



**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council**



**Community Life Chair
Communique#2
DATE November 21, 2019**

TO: Diocesan Chairpersons
CC: Provincial Executive
CC: National Chairperson of Community Life
FROM: Theresa Hickey Provincial Chairperson of Community Life

We (The Catholic Women's League of ABMK) felt strong and sad at the same time when we experienced a young woman named Sylvia barging into our Provincial Convention in June, marched her way up to microphone and shouted "WHAT ABOUT ME"? "WHAT ABOUT MY PEOPLE"? We were silent and scared at the same time. A sense of calm came over the gathering place as one member began praying the rosary, everyone joined in prayer. God sent us this beautiful Aboriginal young lady to remind us that we need to take action to understand their pain and be part of the healing process in both cultures.

To do this we have to be educated on our current reality.

Edmonton is home to 61,765 Aboriginal people, Calgary home to 33,375. Alberta has over 118,000 First Nations people living in Alberta.

The Northwest Territories released data on the Indigenous people from the 2016 Census (November 2, 2017 Statistics Canada report) with the following information:

- Did you know that in the Northwest Territories there are 20,860 Indigenous people accounting for 50.7% of the total NWT population
- The NWT had the second highest proportion of Indigenous persons after Nunavut (85.9%)
- There are three Categories of Indigenous people: Inuit, Metis and First Nations.

A document, UNDRIP (United Nations Declaration of Rights of Indigenous People) talks about the rights of the indigenous people can be found at

<https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1309374407406/1309374458958>

or

<https://www.canada.ca/en/crown-indigenous-relations-northern-affairs.html>

It is important for us to understand what is happening in the world for all indigenous people.

A Catholic Response to Call to Action 48 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission by CCCB can be found at <http://www.cccb.ca/>. This should guide our thinking.

The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women epidemic is an issue currently affecting people in Canada and the United States. In Alberta alone there are 93 cases of missing and murdered aboriginal women and girls. On October 04, 2019, Albertans gathered together in Calgary, to call attention to the crisis affecting our country. This site will help find statistics

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Missing_and_murdered_Indigenous_women

A site to help us understand why it is important to protect the rights of Indigenous people is found at <https://rightforeducation.org>

Theresa Hickey
ABMK Community Life Chair