

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.  
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cc: Annie Bernard-Daisley (President, Nova Scotia Native Women's Association), [president@nsnwa.net](mailto:president@nsnwa.net)

12 November 2020

## **MSVUFA Letter of Concern Regarding Delay in National Action Plan on MMIWG**

Dear Prime Minister Justin Trudeau,

I am writing to express the Mount Saint Vincent University Faculty Association's deep concern for the continued delays in addressing the recommendations listed in the final report of the National Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls. I am also writing to stand up for the justice that is owed to every single murdered and missing Indigenous woman, girl, and 2SLGBTQIA+ person.

At Mount Saint Vincent University (MSVU), our core mission is the advancement of women and social justice, and the MSVU Faculty Association is committed to these principles. The National Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls officially began 1 September 2016, now more than four years ago. Indigenous Peoples, and all Canadians, have been waiting to see meaningful and substantial changes to address the national crisis we are facing. On 3 June 2019, the National Report was published, identifying 231 recommendations and "reveal[ing] that persistent and deliberate human and Indigenous rights violations and abuses are the root cause behind Canada's staggering rates of violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA people. The two volume report calls for transformative legal and social changes to resolve the crisis that has devastated Indigenous communities across the country" (<https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/final-report/>). With the National Inquiry officially ending 30 June 2019, the country still awaits a National Action

Plan, which was expected in June 2020. A stated reason for the delay in the National Action Plan is the unprecedented public health challenge of COVID-19. However, in light of how the pandemic has exacerbated violence against women, a MMIWG National Action Plan is more urgent than ever and should not now be delayed.

While I acknowledge that there have been “[a]ctions taken by the Government of Canada since the launch of the inquiry,” as stated on the Government of Canada’s website, many of these actions were taken prior to the publication of the recommendations, others do not specifically address Indigenous women and girls, and some items make only general references to work being undertaken to address MMIWG (<https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1559566331686/1559566355192>). Concrete and specific responses to the 231 calls for justice in the National Inquiry’s report are urgently needed.

Thus, we urge you, Prime Minister Trudeau, and the federal government to address the injustice outlined in the National Inquiry’s report and to oppose and dismantle systemic racism. Every day that action is delayed entails an exacerbation of injustice and a failure of the government to Indigenous Peoples and all Canadians.

Sincerely,

Dr. Diane Piccitto (she/her)  
President, Mount Saint Vincent University Faculty Association (MSVUFA)  
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*MSVU is in K’jipuktuk, part of Mi’kma’ki, the unceded and ancestral territory of the Mi’kmaq*