

Oral Submission for the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

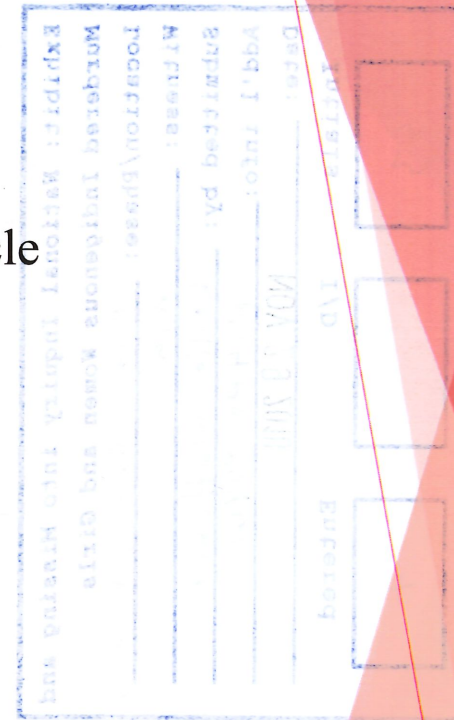


Saskatchewan Aboriginal Women's Circle Corporation
President Judy Hughes, Non-legal advocate
Kellie R. Wuttunee, LLB, J.D., Legal counsel

Exhibit: National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls		
Location/Phase: Part 4: Closing Oral Subs		
Witness: n/a		
Submitted by: Kellie Wuttunee		
Add'l info: P04P01P0401		
Date: NOV 29 2018		
Initials	I/D	Entered
53		7

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Saskatchewan Aboriginal Women's Circle Corporation

- ❖ Is a voluntary, not-for-profit organization incorporated on September 11, 2003.
- ❖ SAWCC provides support and advocacy to Indigenous women and their families of all nations, communities and environment.

SAWCC partnerships and collaboration

- ❖ SAWCC partners and collaborates with several grassroots agencies and community groups, business, law enforcement and government departments

SAWCC Community support

- ❖ Saskatchewan, SAWCC provides volunteer administrative and other supports to non-profit organizations and committees such as the Saskatchewan Sisters in Spirit Place of Reflection, Iskwewuk E-wichiwitochik, Sisters in Spirit Vigils, International Women's Day, Elimination of Violence Against Women, and the Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons

Community Engagement & Outreach

- ❖ During 2017 - 2018, our office responded to over 800 inquiries ranging from individual and family support to educational and employment funding, intimate partner violence, sexual assault, child welfare, housing, legal, human rights and community engagement.
- ❖ Over 480 calls were specific to the National Inquiry on Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and LGBTQ2S+.

National and International Advocacy

- ❖ SAWCC also takes an active role in National and International Advocacy participating at the UNCSW62 in New York, NY and the Summit of the America in Lima, Peru.
- ❖ Participation & Support to Families in the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG2S) and LGBTQ2S+

Role Related to the National Inquiry

- ❖ SAWCC has taken an active role in:
 - ❖ The pre-inquiry design, pre-inquiry information sessions, pre-inquiry health & legal preparation for families, the Truth Gathering Hearings, Statement Taking, Expert & Institutional Hearings
 - ❖ The Report Cards rating produced by the Native Women's Association of Canada

Role Related to the National Inquiry

SAWCC has taken an active role in:

- Providing Aftercare Support Planning
- Delivering training on grief and ambiguous loss for front line workers and families
- Supporting families through the Saskatchewan Team Leads providing support and advice to the National Inquiry for Saskatchewan activities
- Hosting Annual Ceremonial Feasts
- Advocating for an extension for the National Inquiry to allow the many families that have not yet been able to share their truth with the Commission.

Role Related to the National Inquiry

- ❖ Over the past 15 years, SAWCC has worked towards ending violence against Indigenous women and girls and with family members of MMIWG and collaborating partners
 - SAWCC, NWAC and PPCMP family gatherings
 - Pre-Inquiry Design Phase Aftercare Support Meetings with families
 - Pre-Inquiry Design Phase Consultation with SAWCC members and constituents
 - Two national round tables on MMIWG (Nov/14 and Feb/16)
 - Several National Indigenous Women's Summits
 - Advocating at the local, provincial, national & international levels

Standing in Parts I, II and III

- ❖ SAWCC received Standing in Parts I, II and III of the National Inquiry which included the Truth Gathering Hearings, Expert and Institutional Hearings.
- ❖ SAWCC participated at some of these hearings by attending and bearing witness to the testimonies.
- ❖ Other family hearings were attended via live stream as SAWCC has only recently received a Contribution Agreement to participate.
- ❖ SAWCC attended some of the expert and institutional hearings exercising our right as a party with standing to cross-examine witnesses at these hearings.

RAISING AWARENESS

FACELESS DOLLS PROJECT

Raising awareness through the creation of a physical and visual memorial in honor of missing & murdered loved ones.

“Each statistic tells a story.”



Recommendations

(Policy, program and legislative changes)

Recommendation #1

That there is a concerted effort by the RCMP to enhance communication and build trust between the RCMP and families of missing and murdered loved ones.

Recommendation #2

That a Trust Fund be established for children of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women to address the serious concerns of aftercare including:

- ▶ basic necessities such as food, shelter and clothing;
- ▶ mental health and wellness; and
- ▶ education

Recommendation #3

That the National Inquiry ensure that there is a public mechanism to track the progress of the recommendations included in the Interim Report and the Final Report.

Recommendation #4

That the Federal Government provide the funds, and the National Inquiry host:

- A national family gathering in February 2019 for family members to review the draft of the National Inquiry Final Report, ensure their voices are properly heard in the final report and to have input into the recommendations before the Final Report is submitted to the Federal Government.

Recommendation #5

That the National Inquiry supports the efforts of the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Women's Circle Corporation to host a gathering in May 2019 for Saskatchewan children of missing and murdered Indigenous Women.

Recommendation #6

That the Provincial Government of Saskatchewan establish a mechanism such as an independent special investigation unit for reported incidents of serious police misconduct, including rape and other forms of physical and sexual assault.

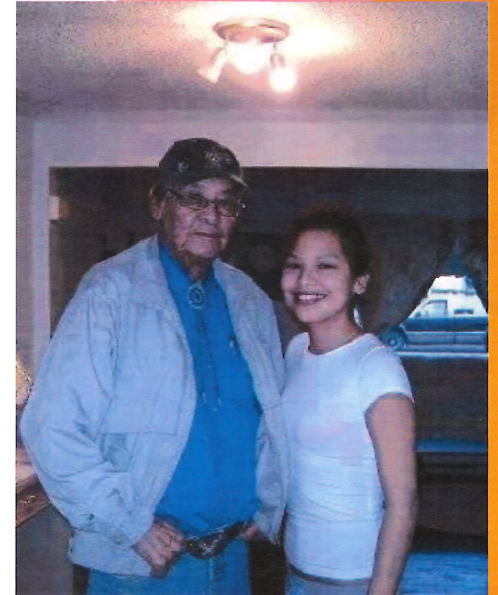
Recommendation # 7

That Indigenous Women's Organizations across Canada receive the funding they require to help prevent MMIWG.

- Expert witnesses have stated that the systemic and cyclical short-term funding of Indigenous Women's organizations and shelters has directly contributed to the ongoing crisis of murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls of Canada.

Acknowledgment

We respectfully acknowledge, support and say “Hiy Hiy” “Meegwetch” (thank you) to the many families who were able to share their truth and to the many families who are waiting to share their truth.

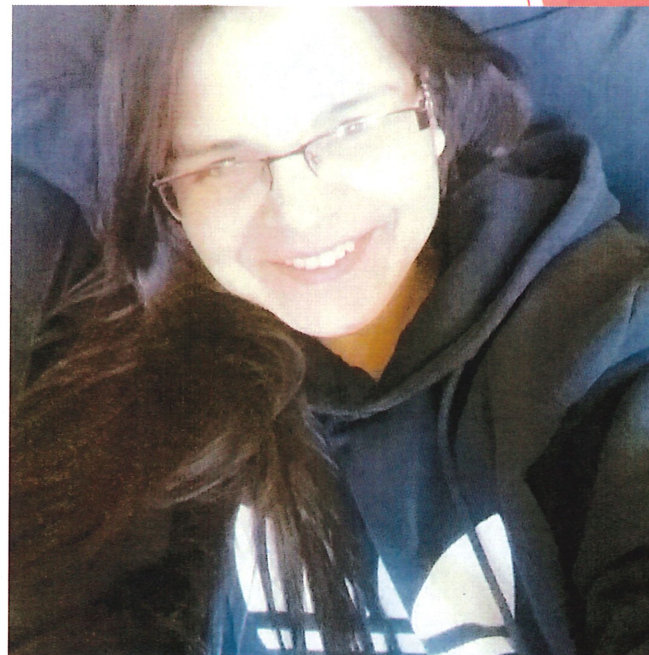


We Remember Kelly Allision Goforth-Wolfe

April 21, 1992-September 25, 2013

We Remember Ashley Morin

March 24, 1987 – Date Missing July 10, 2018



Many families have stressed that the National Inquiry's work must go on so all voices can be heard and to allow the Inquiry to complete the necessary work.

Pictured is **Ashley Morin**
- missing since July 10, 2018.

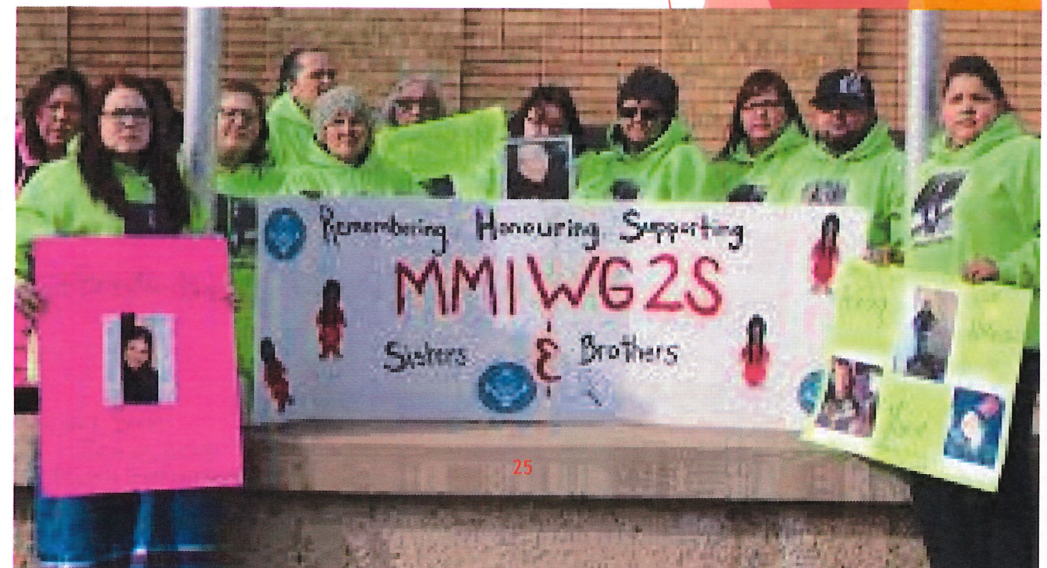


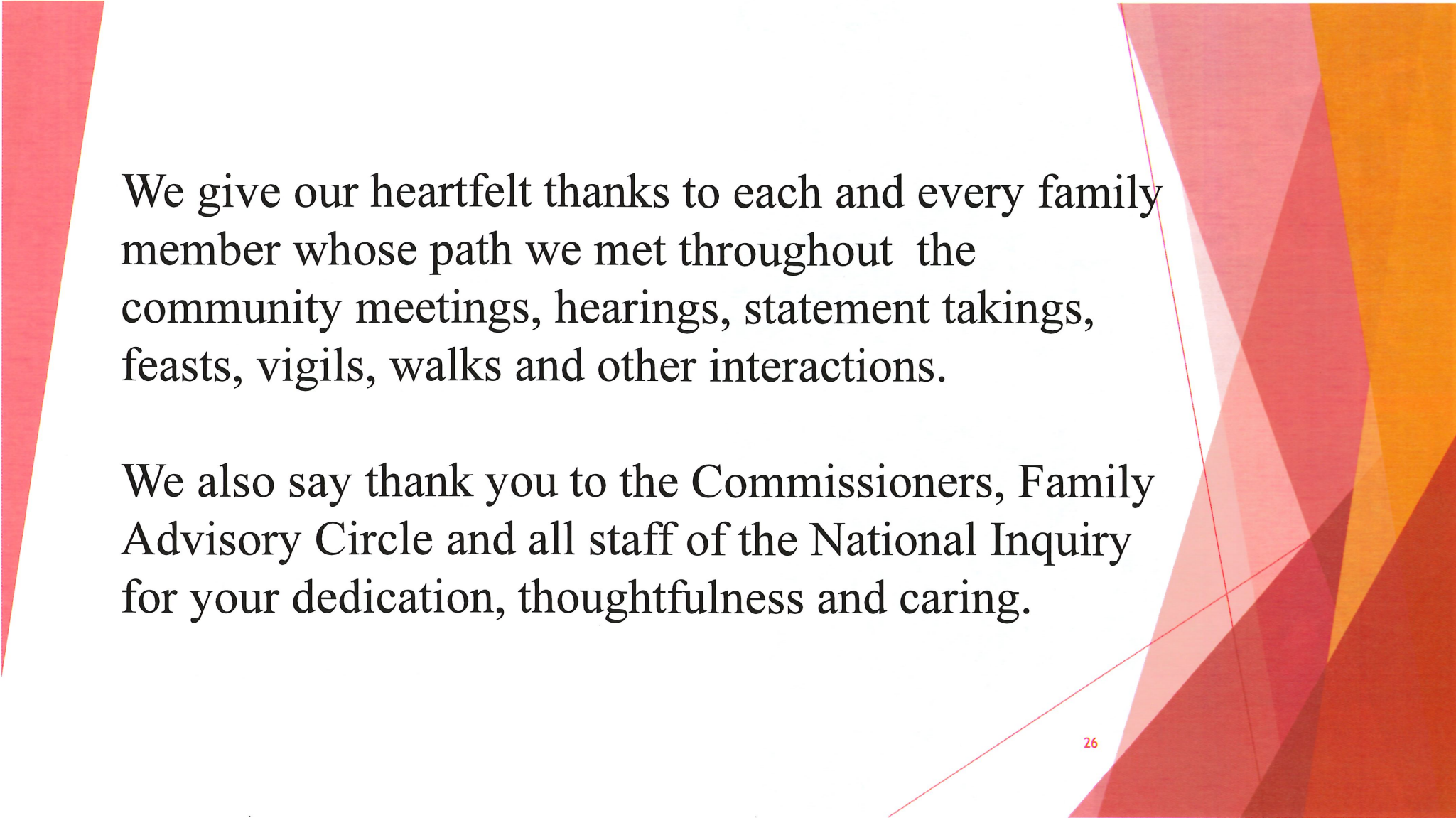
Continued action is essential.

Remembering
Honouring
Supporting

The family of Ashley Morin takes to the streets and community centers to raise awareness through walks and vigils to bring attention to their missing daughter.

#BringAshHome





We give our heartfelt thanks to each and every family member whose path we met throughout the community meetings, hearings, statement takings, feasts, vigils, walks and other interactions.

We also say thank you to the Commissioners, Family Advisory Circle and all staff of the National Inquiry for your dedication, thoughtfulness and caring.

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