

Support Sisters in Spirit to continue their groundbreaking work!

Last week the federal government released details of its announced \$10 million, which included money for the RCMP and for some community projects and services.

At the time of the announcement, the government acknowledged that it was acting as a result of the enormous work undertaken by the Sisters in Spirit campaign, which had documented the disappearance and murder of almost 600 Aboriginal women and the lack of serious investigation into or prosecution of these crimes.

While NWAC endorsed the announcement of the \$10 million, it has also expressed a number of serious concerns, outlined here:

“There are several key elements the NWAC believes need to be addressed by the government in moving forward:

- The details in the announcement are not specific to Aboriginal women.
- They do not include measures to address serious crimes like murder and speak
- only to violence as a whole.
- Reinvents and conducts work that has already been done by Sisters In Spirit.
- Does not address jurisdictional issues of the RCMP.
- Allows any community groups in the Western provinces (BC, AB, SK, MB and
- excludes all other provinces and territories) to access funding; not necessarily
- Aboriginal-specific, or women-specific.”

The full press release and outline of these concerns is on the NWAC website at: [NWAC responds to \\$10M announcement from the Department of Justice Canada](#)

NWAC has also outlined keys areas for action by the government to address concerns, including:

- Establish a new and transparent partnership with NWAC.
- Create a fund made available to families and communities of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls in accordance with our plan of action.
- Consult with NWAC on funding priorities and allocations for the issue of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls.
- Continue the policy and research activities with NWAC while the RCMP establish their information centers and databases in collaboration with NWAC.
- Confirm governments ongoing support to the Sisters in Spirit movement and the Native Women’s Association of Canada.
- Provide resources to address the root cause of violence.

Sisters in Spirit will not receive further funds for research and advocacy

The Sisters in Spirit campaign research and advocacy functions have not been earmarked for further funding. Although the Status of Women is negotiating to provide further funding to NWAC projects, it does not fund research and advocacy work, including ongoing research into murdered and missing Aboriginal women.

NWAC has provided additional clarification on the continuation of the Sisters in Spirit work with families of missing and murdered women concerned about the future of the project. The Sisters in Spirit work will continue.

[Letter to families of murdered and missing Aboriginal women re: Sisters in Spirit](#)

Here's what you can do to support the steps recommended to government by NWAC:

- Read all of the attached information and more on the NWAC website.
- Write to the following government contacts to support NWAC list of recommendations and to oppose the inadequate funding and lack of funding for future Sisters in Spirit research and advocacy work needed to monitor and keep pressure on government to dedicate serious resources to this work. Click on the name for detailed contact information:

[Harper, Stephen \(Right Hon.\)](#), Prime Minister of Canada: Harper.S@parl.gc.ca

[Michaë Ignatieff \(Hon.\)](#), Leader of the Liberal Party: Ignatieff.M@parl.gc.ca

[Gilles Duceppe](#), Leader of the Bloc Québécois: Duceppe.G@parl.gc.ca

[Jack Layton \(Hon.\)](#), Leader New Democratic Party: Layton.J@parl.gc.ca

[Rona Ambrose \(Hon.\)](#), Minister for Status of Women: Ambrose.R@parl.gc.ca

[Nicole Demers](#), Bloc Québécois, Critic, Status of Women: Demers.N@parl.gc.ca

[Anita Neville](#), Liberal Party of Canada, Critic, Status of Women: Neville.A@parl.gc.ca

[Irene Mathyssen](#), New Democratic Party, Critic, Status of Women: Mathyssen.I@parl.gc.ca

[John Duncan \(Hon.\)](#), Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development: Duncan.J@parl.gc.ca

[Jean Crowder](#), NDP Critic, Indian Affairs and Northern Development: CrowdJ@parl.gc.ca

[Todd Russell](#), Liberal Party Critic, Indian Affairs and Northern Development: Russell.T@parl.gc.ca

[Marc Lemay](#), Bloc Québécois, Critic, Indian Affairs and Northern Development: Lemay.M@parl.gc.ca

- Write a letter to your local paper outlining your concerns about the continuing murder and disappearance of Aboriginal women and the slow and inadequate responses of Canada to their loss.
- Call, email or (even better) visit your local MP's office to discuss your concerns and ask what your own local representative is doing on the issues. You can find your MP through the "Find your representative" section on our Action page.
- Inform and organize others in your community (women's groups, community agencies, faith groups, etc.) to act together in solidarity with Aboriginal women to demand government accountability and responsibility to address the loss of Aboriginal women and children across Canada.