

HUGASISTER

The Facts as Stated by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the United Nations
Regarding Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women and the Status of First Nations People in Canada

The following information is summarized from a **RCMP report from May, 2014** titled Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women: A National Operational Overview which can be found at <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/pubs/mmaw-faapd-eng.htm#sec6>.

- There are **1,181** documented cases of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls in Canada from 1980-2012. **This is equivalent to 36 Aboriginal females going missing and/or being murdered per year.**

- **Aboriginal females are overrepresented in homicides and missing person cases in Canada.**

Aboriginal females make up 4.3% of the female population of Canada but 16% of homicides are committed against Aboriginal women and 11.3% of missing women are Aboriginal. These numbers may be even higher considering these are only the reported, documented cases of women known to be Aboriginal.

- **There are currently 225 unsolved cases of missing and murdered Aboriginal women.** 90% of all female homicides in Canada are solved, regardless of victims being Aboriginal or not.

- **More than 90% of all female homicides** (Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal) **in Canada are committed by someone who the victim knew** (spouse, intimate partner, acquaintance, family member). Less than 10% of homicides against women in Canada are committed by strangers.

- The number of murders against non-Aboriginal females has been declining since about 1990 while the **number of murders against Aboriginal females as increased on a proportional basis.** In 1980, 9% of homicides of females were Aboriginal. In 2012, 23% of homicides against females were Aboriginal.

- There is not a significant difference in the number of homicides committed against Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal females involved in the sex trade.

- **Aboriginal females are 3 times more likely to be victims of violence** than non-Aboriginal females in Canada.



The following information is summarized from a **UN Report from July 2014** titled Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, James Anaya. The Situation of Indigenous People in Canada which can be found at unsr.jamesanaya.org/docs/countries/2014-report-canada-a-hrc-27-52-add-2-en.pdf

THE GAP: Canada has not done enough to close the gap between First Nations and non-First Nations people in Canada in terms of health care, housing, education and social services.

COMMUNITIES: According to the Community Well-Being Index, out of the bottom 100 communities, 96 are First Nation. Only one First Nation Community is in the top 100. This is affected by housing, quality of social services and access to clean, running water.

EDUCATION: At every level of education, Aboriginal people are behind the general population. Contributing factors are high levels of poverty, transgenerational effects of Residential Schools, and systemic racism.

LANGUAGE: In 2008, the Canadian government committed \$220 million annually to for the next five years to Canada's 'Linguistic Duality' program to promote English and French. Over the same period, \$19 million was spent on supporting Indigenous Language Revitalization. There are about 90 Aboriginal languages spoken in Canada. Two thirds of these languages are endangered. Years of colonization and Residential Schools attempted to make Indigenous languages extinct.

HEALTH: Health and well-being has been improving over recent years but Aboriginal people are still more likely to die by suicide, infant mortality rates are higher, life expectancy is shorter, and there is higher rate of diabetes and other chronic diseases.

MISSING AND MURDERED WOMEN: "The federal Government should undertake a comprehensive, nationwide inquiry into the issue of missing and murdered aboriginal women and girls, organized in consultation with indigenous peoples."

SELF GOVERNANCE: "...effective measures should be taken to build indigenous governance capacity. Canada should continue to engage in, and adequately fund, meaningful negotiations to transfer governance responsibilities to (FMNI) governments and to financially support, at adequate levels, the development and operation of indigenous self-governance..."