

During the Song Sharing *Singing For Our Stolen Sisters*, we will honour Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People, and hold space for the realities of their individual and collective experiences.

MISSING & MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN, GIRLS, & TWO-SPIRIT PEOPLE

The United Nations defines violence against women as gender-based violence that can result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering. Violence can happen in all cultures, religions and communities, but due to Canada's history of colonization, Indigenous women face higher rates of violence than non-Indigenous women. Once held in high regard as leaders and givers of life, Indigenous women are now devalued because of their race and gender. This has led to disproportionately higher rates of experienced violence, spousal assault, family violence and sexual assault towards Indigenous women, girls and gender-diverse people.

- In 2019, more than 2380 people participated in the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, some in more ways than one.
- The National Inquiry's findings supported characterizing acts against Indigenous people, including violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people as genocide.
- The National Inquiry found that Canada's "assimilationist and genocidal government laws" against Indigenous people lead to high rates of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and LGBTQ2S+ people.
- Violence against Indigenous women and girls is systemic and a national crisis that requires urgent, informed and collaborative action.
- Indigenous women make up 16% of all female homicide victims, and 11% of missing women, even though Indigenous people make up 4.3% of the population of Canada.
- Researchers have reported that Indigenous women and girls are 12 times more likely to be murdered or missing than other women in Canada, and 16 times more likely than Caucasian women.
- Indigenous women are sexually assaulted three times more often than non-Indigenous women, and most of the women and children trafficked in Canada are Indigenous.
- In one Ontario study researchers found that 73% of gender-diverse and two-spirited
- Indigenous people experienced some form of violence, with 43% having experienced physical and/or sexual violence.

FACTS TAKEN FROM:

Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
Canada, Public Safety Canada, National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking
Native Women's Association of Canada, MMIWG & Violence Prevention

TEXT PROVIDED BY DEANTHA EDMUNDS

Legacy

Solo, SAB, string quartet, oboe

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Deantha Edmunds

arr. Leslee Heys

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I feel you walk-ing with me I hear your voice on the breeze I know that

I feel you walk-ing with me I hear your voice on the breeze And I know that

I feel you walk-ing with me I hear your voice on the breeze I know that

I feel you walk-ing with me I hear your voice on the breeze I know that

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you more than a me-mo-ry, A-live like the wind fly-ing

you will al-ways be more than a me-mo-ry, A-live like the wind fly-ing

you will al-ways be more than a me-mo-ry, A-live like the wind fly-ing

you will al-ways be more than a me-mo-ry, A-live like the wind fly-ing

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free.

free. At-su-nain gi-la-gut

free.

free.