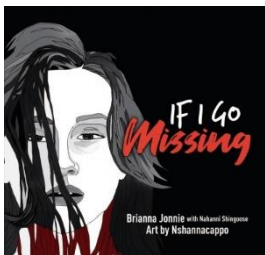
Helen Betty Osborne, known as Betty to her closest friends and family, dreamed of becoming a teacher. She left home to attend residential school and later moved to The Pas, Manitoba, to attend high school. On November 13, 1971, Betty was abducted and brutally murdered by four young men. Initially met with silence and indifference, her tragic murder resonates loudly today. Betty represents hundreds of Indigenous women in Canada who have been murdered or gone missing. This is her story, presented in graphic novel form by David Robertson.



Highway of Tears: A True Story of Racism, Indifference and the Pursuit of Justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

Jessia McDiarmid (Doubleday Canada)

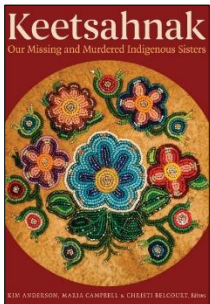
Highway of Tears by Jessica McDiarmid investigates the decades-long crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women along Highway 16 in northwestern British Columbia. The book highlights how systemic racism and societal neglect have led to a pattern of "over-policing and under-protection," leaving Indigenous women vulnerable and justice elusive. Through personal stories and community perspectives, McDiarmid exposes the deep-rooted undervaluing of Indigenous lives in Canada and the ongoing failure to address these tragedies meaningfully.



If I Go Missing

Brianna Jonnie, Nahanni Shingoose (James Lorimer and Company)

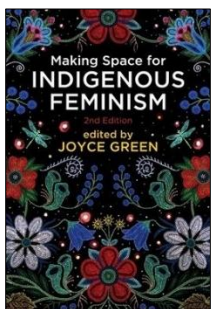
Combining graphic fiction and non-fiction, the text of the book is derived from excerpts of a letter written to the Winnipeg Chief of Police by fourteen-year-old Brianna Jonnie. In her letter, Jonnie calls out the authorities for neglecting to immediately investigate missing Indigenous people and urges them to "not treat me as the Indigenous person I am proud to be," if she were to be reported missing.



Keetsahnak: Our Missing and Murdered Indigenous Sisters

Ed. Kim Anderson, Maria Campbell, Christi Belcourt (University of Alberta Press)

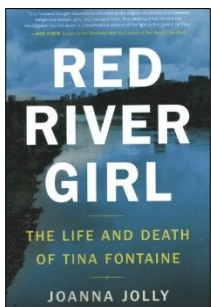
This collective volume centers on the *Walking with Our Sisters* exhibition and its impact as a form of Indigenous antiviolenence activism. It explores the complex interplay between personal experience, political engagement, and public action. Contributors examine the roots of violence—including colonial and lateral violence—and challenge conventional ideas around tradition and helping. Through stories of resilience and resistance, the book offers powerful testimony and models Indigenous-led approaches to justice and healing.



Making Space for Indigenous Feminism, Second Edition

ed. Joyce Green (Fernwood Publishing)

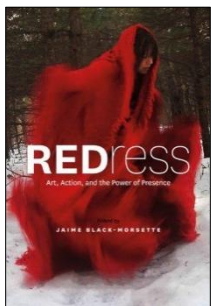
The 2007 first edition of this book proposed that Indigenous feminism was a valid and indeed essential theoretical and activist position and introduced a roster of important Indigenous feminist contributors. The second edition builds on the success of its predecessor. The chapters cover issues that are relevant to some of the most important issues facing Indigenous people--violence against women, recovery of Indigenous self-determination, racism, misogyny, and decolonisation. Specifically, new chapters address Indigenous resurgence, Canada's settler racism and sexism, and missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada.



Red River Girl: The Life and Death of Tina Fontaine

Joanna Jolly (Viking Press)

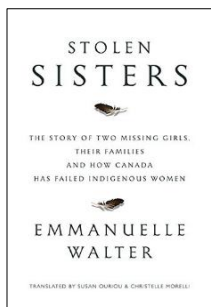
Red River Girl by Joanna Jolly is a true crime account of the murder of 15-year-old Tina Fontaine, whose body was found in Winnipeg's Red River in 2014. The book follows the complex investigation led by a determined detective and explores the broader social and systemic issues surrounding the case. Jolly traces Tina's life from her Sagkeeng First Nation roots through her struggles with trauma, exploitation, and the child welfare system. More than a crime story, the book highlights the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada, community response, and the ongoing fight for justice and change.



REDress: Art, Action, and the Power of Presence

Ed. Jaime Black-Morsette (Highwater Press)

In 2010, Métis artist Jaime Black-Morsette created the REDress Project -- an art installation consisting of placing red dresses in public spaces as a call for justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit people (MMIWG2S). Symbolizing both absence and presence, the red dresses ignite a reclamation of voice and place for MMIWG2S. In this anthology, Jaime Black-Morsette shares her own intimate stories of the REDress Project along with the voices of Indigenous women, Elders, grassroots community activists, artists, academics, and family members affected by this tragedy. Together they use the power of their collective voice to not only call for justice.

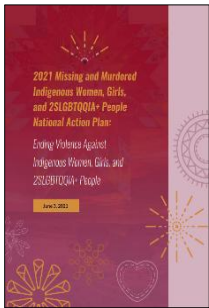


Stolen Sisters: The Story of Two Missing Girls, Their Families, and How Canada has Failed Indigenous Women

Emmanuelle Walter (HarperCollins)

Journalist Emmanuelle Walter's book investigates the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada, focusing on the 2008 disappearance of teenagers Maisy Odjick and Shannon Alexander from western Quebec. Through interviews, documents, and media coverage, Walter reveals the systemic failures that have allowed such tragedies to persist. She argues that Canada is facing a feminicide, and her work serves as both a memorial and a call to action.

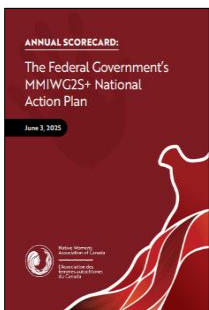
Government and Community Publications



2021 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ People National Action Plan: Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ People

Canada. Indigenous Services Canada

This action plan was co-developed by a core working group in collaboration with the National Family and Survivors Circle and contributing partners. It is a response to the *Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls* and the *Métis Perspectives of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and LGBTQ2S+ People* and developed to drive transformative change to end systemic racism and violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people.



Annual Scorecard: The Federal Government's MMIWG2S+ National Action Plan (2025)

Native Women's Association of Canada

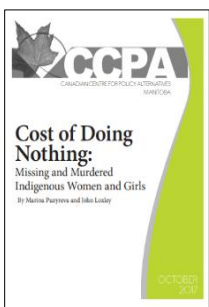
This scorecard, developed by the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC), offers an independent, distinctions-based assessment of the federal government's implementation of the National Action Plan and Federal Pathway.



Progress on "Breathing Life into the Calls for Justice": A CFJ Progress Report (2024)

Assembly of First Nations

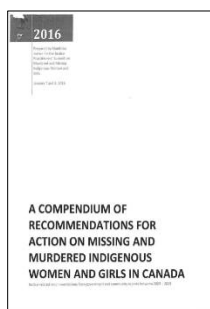
The Assembly of First Nations MMIWG Sector advocates for the full implementation both of the Inquiry's 231 Calls for Justice, and the National Action Plan to End Violence Against Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ People. The AFN has developed this CFJ Report Card to serve as a monitoring tool of both government and non-governmental activities since the National Inquiry's release of their Final Report. The AFN CFJ Report Card is the first update on progress towards the full implementation of the CFJ and includes a summary of the notable steps forward and backward during the review period.



The Cost of Doing Nothing: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (2017)

Marina Puzyreva and John Loxley (Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Manitoba)

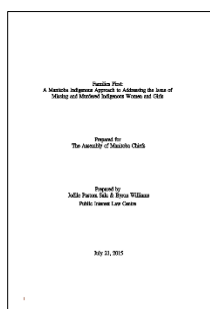
For many years, government policy about Indigenous people has been more reactive than preventive, and policy regarding missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls (MMIWG) is no exception. The costs of doing nothing to prevent many Indigenous women and girls from going missing and being murdered are profound and have many dimensions. It is the intention of this paper to stimulate some debate around the issue, reveal its scale, as well as shed light on families' experiences and identify necessary supports for them.



A Compendium of Recommendations for Action on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in Canada: Justice-Related Recommendations from Government and Community Reports Between 2003-2015 (2016)

Manitoba. Department of Justice.

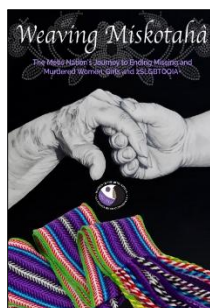
Prepared by Manitoba Justice for the Justice Practitioners' Summit on Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls, January 2 and 3, 2016. This document consolidates recommendations from various government and community investigations, inquiries, reviews and research projects on the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls in Canada.



Families First: A Manitoba Indigenous Approach to Addressing the Issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (2015)

Joëlle Pastora Sala and Byron Williams (Prepared by Public Interest Law Centre for the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs)

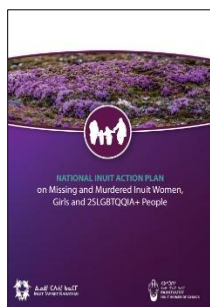
Guided by the principle and intent of putting 'families first', the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) partnered with the Public Interest Law Centre (PILC) to listen to and understand the objectives, values and priorities of the families of MMIWG. Elders, youth and a MMIWG Coalition of service providers were also engaged and their input was directly incorporated in the approach and report.



Weaving Miskotahâ: The Métis Nation's Journey to Ending Missing and Murdered Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Peoples

Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak

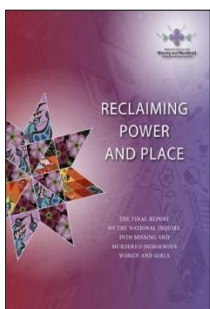
The *Weaving Miskotahâ* initiative focuses on systemic change to address the crisis of Missing and Murdered Métis women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ kin. It prioritizes justice reform, service accessibility, and healing, guided by a Métis-specific Action Plan. Rooted in collaboration, the initiative emphasizes culturally informed approaches and actionable solutions to ensure the safety and well-being of Métis communities. With a Métis-specific Action Plan as its foundation, the initiative focuses on justice reform, equitable access to services, and community-driven healing initiatives, striving to create meaningful, lasting change that upholds the rights and dignity of all Métis people.



National Inuit Action Plan on Missing and Murdered Inuit Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People (2021)

Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami

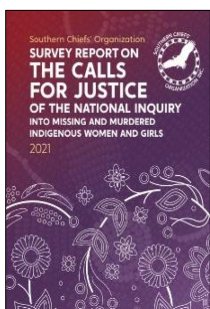
The National Inuit Action Plan instructs governments, Inuit Land Claim Organizations (ILCOs) and other represented bodies on the Inuit Working Group about how to move forward with implementing the 46 Inuit-specific Calls for Justice provided in *Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*.



Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

Canada. National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

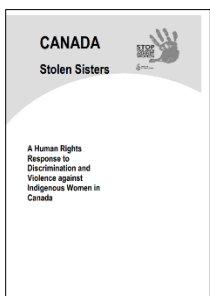
Volume 1a. Introduction to section 1: Establishing a new framework. Centering relationships to end violence; Indigenous recognitions of power and place; Emphasizing accountability through human rights tools; Colonization as gendered oppression -- Introduction to section 2. Encountering oppression. Confronting oppression--right to culture; Confronting oppression--right to health; Confronting oppression--right to security; Confronting oppression--right to justice.



Survey Report on the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (2021)

Southern Chiefs' Organization (SCO)

In advance of the two-year anniversary of the release of the National Inquiry's report, SCO launched a survey to identify southern Manitoba First Nations' priorities with respect to the Calls for Justice. This work supports SCO in its ongoing efforts to aid its members as they seek to advance justice for MMIWG2S+. Results of the survey inform advocacy efforts to ensure accountability and action by governments and stakeholders – and demonstrate the magnitude of work that remains to achieve justice and reclaim power and place.



Stolen Sisters: A Human Rights Response to Discrimination and Violence Against Indigenous Women in Canada (2004)

Amnesty International

This report examines the role of discrimination in acts of violence carried out against Indigenous women in Canadian towns and cities. Discrimination takes the form both of overt cultural prejudice and of implicit or systemic biases in the policies and actions of government officials and agencies, or of society as a whole. Discrimination has played out in policies and practices that have helped put Indigenous women in harm's way and in the failure to provide Indigenous women the protection from violence that is every woman's human right.



What Their Stories Tell Us: Research Findings from the Sisters in Spirit Initiative (2010)

Native Women's Association of Canada

What Their Stories Tell Us presents research findings from the Sisters in Spirit initiative, led by the Native Women's Association of Canada. The report explores patterns and root causes behind the violence faced by Indigenous women and girls in Canada, using data, personal stories, and community insights to highlight systemic issues and advocate for change.