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Nunavutmi Angnat Katimayit
Nunavut Status of Women Council
Le Conseil du statut de la femme du Nunavut

Press Release

Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls

June 9, 2015
Iqaluit, NU

Qullit respectfully thanks the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for its work and landmark report documenting the horrific treatment of indigenous children at church-run institutions. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the indigenous men and women who spoke with honesty, clarity and courage to the Commission. We applaud Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin for saying that the forced removal of children from their families and the often-horrific subsequent treatment they received during their time in residential schools constitutes “cultural genocide”.

The forty-first of the report’s compelling 94 recommendations calls on the Canadian government to launch a national inquiry into the murdered and missing indigenous women and to investigate the violence and its relationship to the “inter-generational legacy of residential schools”.

The report connects the social ills borne out of the residential-school system and the murders and disappearances of nearly 1,200 indigenous women in Canada in the last 30 years. The information points to an unquestionable and devastating link between the large numbers of murdered and missing indigenous women and the many harmful background factors in their lives, among which are poverty, domestic violence and the over representation of indigenous children in the child-welfare system.

Since 2012 Qullit has advocated for an inquiry into murdered and missing indigenous women and girls. We continue to add our resolute voice to the call for an inquiry because we believe that the complex interplay of factors - many of which are part of the legacy of residential schools – needs to be examined, as does the lack of success of police forces in solving these crimes against indigenous women.

“We echo the words of Chief Justice Murray Sinclair when we say that we wish to ‘link arms with’ the families of the murdered and missing indigenous women and girls and once again call on the government of Canada to take this issue seriously and hold an inquiry. Reconciliation includes justice and healing for the indigenous families who are today experiencing tragedy as a result of historic injustice”, said Qullit president Charlotte Borg.

Contact:

Beth Beattie

director@gnsw.ca

Phone: 867-979-6690

Fax: 867-979-1277

Toll Free in Nunavut: 1-866-623-0346