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Montreal Community Hearing gathers 82 testimonies

Vancouver, BC –Families of the heart and survivors of violence shared moving testimony during the Montreal Community Hearing held from March 12-16th, 2018 on Mohawk territory. During the course of the week, 82 participants shared their truths with the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Chief Commissioner Buller and Commissioners Audette, Robinson and Eyolfson heard from 48 family members and survivors in 11 public hearing sessions. An additional 13 private hearing sessions and 20 statement gathering sessions were held throughout the week.

Significant regional issues were raised including the traumatic experiences of babies and children never returning from hospital similar to the stories heard from Innu families during Maliotenam Community Hearing in November 2017. Representatives from specific groups including Inuit and staff members who have lost a loved one shared heartfelt testimony. Over six languages were represented during the daily sessions.

Continued support from the National Family Advisory Circle was displayed as Melanie Morrison encouraged the public, during closing ceremonies, "...to keep the families and survivors in our hearts and to remember the importance of giving them a voice, so that their stories will be known by all."

"To the families of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and survivors of violence, your truths will bring Canada from darkness to lightness, your truths will rewrite Canadian history," said Chief Commissioner Buller in her closing remarks.

The National Inquiry wraps up its two-day hearing in Thompson Manitoba today, and will be in Vancouver April 4-8, 2018 as the Truth Gathering Process continues.

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