This webinar is being recorded. The recording and presentation slides will be available this afternoon on the CSG Midwest website at www.csgmidwest.org

To reduce noise on the phone line, please mute your audio during the presentations.

Click on “raise hand” or
Type questions using the chat feature.
Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives
Friday, February 11, 2022 | 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CST

Hosted by the
Midwestern Legislative Conference (MLC) Midwest-Canada Relations Committee
WELCOME

MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS RELATIVES

Crisis Support Lines

Based in Canada

Manitoba
Klinic Crisis Line: (204) 786-8686 or (888) 322-3019

National
National Inquiry into MMIWG Support Line:
(844) 413-6649

Based in the United States

Minnesota
NAMI Minnesota: **CRISIS (**274747)
Strong Hearts Native Help Line: (844) 762-8483

National
NAMI: (800) 950-NAMI (6264)
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**OR**

Type questions using the **chat** feature.
MLC MIDWEST-CANADA RELATIONS COMMITTEE

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Ohio
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Michigan
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MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS RELATIVES

HOST/MODERATOR

Sen. Mary Kunesh
Minnesota
Chair of Minnesota Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Task Force
sen.mary.kunesh@senate.mn
Today’s webinar will include:

- An explanation of how crimes of murder, violence, and disappearances disproportionately impact Indigenous people, especially women and girls.

- Possible solutions on how to respond to the systemic causes of violence, collect and report data, address institutional policies and practices, reduce and eliminate violence, and help Indigenous victims/survivors, families and communities prevent and heal from violence.

- Presentations by two co-authors of the Minnesota Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Task Force.

- Presentations by a Manitoba-based Indigenous community organization and a Manitoban government representative.

- Questions, answers, and discussion among participants.
MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS RELATIVES

PRESENTERS

Nicole MartinRogers
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Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women’s Task Force, Minnesota

MLC MW-Canada Relations Committee
Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives
February 11, 2022

Sen. Mary Kunesh, MN Legislature
Nicole MartinRogers, Wilder Research
Nicole Matthews, MN Indian Women’s Sexual Assault Coalition
CSG Midwest Legislative Conference

Focusing on meeting the needs of state policymakers and leaders in the nation’s heartland

11 Midwestern US states & Canadian provinces:

- Illinois (12)
- Indiana (2)
- Iowa (2)
- Kansas (4)
- Michigan (12)
- Minnesota (11)
- Nebraska (6)
- North Dakota (4)
- Ohio (0)
- South Dakota (9)
- Wisconsin (11)
- Alberta
- Manitoba
- Ontario
- Saskatchewan
Agenda

• Background and context for MMIW Task Force
• What the Minnesota MMIW Task Force did
• Key findings
• Mandates and next steps
• What can you do
• Questions
Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind
Spirit Lake Nation

MISSING
SAVANNA LAFONTAINE-GREYWIND

8 MONTHS PREGNANT
Age: 22
Height: 5’4”
Hair: Black
Eyes: Green

Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind was last seen at her apartment in the 2000 block of 9th St. N. in North Fargo, ND on Saturday August 19, 2017 between 1:30 and 2:00pm. She went to a neighbor's apartment to model a dress and never returned home. She was having a texting conversation with her boyfriend and she stopped responding. Savanna is 8 months pregnant. She is without her car and wallet.

OurMissingHearts@Gmail.com
What is the MMIW injustice?

Although American Indian women and girls make up just 1% of the state’s population, from 2010 through 2018, 8% of all murdered women and girls in Minnesota were American Indian.

From 27 to 54 American Indian women and girls in Minnesota were missing in any given month from 2012 to 2020.
Tribal nations that share geography with MN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public Law 280 Tribes</th>
<th>Tribes exempt from Public Law 280</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fond du Lac</td>
<td>Red Lake</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Portage</td>
<td>Bois Forte</td>
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<td>Leech Lake</td>
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<td>Mille Lacs</td>
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<td>White Earth</td>
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<td>Upper Sioux</td>
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<td>Prairie Island</td>
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<td>Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux</td>
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Source: Tribal Law and Policy Institute, n.d. b
Requirements of MMIW Task Force

• **Examine systemic causes** behind violence that Indigenous women and girls experience

• **Examine appropriate methods for tracking and collecting data** on violence against Indigenous women and girls

• **Report on policies and institutions** such as policing, child welfare, coroner practices, and other governmental practices that **impact violence against Indigenous women and girls** and the investigation and prosecution of crimes of gender violence against Indigenous people
Requirements of MMIW Task Force

• Report on measures necessary to address and reduce violence against Indigenous women and girls

• Examine measures to help victims, victims’ families, and victims’ communities prevent and heal from violence
MN MMIW Task Force members

4 legislators
11 Tribal members
MN BCA
MN Sheriffs’ Assoc.
US Attorney’s Office
MN 2nd Judicial Court
MN County Attorney’s Assoc.
MDH Epidemiologist
Mending the Sacred Hoop
Life House
Women’s Foundation of Minnesota
MN Indian Women’s Sexual Assault Coalition
MN Indian Women’s Resource Center
Author and researchers
Community members
What the MMIW Task Force did

• In-person and virtual Task Force meetings including expert presenters and public comment sessions
• Literature review of research and articles about the MMIW injustice and sub-parts of the issue from across Turtle Island
• Interviews with 32 experts
What the MMIW Task Force did (cont.)

• Review state data about the issue
  › Child welfare (DHS)
  › Deaths and human trafficking (MDH)
  › Missing persons and crimes (BCA)

• Deliberate to brainstorm and refine mandates (recommendations)
Key findings: Root causes

- Colonization and historical trauma
- Racism
- Sexism and sexual objectification of Indigenous women and girls
- Sport mascots
Key findings: Systemic risk factors

- **Systemic risk factors** (NOT “bad lifestyle choices”) increase risk of violence and abuse for Indigenous women and girls:
  - Poverty and lack of housing
  - Involvement in the child welfare system and the criminal justice system
  - Being a victim of domestic violence
  - Being involved in prostitution and trafficking
Key findings: Seeking justice

• Once an Indigenous woman or girl goes missing or dies under suspicious circumstances, the investigation, prosecution, and sentencing processes that are supposed to serve justice often fail to provide equal and fair treatment for these Indigenous victims.
Key findings: Prevention and healing

• The system does not have adequate **culturally responsive healing resources** for Indigenous victims/survivors, families, and communities.
Mandates

1. Create an **MMIW Office** to provide ongoing attention to and leadership for this issue.
2. Ensure adequate **funding and resources** to implement these recommendations.
3. Address **systemic racism**.
4. Focus on **eliminating poverty and meeting basic needs**.
5. Produce an **annual MMIW report and dashboard** to provide an overview of the MMIW injustice and track changes over time.
6. Ensure state and federal technical assistance and support is provided so tribes have access to and can fully participate in all relevant **data systems**.
Mandates, cont.

7. Support tribes to **exercise their sovereignty and increase their jurisdictional authority** to investigate, prosecute, and sentence perpetrators of violence against Indigenous women and girls.

8. Advocate for the U.S. Congress to **pass the 2020 Violence Against Women Act**.

9. **Expand Minnesota’s Safe Harbor law** to all trafficking victims (not just those age 24 and younger).

10. Increase **personnel and state resources** dedicated to addressing the MMIW injustice.

11. Provide more training and resources, especially in Indian Country and greater Minnesota, to **conduct effective investigations of MMIW-related cases**.

12. Ensure that all MMIW-related **deaths receive an autopsy and are investigated** by a coroner or medical examiner.

13. Strengthen the **trauma-informed and victim-centered response** of law enforcement, courts, and the health care system to Indigenous sexual assault, trafficking, and violence survivors.

14. Address the harm that the **child welfare system** has done to Indigenous families and communities.
Mandates, cont.

15. Provide age appropriate, culturally responsive, trauma-informed education on healthy relationships and consent to all students in Minnesota’s K-12 schools.

16. Increase awareness of MMIW issues and specific MMIW cases among the general public.

17. Prevent and reduce the harms of trafficking, sexual exploitation, and normalized violence for Indigenous women and girls who are at the most risk of becoming MMIW.

18. Require sex trafficking awareness training and targeted prevention to Indian Country, areas where extractive industries such as oil and mining camps are located, and casinos and hotels.

19. Ensure that initiatives and decisions related to the MMIW injustice are informed by Indigenous women and girls, especially those who have lived experiences with violence and exploitation.

20. Promote healing of perpetrators, survivors, relatives, and communities by supporting culturally responsive, community-led efforts.
One year later and ongoing work

- MMIW Task Force continuation
- Secured funding for MMIR Office from MN Legislature
  - Hire ED, 3 staff
  - Develop implementation action plan
- MN Dept. of Health – psychological autopsies
- Ongoing efforts to raise awareness of the MMIW injustice
- Established MMAAW Task Force (Missing and Murdered African American)
Take Action – The Personal Approach

Learn more about tribal, state, and local programs and services that support survivors of sexual assault, rape, and violence and/or work to address MMIW cases.

Amplify Native voices and information about the MMIW crisis on social media.

Talk to friends, family, coworkers, and community members about the crisis, and help dismantle myths, misconceptions, and stereotypes about Indigenous peoples.

Acknowledge the land you reside on—what tribal nations originally inhabited your area?
Take Action – The Political Approach

**Operation Lady Justice**: President Trump established this task force in November 2019 to address the MMIW crisis.

**Status**: Flawed, underfunded, and facing several coordination and logistical issues.

**Studying the Missing and Murdered Indian Crisis Act**: A bill directing the head of the Government Accountability Office to submit a report on law enforcement agencies’ response to reports of missing or murdered Native peoples.

**Status**: Held in Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

**National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls**: A Senate resolution to formally designate May 5th as the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls.

**Status**: Passed in 2019 with unanimous
Take Action – The Political Approach

**Savanna’s Act**: Named in honor of Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, a Native woman kidnapped and murdered in North Dakota in 2017. This bill directs the Department of Justice to review, revise, and develop law enforcement and justice protocols to address the MMIW crisis and close data collection gaps. **Status**: Approved by the President

**Not Invisible Act**: Led by four Native American members of Congress this bill would establish an advisory committee on violent crime comprised of law enforcement, tribal leaders, federal partners, and survivors to make recommendations to the DOI and DOJ. It would also introduce a position in the BIA charged with coordinating these efforts across agencies. **Status**: Held in the House

**Justice for Native Survivors of Sexual Violence Act**: An amendment to the Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968 that would extend tribal jurisdiction to cases involving sexual violence, trafficking, and stalking. **Status**: Held at the Committee on Indian Affairs.
Take Action – The Political Approach

Support relevant legislation

- **Violence Against Women Act (VAWA):** creates and supports comprehensive, cost-effective responses to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking. Since its enactment, VAWA programs, administered by the U.S. Departments of Justice (DOJ) and Health and Human Services (HHS), have dramatically improved federal, tribal, state, and local responses to these crimes. **Status:** Waiting for reauthorization

- **Enforce ICWA:** provides guidance to States regarding the handling of child abuse and neglect and adoption cases involving Native children and sets minimum standards for the handling of these cases.
Chi’Miigwech! Wopila tanka! Thank you!

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MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS RELATIVES

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Manitoba Actions to Address MMIWG2S+
Manitoba’s Commitment

• Indigenous women, girls, and 2S+ individuals continue to be disproportionately affected by gender-based violence.

• Addressing this violence and the incidences of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and the 2S+ community remains a priority for Manitoba.

• We acknowledge and honour the women, girls, families and communities who have lost loved ones to this international tragedy and who have been taken from us far too soon.
• On December 8, 2015 the federal government of Canada announced the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG)

• On August 24, 2016, Manitoba joined other provinces and territories in participating in the inquiry.

• On December 6, 2018, new Gender-Based Violence Cabinet Committee.

• The purpose of the committee is to help integrate services and take a government-wide approach to coordinate initiatives, policies, and legislation on gender-based violence related issues.
Background


• The Final Report lists 231 Individual Calls for Justice in four areas, including:
  – Calls for Justice for All Governments
    Calls for Justice for Industries, Institutions, Services and Partnerships
  – Calls for Justice for All Canadians
  – Calls for Justice specific to Inuit, Métis, and 2SLGBTQQIA+
Background

• Indigenous Reconciliation and Northern Relations sought a mandate from the Gender-Based Violence Committee of Cabinet (GBVCC) to engage with Indigenous organizations and other stakeholders on their priorities (February 2020).

• Manitoba is working to develop a concrete and effective response to the National Inquiry that builds on work that is underway at the community-level and aligns with the main pillars of Manitoba's Framework for Addressing Gender-Based Violence.
Manitoba is pursuing a wide variety of more immediate activities that align with the Calls for Justice and support efforts to end violence against Indigenous women and girls:

- October 4th as Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Honoring and Awareness Day;

- Providing $6.4 million to 24 community organizations to deliver programs that address the diverse needs of victims, including $850,000 for agencies that support survivors of sexual violence in April 2021;
MMIWG2S+ Actions

• Working with Indigenous leadership, police agencies and other partners to more fully incorporate the use of restorative justice options where appropriate;

• In 2019 through ongoing partnerships with Indigenous community members and Elders, was the introduced the Eagle Feathers for use in Manitoba Court rooms;

• A smudging room is now provided for victims and families, as well as cultural and ceremonial healing through the Compensation for Victims of Crime program;
MMIWG2S+ Actions

• Continuing work with the Clan Mothers to enhance accessibility of land-based teachings for Indigenous youth who are at high risk of sexual exploitation; includes recent funding commitment- of an additional $3M to further support the Clan Mothers.

• Developing a Manitoba Post-Secondary Sexual Violence Policy Guide to assist post-secondary institutions in creating safe campuses through policies, engagement with students, training and initiatives;

• Invested $5 million in supports for people experiencing homelessness as part of the COVID-19 response;
MMIWG2S+ Actions

• Supporting various community and family-led vigils, healing gatherings and events.

• Amendments to Manitoba’s Path to Reconciliation Act that would establish the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry as a key component of the government’s approach to advancing truth and reconciliation.

For more information visit:
https://www.gpv.mb.ca/inr/mmiwg/index.html
Thank you/Miigwech.
MMIWG2S+-National Inquiry

MMIWG2S+ National Inquiry Final Report: June 3, 2019

Concluded, human rights and Indigenous rights abuses and violations committed and condoned by the Canadian state represent genocide against Indigenous women and girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people.

• 231 Calls for Justice for transformative legal and social changes
• 4-Pathways to end this genocide
• 7-Principles for Change are critical and interconnected elements required for co-development

❖ Honoured the voices of MMIWG2S+ Families and Survivors
❖ Also engaged experts, systems such police, child welfare, etc..
❖ https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/
Call for Justice 1.1 – National Action Plan
June 2020 | Co-Chaired Federal/Provincial | Finished June 2021
https://mmiwg2splus-nationalactionplan.ca/

The Core Working Group is co-chaired by:

**Federal Co-Chair:** Gina Wilson, Deputy Minister, Diversity and Inclusion and Youth and Senior Associate Deputy Minister, Canadian Heritage, Government of Canada

**Provincial/Territorial Co-Chair:** Valerie Royle, Deputy Minister, Women’s Directorate; Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture; Deputy Minister, French Languages Services Directorate, Government of Yukon
MMIWG2S+ NATIONAL ACTION PLAN
URBAN Sub Working Group

NAP: Urban Path to Reclaiming Power and Place, Regardless of Residency

- Urban Reality and Urban Definition
- Co-development and Co-Management
- Urban Pathway to End Violence
  - 8-Pathways and 44-actions
    - National Urban Indigenous Strategy
    - Grassroots solutions rooted in culture and prevention-based approaches
    - Accountability and Co-development
    - Intra-and-inter-governmental coordination and collaboration

- Urban Implementation Plan
  - Urban Reality: is to ensure the Urban voice and place in solutions.
  - Responsibilities and Accountabilities: this is the Urban Indigenous responsibility to ending violence through measured goals and monitoring impacts while ensuring accountability for all governments.
  - Co-development, coordination and collaboration: this emphasizes "nothing about us without us" and builds on the fact that we are stronger when we work together.

Leadership and engagement of MMIWG2S+ Families and Survivors

Indigenous governments: First Nation, Metis and Inuit

Urban Indigenous-led organizations and sister organizations

Many local grassroots networks, coalitions and MMIWG2S+ Families and Survivors groups organized

MMIWG2S+ mandate by the Province of Manitoba

Indigenous Relations Division – City of Winnipeg and Indigenous Accord with MMIWG2S+

Many examples of partnerships between Province, Federal and Municipal governments with community-based organizations.

Several Education and Awareness Days throughout the year.
Questions? Comments?

“Raise your hand” and unmute your audio

-OR-

Type your question/comment in the chat
Thank you for joining us today!

Visit the CSG Midwest website for a recording of this webinar

https://csgmidwest.org/policies/midwest-canada-relations/