Annotated Bibliography
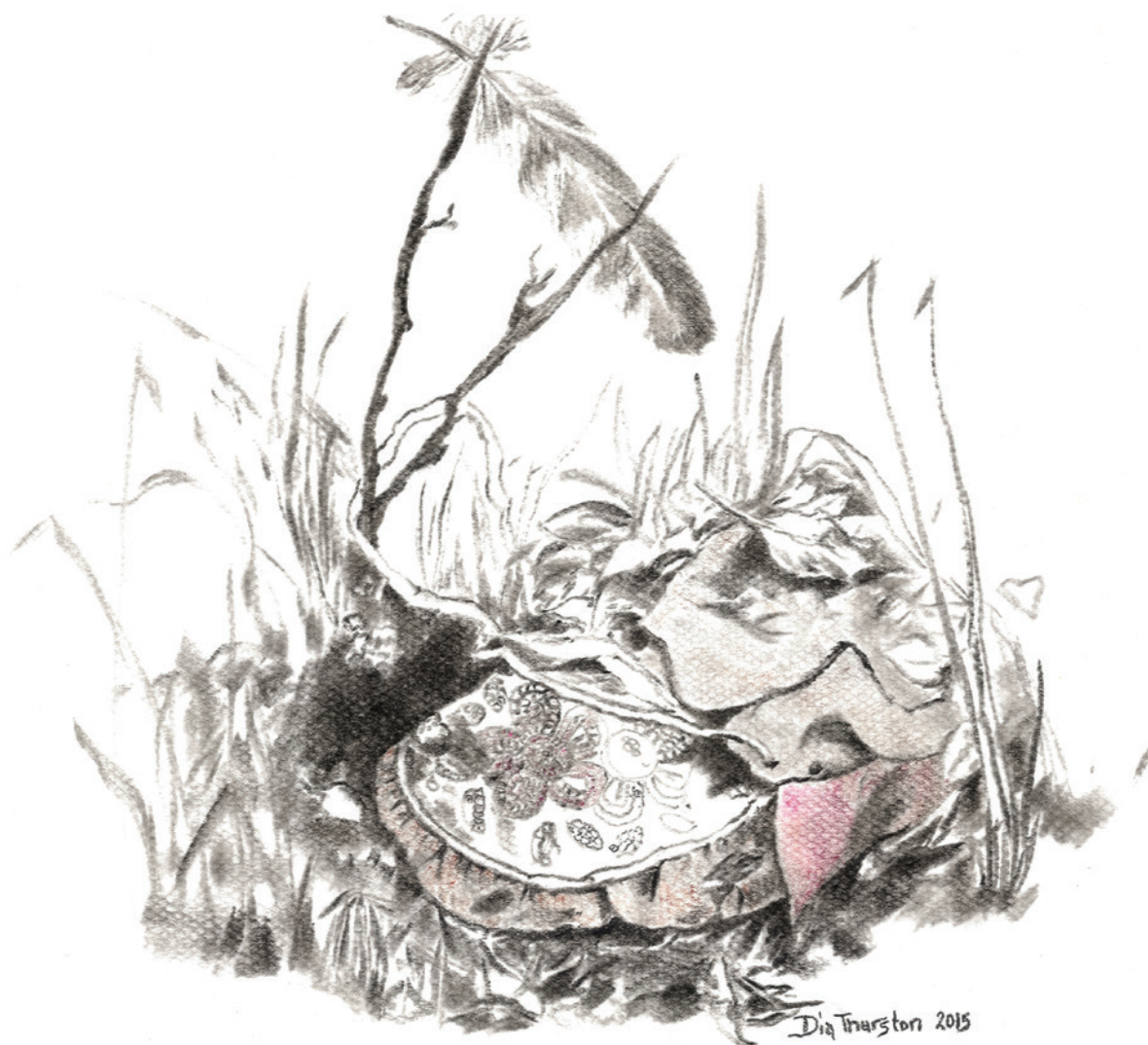
Alberta Justice and Solicitor General Victim Services
Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women's Initiative

Dia Thurston 2015

Canada

Alberta

About the Artist

Dia Thurston is a Dene Tha commercial artist from Chateh Alberta. Dia has many years of experience in working with people. She offered to render this charcoal and pastel drawing because the issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous women is close to her heart and she wants to ensure that Indigenous people don't continue to be marginalized.

Acknowledgements

This report is dedicated to the family members of Indigenous women and girls in Alberta who have a loved one missing, or have lost a loved one to homicide.

These women and girls were daughters, mothers, sisters, aunts, nieces, friends, grandmothers and granddaughters. Each one was loved and each one will be remembered.

It is important to acknowledge the significant contributions made by the families and communities of missing and murdered Aboriginal women. We are deeply grateful for the time, wisdom and experiences that were shared. They contributed greatly to our collective knowledge and understanding of this issue and their contributions identified where changes are needed to ensure that Indigenous women and girls will not continue to be over-represented among those missing and murdered.

Over and above the pain that was shared were strong expressions of optimism and hope. Families and communities spoke passionately about what was important to them. They expressed a belief that life could be better – that over time systemic changes could be made to ensure that other women and girls did not experience the same fate as their loved ones. Through this collective expression of hope, families and communities came together and demonstrated their commitment to lasting change.

We would also like to acknowledge the contributions of the numerous individuals, service providers, police and stakeholder groups who gave their time and expertise as a display of their concern and commitment to finding solutions to this issue.

The work of the Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women's Initiative demonstrates the Government of Alberta's determination to ensure there will be meaningful change in the lives of Indigenous women and girls through ensuring there is a consistent, culturally safe victim services response to families of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

A final thank you goes to the Government of Canada for their generous support of this initiative.

Alberta Justice and Solicitor General

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Introduction

This annotated bibliography reviews the findings of 65 major studies, surveys, conference proceedings, inquiries and reports. These documents evaluate research and findings published between 2003 to 2013, and focus on the Indigenous[1] women who have gone missing or who have been murdered in Canada, and the violence associated with these events. The goal of this work is to demonstrate the abundance of research in this area and to highlight recurring themes found in the literature.

Almost consistently, the research begins with a contextual historical background component on the issue of violence against Aboriginal women and girls. The research presents statistical and qualitative descriptions on how a number of historical, socio-economic and legal realities have come together to generate the conditions that allow for the persistence of violence against Aboriginal women and girls. The documents repeatedly discuss and highlight: colonialism; residential schools; sex-trade; policing and enforcement; shelters and preventative measures; risk factors; impacts; root causes; criminal justice system limitations, lack of accountability and transparency; trans generational issues; child welfare; poverty; education; and racism. All of these components weave together to form a complex issue.

The root causes and the socio-economic environments in which these women and children find themselves in - and that perpetuate the violence - are well documented.

Some of the studies have reviewed decades of research and findings on this issue. Many of the same themes, issues and actions were identified long ago.

The number of studies and inquiries that present a large amount of qualitative research, interviews, focus groups and the input into these studies is outstanding. This work shares the perspectives and opinions about how Aboriginal women and the families have been impacted. There are also important perspectives of key informants or those that work closely with the issue, including those working in social services, shelters, policing, health, child welfare, and the judicial system.

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[1] Note that the initiative's title uses the term "Aboriginal," however throughout the report the more current term "Indigenous" is used. The United Nations defines Indigenous Peoples as "peoples and nations are those which, having a historical continuity with pre-invasion and pre-colonial societies that developed on their territories, consider themselves distinct from other sectors of the societies now prevailing on those territories, or parts of them." This term is now more commonly in favour, but is used synonymously with **Aboriginal**.

Further action is required to address the violence against Aboriginal women and girls in Canada. This action is substantiated by the new research findings, the actions taken, the inquiries, the projects underway, the initiatives addressing the issue, the strategies and recommendations put forth across the research documents.

Calls for action have been repeatedly heard, written, documented, and requested from international, national, provincial, jurisdictional, sector-based and community levels and from Aboriginal people themselves.

The recommendations set out in each report are similar throughout each research document, which have been produced by different organizations and people from varying perspectives. Further analysis of this issue could include a comparison of the exact recommendations stated across all documents with a corresponding action chart to see what has been addressed and what has not.

Other key components of the documents found in this annotated bibliography include:

- Extensive reviews at the provincial and national levels – including actions, summits, and commissions.

- Numerous and repetitive recommendations for action at community, provincial, territorial and federal levels, including legislative remedies and collaborative efforts involving all stakeholders.

- Calls for clear police investigation policy and practices.

- Clear presentations of successful projects, best practices and policy development in the area of police investigations.

- Explanations of successful projects and data collection such as the Native Women's Association of Canada's database.

- Recognition of the need to address violence against Aboriginal women and girls – with layered levels of strategies, actions and plans substantiated with existing research and statistics. Some of the documents discuss the action that has been taken, but many more of the documents explain what still needs to be done.

- A call for action from all levels of government, community, within and across sectors. While some action has been taken, research suggests that much more action is required.

Subthemes that emerge across the reports related to missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls, in no particular order are:

- The gaps and strengths of policing/enforcement policy and practices related to addressing cases of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls, such as in the areas of reporting and data collection.

- The continued violence against Aboriginal women and girls.

- The limitations, accountability and transparency issues associated with the justice system.

- The impact of media/social media on the reporting of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and the perpetuation of stereotypes.

- The dichotomy of concerns and challenges of social media related to women's safety, including the benefit of using social media to access women's perspectives and opinions.

- The overview and availability of existing community-based programs.

- The linkages of sex-trade work/prostitution to violence against Aboriginal women and girls.

- The family stories of missing and murdered loved ones and use of storytelling to remember these women and to provide insight into how to address the issue and support family members.

- Strategic plans and frameworks for moving forward.

- The connection of intimate partner violence (IPV) on women and children's health.

- The root causes and circumstances that lead to violence against women.

- The overarching concerns and proposed violations related to human rights for women -specifically for Aboriginal women in Canada.

- Intergenerational issues.

- Health and mental health issues.

- The historical and contemporary relationship of the child welfare system as related to missing and murdered Aboriginal women.

- The impact, role and program and services offered by women's shelters in addressing the issue.

Amnesty International. (September 2009).

No more stolen sisters: The need for a comprehensive response to discrimination and violence against Indigenous women in Canada.

As an update to their 2004 report *Stolen Sisters*, Amnesty International highlights the continuing marginalization and inequality experienced by Indigenous women in five key areas and explains the interrelatedness of these areas:

1. The role of racism and misogyny in perpetuating violence;

2. Disparities in economic, social, political and cultural rights;

3. Disruption of Indigenous societies due to historical removal of children from the communities;

4. Disproportionately high number of Indigenous women in Canadian prisons; and

5. Inadequate police response to violence against Indigenous women illustrated by the handling of missing persons cases.

The report highlights specific reports and cases of missing women and girls across each key area and presents the issue through pictures of the people and vigils held for them. The report concludes with renewed calls to the Government of Canada with the obligation to act and respond to the issue. Key to this issue is not a lack of information or ideas, but a lack of political will. It outlines important recommendations to the Government of Canada to: develop and implement a national plan of action; review social programs to ensure funding for Indigenous women, children and families; restore funding to fulfill the Kelowna Accord to end inequalities in health, housing, education and other services; implement the recommendations of the Canadian Human Rights Commission and UN Human Rights Committee; and publicly commit to implement the standards contained in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People.

Amnesty International. (October 2004).

Stolen sisters: A human rights response to discrimination and violence against Indigenous women in Canada.

This report examines the role of discrimination in acts of violence carried out against Indigenous women in Canadian towns and cities. This research contains a review of published reports and findings of inquests and government inquiries; interviews with survivors of violence and family members of women who are missing or murdered; and the review of nine case studies of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls from Western Canada in towns or cities over a period of three decades. Amnesty International aims to illustrate what Canadian authorities should have done to ensure the safety of these women and girls. This report is limited to cases and information about women in towns and cities and not specific to on-reserve issues. It examines the following factors related to violence against Indigenous women: social and economic marginalization; historical policies that have impacted Indigenous women; the relationship between police and Indigenous people - to provide adequate standards of protection and to enhance communication between the groups without barriers or a fear of mistrust; the vulnerability of Indigenous women which has been exploited by men to carry out acts of extreme brutality; and racism and societal differences to the welfare and safety of Indigenous women that allow perpetrators to escape justice.

The report has a focus on international human rights, reviews the cases and provides reference to research and insight about the issues at hand. It concludes with a platform of six recommendations to the Canadian government for action: acknowledge the seriousness of the problem; support research into the context and causes of violence against Indigenous women; take immediate action to protect women at risk; provide training and resources for police to make prevention violence against Indigenous women a genuine priority; address the social and economic factors that lead to Indigenous women's extreme vulnerability to violence; and end the marginalization of Indigenous women in Canadian society.

AMR Planning and Consulting Inc. (2012).

Protecting Sacred Lives: Urban Aboriginal Youth Domestic Trafficking in Persons Policy Research Report.

Office of the Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians.
*Retrieved from: http://www.firstpeoplesgroup.com/mnsiurban/PDF/women_children_youth_*
families/AMR_Planning_Protecting_Sacred_Lives_%282012%29.pdf

This research study was directed by the Office of the Federal Interlocutor for Metis and Non-Status Indians. The document explores the issue of Aboriginal sexual exploitation and domestic trafficking in persons in Winnipeg. The research includes a literature review, community consultations and interviews with Aboriginal adults who were sexually exploited and/or trafficked domestically as children or youth. The purpose of the study was to understand the current realities of the issue. There was a focus on how it is occurring and the paths for exploitation; the economic benefit to the youth; a description of efforts to prevent youth from becoming exploited; insights on the prevention and reporting; and underreporting of the issue. The descriptive research strategy included an interview questionnaire that contained both open-ended and restricted questions. The research was developed to produce a final report that would have a gendered approach, looking at the different experiences of Aboriginal female, transgendered and male youth in Winnipeg. Sixteen participants were interviewed and detailed characteristics of the respondents are presented. A thorough list of limitations is presented, but this does not detract from the rigour of the approach. It should be noted that the research team was comprised solely of Aboriginal females who collected the information. The detailed research outlines: paths to being exploited; prevalence and type of activity; the costs and consequences of sexual exploitation; transitioning issues and barriers; programing needs and initiatives; and presents a legal and policy context in Manitoba. The overall recommendations from the findings focus on: further research; the need to create prevention-oriented projects; increasing awareness; providing a continuum of services; the need to address gaps in service provision and the system; and making offenders accountable.

Assembly of First Nations. (July 2013).

A national action plan to end violence against Indigenous woman and girls.

This document provides an overview of the proposed National Action Plan. This plan was developed from the Assembly of First Nations Forum in February 2012. The Forum brought together First Nation leaders, citizens, community justice workers, activists and Elders, along with government policy makers and police representatives, to seek input on an action plan. Participants identified a number of critical actions that need to occur within a number of themes including: addressing structural violence and systemic racism; building strong and healthy communities; creating cultural connections and resiliency; strengthening partnerships and awareness; building and coordinating intergovernmental relationships; and establishing accountability. These themes form the foundation for the National Action Plan. The Plan outlines high-level actions for each of the themes in tabular format with areas of focus, associated outcomes and responsibilities. Immediate actions that can be taken are highlighted, including: investing in front-line services and shelters on-reserve and rural areas; creating a coordinated strategy inclusive of service providers and First Nations governments; developing compulsory protocols between and among policy services to share information; developing a resource centre/hub for First Nations communities on prevention, awareness and response materials; and creating a National public awareness and prevention campaign on violence against Indigenous women and girls.

Assembly of First Nations (AFN). (2012).

Coordinated and urgent action to end violence against Indigenous women & girls – towards a national action plan.

This provides an overview of the historical, political and socio-economic context of Indigenous women and girls and the violence that persists against them. It also includes a current status on this issue, and reports that: Indigenous women are five times more likely than other Canadian women to die as a result of violence; the majority of these cases of missing and murdered Aboriginal women remain unsolved; no sustained funding has been identified to address the lack of national, provincial, municipal and First Nations jurisdictional coordination to end the violence; and that there is an acknowledgement of the overrepresentation of Indigenous women

in the correctional system. This report calls for an immediate and sustained action. It identifies that it is the responsibility of all jurisdictions to eliminate the violence against Indigenous women and girls across Canada. The report cites past calls for National Inquiries and AFN resolutions on the issue in 2010, 2011 and 2012. It clearly outlines the specific focus, scope and mandate of what a National Public Commission of Inquiry on Violence Against Women and Girls would do. The AFN calls on the Government of Canada yet again to act immediately and develop a commission.

Boyer, Y., Kampouris, P. (2014).

Trafficking of Aboriginal women and girls.

Prepared for Research and Analysis Division Community Safety and Countering Crime Branch, Prepared for the Department of Public Safety Canada. (ISBN: 978-1-100-23756-5).

This research was conducted for and supported by Public Safety Canada. The purpose was to augment what is currently known about the issue and to present participant views. The report also shares published literature which indicates how historical and complex socio-economic issues have led to creating vulnerability amongst Aboriginal women and girls, and how this can lead to sex trafficking and exploitation. A literature search was completed and interviews were conducted over a five-month period. These were done through a purposive and snowball sampling a total of 76 front-line support agencies, service organizations, subject-matter experts and police agencies. Questions focused on how Aboriginal women and girls are being trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation, and how gangs or kinship relationships contribute to the situation. The study presents contextual historical information outlining how Aboriginal women have become disadvantaged. Open-ended research questions were used and the data was grouped according to geographic region and organizational mandate of the respondents. The sample size used meets the criteria for good qualitative research. Much of the data collected is story-based due to the conversational nature of the interviews. Limitations of the study are clearly outlined with issues around definitions, limiting the issue to women and girls, sampling techniques and the overall sensitivity of the topic. Over 19 major themes were identified along with sub-themes. These included: defining human trafficking; types of living and working conditions; influence of gangs; responsiveness of police services; and health issues.

This study presents a tremendous amount of information and perspective on the issue of human trafficking. It highlights the socio-economic determinants of sex exploitation and trafficking, including factors like: the legacy of physical and sexual abuse; disposition of identity and culture via the *Indian Act*; loss of culture; and low self-esteem. The study specifically identifies that there are different types of family involvement in the recruitment of family into human trafficking. The conclusion is a descriptive summation of the human trafficking process as told by the participants. It includes information about: how it occurs; who is involved; how police involvement and reporting play a role; the need for increased collaboration between agencies; and reviews specific models that have showed success like the HUB model and Nova Scotia`s High Risk Coordinated Protocol Framework. The report outlines all the types of issues that can be coordinated through a national approach. It is a rigorous study that generates new information, not yet identified in the literature, about trafficking of Aboriginal women and girls. It contains a very culturally appropriate data collection methodology for obtaining data from Aboriginal study participants. This report should be revered for its work and contribution to the detailed understanding of the issue.

Byrne, T., and Abbott, W. (February 23, 2011).

Stopping violence against Aboriginal women: summary of root causes, vulnerabilities and recommendations from key literature.

Knowledge and Information Services, Ministry of Citizen's Services.
British Columbia.

This report was written to provide support for the National Aboriginal Women's Conference (NAWC) in 2011. It provides an overview of the root causes and underlying vulnerabilities associated with Aboriginal women and girls' experience of violence; and offers a synthesis of the numerous recommendations reported over the past 15 years. Eighteen reports were chosen by conference organizers to be reviewed. These reports were published between 1996 and 2010, and included provincial and national perspectives. The root causes of colonialism, residential schools, socio-economic exclusion, gender inequity, and racism were identified and deemed consistent across the reports reviewed. The vulnerabilities that can lead to violence against Aboriginal women were discussed as they pertain to family violence and missing and murdered Aboriginal women. Dominating the

reviewed reports is high-level strategic recommendations that are intended for action by governments. These are presented and discussed according to common themes: developing a comprehensive action plan; collaboration and partnerships; funding; gender-equity; cultural revitalization; education and learning; community capacity building and community services; legislation and human rights; and socio-economic status of Aboriginal women.

Each of the recommendations is listed with detailed action required at the federal level and with action that is specific to British Columbia. Additionally, recommendations for prevention, interventions and post-incident strategies are outlined.

Campbell, KM. (2007).

"What was it they lost?" The impact of resource development on family violence in a northern Aboriginal community.

Journal of Ethnicity in Criminal Justice. 5(1): 57-80.

This paper discusses the more recent social and emotional effects of excessive resource development (particularly in isolated communities), which affects Aboriginal people and contributes to family violence. Qualitative interviews were used to collect the perspectives of the professionals in a select Northern Aboriginal community in Canada. These professionals were involved in family violence intervention, and included social service staff, community workers, and police. Snowball sampling was used with a total of only 11 individuals interviewed, which is a limiting factor of the study. Using content analysis to capture and theme the semi-structured interviews, respondents were first asked to define family violence as a context for analysis. The discussion and overall themes that emerged included: family violence as being a silent issue; identifying factors that have an impact on family violence such as displacement, loss of culture and substance abuse; reporting and addressing family violence; patriarchy and that family unity `at all costs` was essential; and a presentation of past, present and future community efforts to address the issue. The author suggests the Critical Race Theory to provide a theoretical framework to understand the findings and the impact that forced relocation has had on the social and economic life of the community. This theory contextualizes the results and helps to explain the endemic nature of the systemic racism that characterizes the relationship

between Aboriginal people and government and the over-representation of violence in many Aboriginal communities. The study identifies that this is a highly complex issue, and demonstrates that the social and emotional impact of resource development continues to resonate in a negative manner even after years of displacement and concludes that change needs to occur at many levels.

Canada. Parliament, House of Commons. Special Committee on Violence Against Indigenous Women. (March 2014).

Invisible women – A call to action: A report on missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada.

41st Parl., 2nd Sess. Ottawa. Retrieved from: http://www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/ Publication.aspx?DocId=6469851&File=5

This report was written through the collection of testimonies from family members, prevention expert and frontline service providers. It focuses on three main themes: violence and its root causes; front-line assistance; and preventing violence against Aboriginal women and girls. The report provides an overview of the identified root causes of violence and builds on other known work. It highlights specific feedback from the witnesses about the legacy of residential schools, poverty and housing, racism and failing systems, and discusses best practice in awareness raising, education and prevention. The report also identifies challenges to protecting victims of violence, the reporting processes, police investigations, and concerns with justice system accountability and transparency. It makes 16 recommendations to address the overarching issue of violence against Aboriginal women and children including: the need for supports for communities and families of victims; public awareness campaigns; investment in public services; and other supports. Also noted is that the committee's recommendations require a partnership based on respect and engagement between all levels of government and First Nations, Metis and Inuit people. There must also be practical, action-oriented solutions to address the issue. Solutions must also be tailored to the unique circumstances of each community, and a concise summation of this point is found on page five of the document.

Canadian Feminist Alliance for International Action. (2010).

No action, no progress: FAFIA's report on Canada's progress in implementing priority recommendations made by the United Nations committee on the elimination of discrimination against women in 2008.

This report from the Feminist Alliance for International Action (FAFIA) resulted from a request to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) to address the Government of Canada's need for immediate action on two issues requiring attention: Canada's persistent failure to provide adequate social assistance to women and girls living in poverty; and the endemic violence against Aboriginal women and girls. FAFIA's 2009 position is that the Government of Canada has not adequately addressed these issues because of the lack of standards and failure of law enforcement. Citing copious statistics and references, the paper calls on the Government to: establish a federal and pan-Canadian strategy for eliminating poverty; establish a transparent monitoring mechanism; conduct an impact assessment of social programs; and establish a national action plan to address violence against Aboriginal women and girls. While taking a derisive tone, the report also offers steps that can be taken to address the issues.

Canadian Feminist Alliance for International Action. (October 2012).

Submission to the United Nations human rights council: on the occasion of the second universal periodic review of Canada.

This report from the Feminist Alliance for International Action (FAFIA) is a submission to the United Nations Human Rights Council. It was written to address Canada's lack of action to implement recommendations made by United Nations treaty bodies over the last 15 years regarding the equality of women. It urges the Human Rights Council to ensure that Canada is held accountable in the upcoming 2013 Upcoming Periodic Review. The document outlines over 60 key points and topics, with 26 detailed points, citing socio-economic and legal statistics, failed commitments, and discrepancies between Aboriginal women and Canadian women in general. It addresses the issues of violence, housing, income inequality, poverty, and legal

and justice problems, and recommends that Canada design and implement comprehensive and multi-faceted strategies for addressing women's poverty. It calls for the government to specifically address the disadvantage experienced by Aboriginal women. The report outlines the issues, statistics and makes definitive recommendations associated with women's inequality in the labour force. It goes on to similarly outline the issues and statistics and to make definitive recommendations associated with: women's inequality in the labour force; the absence of the Federal Government; Native Women's Association of Canada database and advocacy; access to justice and legal aid for Aboriginal women; the limits and discriminatory components of the Indian Act; the issue of high rates of incarceration of Aboriginal women; and the need for adequate supports in place to address this issue and support their health needs. The report makes nine key points about murders and disappearances of Aboriginal women and girls, calling for Canada to immediately implement the recommendations of the treaty bodies, invite the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) to visit Canada, and to establish a national inquiry. This is a thoroughly outlined and pointed document with comprehensive referencing that provides background and directed detail.

Canadian Human Rights Commission. (2013).

Report on equality rights of Aboriginal people.

ISBN 978-1-100-22172-4

This report describes the impact of persistent conditions of disadvantage on the daily lives of Aboriginal people across Canada. The information is drawn primarily from seven Statistics Canada surveys conducted between 2005 and 2010. The report compares Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people across a spectrum of seven dimensions of well being: education; employment; economic well-being; health; housing; justice and safety; and political and social inclusion. The report confirms the persistence of barriers to equality of opportunity faced by Aboriginal people. Clearly outlined methodology is used and described using proportions to compare groups along with statistical significance. Specifically, proportions are used to compare the situation of Aboriginal people to that of non-Aboriginal peoples - i.e. the proportion of Aboriginal adults who report their mental health as 'excellent' is lower than that or non-Aboriginal adults. Limitations of the report

stem from comparing multiple surveys designed independently of each other and notes that most of the surveys excluded Aboriginals living on reserve. However, overall, the report highlights the social injustice faced by Aboriginal people over decades of well-chronicled research.

Canada. Parliament, House of Commons. Standing Committee on the Status of Women. (2011).

Ending violence against Aboriginal women and girls: empowerment – a new beginning

41st Parl., 1st Sess. Ottawa.

This report of the Standing Committee on the Status of Women focuses on empowering Aboriginal girls and women. It supports their desire to strive for a better life of independence, confidence, influence and power, with the goal of reducing the victimization, poverty, prostitution and experienced abuse. This thorough report provides testimony of witnesses, service providers, Aboriginal women and organizations. There is an overview of the past and current situations regarding: Aboriginal poverty; property and economic growth; missing and murdered Aboriginal women; community safety (with a particular focus on policing); and family violence prevention and healing. The report has many references to historical reports and findings, and also provides information about federal programs and initiatives, including funding levels and arrangements. Findings and recommendations in the report take into consideration provincial, territorial and federal jurisdiction, and the report ends with a nine-point list of specific recommendations for federal action. It recommends collaboration with numerous agencies and organizations including:, Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC); Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP); Health Canada; Canadian Police College; Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police; Public Safety Canada; Aboriginal Affairs; and Northern Development Canada.

Canadian Women's Foundation. (2014).

'No More' Ending sex-trafficking in Canada: report of the national task force on sex trafficking of women and girls in Canada.

The findings and recommendations in this report were developed to assist the Canadian Women's Foundation in creating its own national anti-trafficking strategy.   The report supports and provides guidance to other stakeholders working in this area. Research included: reviewing three specific research papers; collecting advice from international and national experts and hundreds of individuals and organizations across Canada; conducting online surveys of agencies serving trafficked and sexually exploited women and girls; and interviews with 20 women who had been trafficked into and within Canada. This report presents robust details through statistics, stories and research. It provides coverage of the following topics: the evidence; who are the traffickers; who are the buyers; an identification that the greatest risk factor is being a girl; the need for provincial and national overview and response to the issue; and need for an integrated strategy to end sex trafficking in Canada. The report also outlines the need to change systems – including a focus on laws; migrant workers; child welfare system; prostitution and technology; supports for women and girls and strategies to help rebuild lives; building awareness across Canada (through communities, corporate sectors and specifically through confident girls and respectful boys); and a call for collective action and how to work best together to address the issue. Specific recommendations are presented with directed actions associated with each and there is an identification of responsibilities and best practices.

Coordinating Committee of Senior Officials (Criminal) Missing Women Working Group. (January 2012).

Report and recommendations on issues related to the high number of murdered and missing women in Canada.

The Missing Women Working Group (MWWG) was established in 2006 by the Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) Deputy Ministers of Canada. The MWWG's purpose was to consider the effective identification, investigation and prosecution

of cases involved serial killers who target persons living a high-risk lifestyle, including the sex-trade, and to consider issues specific to missing and murdered Aboriginal women. The MWWG report reviews literature and research and consults with academic researchers, police, prosecutors, community advocates, coroners, DNA experts and people with direct experience in the sex-trade. The group connects with task forces responsible for major investigations of murdered women. This report contains a very thorough review specific to the policing and justice-related work. It discusses the situational and marginalizing factors of women vulnerable to serial sexual assaults and murder; characterizes sexual predators; discusses prediction and prevention assessment issues and intervention treatments; and presents case studies of serial murders from Canada and King County, Washington (Green River Task Force). Additionally, the report reviews police policies and procedures relevant to missing person reporting, associated barriers to reporting, and details investigative tools and databases and other aspects of major case management. Finally, the report touches on prevention, support and safety planning, and the role of media in the missing women cases and the trial process. In its 52 recommendations, the majority of the recommendations target practices and resources across topics. One recommendation suggests the development of a national missing person database to assist police across the nation, which was heavily based on Saskatchewan's *Final Report of the Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons. (2007).*

Culhane, D. (Summer-Autumn 2003).

Their spirits live within us: Aboriginal women in downtown eastside Vancouver emerging into visibility.

American Indian Quarterly. 27(3/4), 593-606.

This highly descriptive and historical essay takes the reader on a journey to Vancouver's inner-city neighbourhood (the Downtown Eastside) and describes all of the neighbourhood's attributes. The intent of this essay is to detail the construction of invisibility in public culture, and an event that symbolizes Aboriginal women's active resistance to these acts of erasure, which is held every year on February 14th. Valentine's Day has been transformed as a protest against racism, poverty and violence against women and to celebrate resistance, solidarity and survival. The essay paints a detailed picture of the Downtown Eastside,

touching on media portrayal and issues that impact the area, including: mental health; Canada's political focus; HIV/AIDS issues; poverty; colonial practices; child welfare; prostitution and sex workers; and the missing and murdered women. The essay contains specific discussion about the Pickton farm. It is argued the media focuses on the negative depictions of this area more than the strength and courage of the people. There is a highlighted description of the Valentine's Day March. This march's focus is on the positive themes of resistance, survival and possibility. The essay provides detailed accounts of the day, the speakers, the events, and the women. It communicates a shared sense of hope and a window into the lives of the women that live in that community.

Department of Justice, Canada. (2013).

An overview of trafficking in person and the Government of Canada's efforts to respond to this crime: 2010-2011.

Retrieved from: http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/tp/2011/over-surv.html

This summary document provides an overview of trafficking in persons (TIP) in Canada, and federal efforts to respond to it. It provides an overview of current understanding of the nature and scope of the issues and highlights the Government of Canada's efforts to respond to this crime, with a focus on events and initiatives in 2010 and early 2011. Women represent the majority of victims of TIP in Canada and there is recent evidence of that there is human trafficking for forced labour. Migrant workers are also identified as a vulnerable group. The highlights of this overview include: the government's work to enhance data collection on TIP; descriptions of the 'I'm not for sale' and 'Blue Blindfold' awareness campaigns; and programs that focus on protection of victims such as the Federal Victim Strategy (including the 'Victims Matter' campaigns). The document also provides links to numerous other resources, programs and related topics and presents a brief overview of Canada's *Criminal Code* and how the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Ac*t apply to the issue. Canada's partnerships at international levels are highlighted, along with provincially supported initiatives.

Government of Saskatchewan.

Draft Justice Framework to Address Violence Against Aboriginal Women and Girls.

(November 2013). Saskatchewan. FPT Ministers Responsible for Justice. Retrieved from http://www.justice.gov.sk.ca/draft-justice-framework-aboriginal-justice-violence-against-aboriginal-women-girls

This working draft document is intended to encourage federal, provincial and territorial (FTP) justice officials, Aboriginal organizations and groups, and other partners to work together to address violence against Aboriginal women and girls. This draft reflects information gathered from Aboriginal groups and others through numerous reports and consultations. A list of principles to help guide common goals and actions are listed. Topic areas are identified, such as raising public awareness, addressing safety and healing and improving coordination across sectors. Setting the stage with background information, statistics on the issue, and a review of previous consultative work with Aboriginal people on related issues, this draft document summarizes the common justice themes found across these areas. The major themes identified include: awareness and education; prevention; intervention and supports; investigation and enforcement; court and sentencing; follow-up/reintegration; and improving coordination and collaboration.

Farley, M., Jacqueline, L., & Cotton, A. (2005).

Prostitution in Vancouver: Violence and the colonization of First Nations women.

Transcultural Psychiatry, 42(2), 242-271.

This study details the brief structured interviews of 100 women and children involved in prostitution in Vancouver, Canada. It uses a snowball recruitment technique and includes informed consent. Respondents were also provided a small stipend and asked to complete 3 questionnaires – The Prostitution Questionnaire, a Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) checklist and a Chronic Health Problems Questionnaire. Fifty-two percent of the interviewees identified as First Nations. Findings of the study are discussed in terms of: the legacy

of colonialism; the intrinsically traumatizing nature of prostitution; and an acknowledgement of prostitution's violation of basic human rights. A comprehensive background, supported with statistics, presents prostitution in Canada, its association with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and identifies other social and cultural factors. These women were interviewed to determine the prevalence of experienced violence and post-traumatic stress disorder. The results are dramatic. For instance, 82% of the respondents reported a history of childhood sexual abuse, by an average of four perpetrators; 95% indicated they wanted to leave prostitution; and 63% reported health problems. This study contains very descriptive and telling findings, and documents: the extreme level of sexual violence the interviewees face; the relevance of historical trauma of colonization; how racism and poverty have profound effects on health; and how prostitution is understood. This report calls for more research on this emerging topic, with a focus and understanding that prostitution is a form of violence against women and children.

FPT Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women. (2006).

Summary of the policy forum on Aboriginal women and violence: building safe and healthy families and communities.

Ottawa Congress Centre.

This report summarizes the landmark *Policy Forum on Aboriginal Women and Violence*, which was held in 2006, and brought together over 250 delegates, representing First Nations, Inuit and Metis organizations, advocates, policy makers and federal, provincial and territorial officials. The forum provided an opportunity to explore ways to build capacity and take collective and individual action to prevent and address violence against Aboriginal women. Plenary sessions and small group discussions focused on three themes: raising awareness; access to programs and services; and policy and research. This summary presents an overview of each presentation, including biographies of the presenters, pictures from the event and the small group discussions. The participant working group sessions are explicitly documented and are ripe with information on specific thoughts and provide focus on sub-themes. For example, raising awareness is discussed specific to the education system, government and justice systems, communities, women, men, youth, children the media. There were also key

messages suggested for a national awareness campaign. Common observations from the forum are presented according to the three themes: focusing on raising awareness through education and preventive measures and effective partnering with the media; the need for programs and services to be culturally appropriate (with an emphasis on the need for holistic approaches); and the need for Aboriginal women to play a leadership role in policy-making. There was also a recognized call for renewed research with community-based methodologies and gender-specific data collection. This document is richly detailed with specific thoughts and opinions from prominent stakeholders and should be considered as a valuable source of information.

Fry, H. Canada. Parliament, House of Commons. Standing Committee on the Status of Women. (March 2011).

Interim Report – call into the night: An overview of violence against Aboriginal women.

40th Parl., 3rd Sess. Ottawa.

This interim report presents the findings of the testimony heard from 150 witnesses across Canada as part of the Standing Committee on the Status of Women's study on the violence against Aboriginal women. The report outlines guiding principles for moving forward to break the cycle of violence against Aboriginal women. The detailed compilation of recommendations will follow in the final report. Witnesses urged the committee to use the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* as a framework for addressing the issues. The committee cites this UN work, and presents two guiding principles: listening to Aboriginal people and enabling communities; and a coordinated, holistic approach to violence against women. The committee also recognizes that the following issues are imperative: poverty; child welfare; missing and murdered Aboriginal women; the justice system; healing of communities families and individuals; housing; empowering Aboriginal women leaders; and racism. The report discusses each issue in detail, and provides examples of the issues and challenges.

Gilchrist, K. (2010).

Newsworthy victims? Exploring differences in Canadian local press coverage of missing/murdered Aboriginal and white women.

Feminist Media Studies. 10(4).

This article compares the news coverage of six missing and/or murdered women across Canada - three of whom are of Aboriginal ancestry and three women who are white. The study examines the *Canadian Newsstand* online newspaper database for articles about the cases, and uses both qualitative and quantitative analysis of the findings. The cases chosen were for women who had no known connection to the sex trade or and did not engage in high-risk lifestyles.

The study finds drastic differences in the way the Aboriginal women and Caucasian women's cases were depicted in the media, and therefore, how they were likely perceived by Canadian society. It adopts a feminist intersectional approach, and emphasizes the multiple and connecting dimensions of inequality faced by Aboriginal women in Canada, including: sexism; racism; classism; and colonialism.

To analyze the cases, the paper heavily relies on previous work and guidelines in the area of media reporting and the features of a newsworthy crime and victim.. There is emphasis on studies that highlight racial biases in reporting. The article makes linkages between the intersecting disadvantages of Aboriginal women and value judgments used by news organizations, and explores press disparities that promote the systemic exclusion of Aboriginal women's experiences. Overall, there are differences in reporting between the two groups, including: the tone and theme of the articles; the number and type of photographs; and the messages used of resistance, which focuses on broader inequalities for Aboriginal women. This complex, yet small sample study ends with a pointed statement that 'racial bias operating in Canadian press must be named, confronted and dismantled – without any further delay'.

The author believes the reason Aboriginal women who have gone missing or are murdered receive less attention is because of the constant talk about the despair and violence in Aboriginal communities. Because of this, society sees these acts of violence as part of the culture. Further, the process of colonization has had an impact on the degradation of Aboriginal women. The article points out that deeming these women unworthy of newspaper attention can have an impact on police investigations.

Gone, JP. (2013). Redressing First Nations historical trauma: Theorizing mechanisms for Indigenous culture as mental health treatment.

Transcultural Psychiatry.

1-24. http://tps.sagepub.com/content/early/2013/05/28/1363461513487669

This Canadian funded paper explores the discourse of historical trauma (HT) as it has been adopted and promoted in First Nations setting across North America. It does this through a review of the impact of traumatic experiences and the origins of this trauma, and focuses on treatment mechanisms that might facilitate recovery and well being for First Nations communities. The author shares statistics on childhood trauma, sexual abuse and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and demonstrates disproportionately high rates of exposure to trauma. This trauma is within the context of poverty, violence and substance abuse. The PTSD rate in Native Americans is double the prevalence compared to the general US adult population. The author provides a rigorous comparison on the differences between HT and PTSD. It is explained how these mental health distinctions have been incorporated into the American Indian mental health lexicon in the mid-1990s and how this approach has impacted the treatment approaches. The paper specifically notes that HT treatment for First Nations peoples almost always includes opportunities for Indigenous cultural education and ceremonial participation. HT seems to more aptly capture the complex, collective, cumulative, and intergenerational impacts of colonization on First Nations people.

To illustrate the significance of participation in traditional cultural practices for therapeutic recovery from historical trauma (HT), the author uses a case study of a residential school 'survivor' from an Indigenous community treatment program on a Manitoba First Nations reserve. The paper suggests that a promising approach worthy of further research is how a return to Indigenous cultural practices and tradition might benefit distressed First Nation clients.

Government of Canada. (2014).

Action Plan to Address Family Violence and Violent Crimes Against Aboriginal Women and Girls.

Canada. (ISBN: 978-1-100-24770-0)

This document outlines the Government of Canada's five-year action plan to address family violence and violent crimes against Aboriginal women and girls. It identifies three pillars: preventing violence; supporting Aboriginal victims; and protecting Aboriginal women and girls. The action plan was developed in response to the Special Committee on Violence Against Indigenous Women and builds on the government's initiative to enhance the justice system and law enforcement's response to community safety. The plan is community-focused and specifically outlines action to protect Aboriginal women and girls through: funding shelters and family violence prevention activities; creating a DNA-based Missing Persons Index; and supporting police investigations through the National Centre for Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains (NCMPUR). Other actions focus on solutions that will address the root causes of violence, which include: projects to break intergenerational cycles of violence and abuse; engaging men and boys; empowering women and girls; the provision of victims' services and assistance to victims' families; and collaboratively sharing information and resources. Each action in the paper contains associated detailed background and reasoning.

Human Rights Watch. (2013).

Those who take us away: Abusive policing and failures in protection of Indigenous women and girls in Northern British Columbia, Canada.

Human Rights Watch is an international organization dedicated to protecting the human rights of people around the world. After being contacted by a Vancouver-based organization called Justice for Girls, Human Rights Watch conducted five weeks of field research in British Columbia in 2012. This research included 87 open-ended interviews across numerous communities, including local community members, organizations and advocates, RCMP members, outreach workers.

The study received verbal consent from interviewees. In addition, as a follow-up, the RCMP was contacted and provided responses to questions raised by the research, which were then incorporated in the report's analysis. Limitations of the study included some interviewees withdrawing from the study, citing fear of exposure and potential retaliation from police. The finding from the interviews is based on personal experiences, and touch on abusive policing practices, including excessive use of force, cross-gender searches, and sexual and physical abuse. It also highlight: the lack of confidence in police protection and dismissing responses to domestic violence and sexual assault as inadequate, underfunded, and poor executed. It also notes inadequate complaint and oversight procedures.

This report may appear unbalanced in the review of information, but it is imperative that the perceptions and feelings of interviewees and perspectives portrayed about policing are respected. The document outlines key recommendations to the Government of Canada, the provincial government of British Columbia, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), and the United Nations Human Rights Council in regards to addressing the issue of abusive policing and the subsequent failure to protect Indigenous women.

Hunt, S. (June 2008).

Trafficking of Aboriginal girls and youth: risk factors and historical context.

This document is a historical review of the issue of 'trafficking of Aboriginal girls and youth' in British Columbia and Canada. It includes the author's personal reflection and perspective on the issue. The article describes a lack of academic and community-based research. The paper presents a thorough context of colonization reaching beyond the better-known components of residential school systems. It addresses the *Indian Act* and the creation of reserve systems, and touches on how concepts of race, gender, spirituality, sexuality and identity have contributed to the present-day prevalence of violence against Aboriginal women. The study parallels the historical perspective with contemporary issues and notes risk factors for quality of life among Aboriginal people in Canada, through the detailing of statistics on violent victimization, poverty, sanitation and economic disparities.

The author asserts that all of these components, along with sexual exploitation, use of the Internet by potential exploiters, abusers or traffickers, police response and other factors put Aboriginal women and girls at risk for human trafficking. It calls for the need to hear directly from women, girls and their families who are affected to more definitively understand and address the issue.

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. (December 2014).

Missing and murdered Indigenous women in British Columbia, Canada.

Retrieved from: http://s3.documentcloud.org/documents/1479300/canada-indigenous-women-iac.pdf

This six-chapter report by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) is one of the most recent additions to the bibliography. This report addresses and analyzes the context of and response to the missing and murdered Indigenous women in British Columbia. This work was prompted by the Native Women's Association of Canada and the Canadian Feminist Alliance for International Action, after a hearing in March 2012. There was then a working visit to Canada, and a meeting with key informants from across the British Columbia and Canada. This report includes testimony from victims' relatives and representatives of nongovernmental human rights organization, Indigenous peoples and organizations and other civil society representatives. Also included is: a background piece containing historical context related to Canada's First Nations; an overview of known data, analysis and context regarding the missing and murdered Aboriginal women in British Columbia; and an overview of the violence and discrimination against Indigenous women in British Columbia. The report delves into Canada's international obligations from a human rights perspective, citing various charters and interpretation of international law and other jurisdictions actions. Additionally, the report devotes an entire section to analyze Canada's response to the situation of missing and murdered Indigenous women, and in particular, it addresses the investigation and handling of the cases. The report examines the measures undertaken to evaluate deficiencies and to make advances in clarification and accountability. From an international perspective, much of the knowledge presented in this report cites other documents reviewed for this bibliography.

Recommendations are offered to Canada as to how to strengthen its efforts and responses to protect these rights. In particular, there is a strong recommendation that Canada provide a national coordinated response to address social and economic factors that result in exposure of Indigenous women to higher risks of violence. Other recommendations include: the development of data collection systems; enhanced training for enforcement personnel; and due diligence in the ongoing investigations. It is stressed that there needs to be full compliance with the already-established recommendations from the Oppal report *Forsaken*.

Jacobs, B., Williams, A. (2012). Vol I: From Truth to Reconciliation. Legacy of Residential Schools: Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women.

Speaking my truth: reflections on reconciliation & residential schools

(pp. 121-138). Winnipeg, MB. Aboriginal Health Foundation.

This chapter from Volume I of the book *Speaking My Truth: Reflections on Reconciliation & Residential Schools* discusses the profoundly negative impact residential schools had on Aboriginal people and how this will be experienced for generations to come. A historical, social and economic overview sets the stage for understanding these impacts and how it resulted in increased risk for Aboriginal women. It includes background information on colonization and the *Indian Act*, including a discussion on, Bill C-31 that was intended to eliminate gender discrimination but actually created further discrimination against future generations. Additionally, an overview is presented of residential schools, child welfare, justice issues and the injustice of Aboriginal women and children being the poorest of the poor. Canadian examples populate each topic in the report, with statistics and specific provincial examples, which aim to address these issues over the years. The chapter concludes with an overview of the *Sisters in Spirit* initiative, its findings and how it has addressed some of these issues. The report notes that addressing these issues requires the careful consideration of the special needs of Aboriginal women and that they must be effectively engaged in the process.

Jiwani, Y., Young, ML. (2006).

Missing and murdered women: reproducing marginality in news discourse.

Canadian Journal of Communication, 31, 895-917.

Using a frame analysis and a war metaphor, the focus of this paper is the lived experiences of missing and murdered women in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. This is an analysis of 128 articles from *The Vancouver Sun* print media coverage between 2001 and 2006. The authors self-identify as feminist researchers and argue that prevailing and historically entrenched stereotypes about women, Aboriginality and sex-trade work impacts these women's lives (even after death) and affects how they are represented in the media. A background is provided on the missing women in this area of Vancouver. The paper examines the reporting and police work and provides a highly comprehensive analysis of the media coverage of the issue. The lens or frame used in the coverage is discussed, which essentially 'displaces' the women at the centre of the issue and instead focuses on sensational crime scene imagery, the man behind the murders (Robert Pickton), and the tainted pork found at the murder scene. The authors surmise that this type of media framing will continue unless the option of counter framing emerges through the deployment of socially conscious journalists and reporters. This is not a perfect solution, even though it is an improvement in approach.

Joint working group on violence against Aboriginal women. (2012).

Making a Difference: Ending Violence Against Aboriginal Women.

Canada.

This report highlights the accomplishments of the Joint Working Group on Violence Against Aboriginal Women, which was guided by the Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women. The report was intended as an update to the Ministers and Leaders on the work to date. It provides an overview of the issue, and shares a historical account of how the Strategic Framework and the Joint Working Group was established.

This is a comprehensive overview of the activities and projects accomplished within the defined areas of: comprehensive research and data collection; legal reform and legislative change; policy; program development; education; community development/capacity building; leadership; and accountability. The report outlines the next set of priority initiatives that the working group will undertake, and indicates some areas of concern that Aboriginal partners have identified which need addressing. These include: a more coordinated approach to the implementation of shelters for Aboriginal women; a focus on community-based research allowing for Aboriginal methodologies; and the need to foster relationships and dedicated funding, infrastructure and policy issues and enhanced awareness and knowledge about the issue at hand.

Finally, the document provides the Terms of Reference of the working group, including its mandate, responsibilities and a membership list.

Lambertus, S. (2007).

Project lifeline - Addressing violence perpetrated against Aboriginal women in Alberta: final report.

Canada: SLL Research. (ISBN: 978-0-9784912-2-2).

This lengthy document has over 200 pages, and presents the results and recommendations of a comprehensive study designed to understand the victimization and awareness of the services that provide assistance to Aboriginal women in Alberta. It incorporates statistics on victimization, women's shelters, homelessness, and a court diversion project as a backdrop to the qualitative research approach. The report includes structured interviews with 262 Aboriginal women, police officers, and shelter and crisis workers across the province between 2004-2006. The study has limitations that are commonly found in this type of research, and include difficulties in obtaining access to victims, and the reluctance of the women to discuss their situations. Each chapter presents a comprehensive overview of the topics which range from: victimization from the perspectives of Aboriginal women participants; provision of police services (including an overview of Project KARE); provision of victim services; and the provision of shelters and programs. Distinct findings on urban and rural perspectives are presented, as are thoroughly outlined risk factors. Barriers and issues are themed out and touch on every topic from: poverty; housing; parenting; residential schools; criminal

justice issues; substance abuse; sex trade workers; police practices; and counselling. The last chapter summarizes the risk factors, and concludes that the high risk of violence against Aboriginal women will persist until both preventative measures and provisions of services are given high priority. This resource contains a wealth of knowledge and information and provides perspective and insight on unique components of the issue. It should be reviewed for its detailed structure and summation of the compounding issues that impact violence against Aboriginal women.

Lamontagne, M. (January 31, 2011).

Violence against Aboriginal women – scan and report.

Canadian Women's Foundation.

This scan and report presents a portrait of the environment in which Aboriginal women experience violence, identifies current obstacles to providing appropriate services to these women, and highlights some of the promising and successful approaches through shelters. This project collected information through a call to provincial and national women's organizations for information (which received a poor response rate), and includes a review of published literature, documents and websites recommended by organizations participating in the scan. The beginning of the report is disordered, and referencing throughout is limited in scope. The report confuses whether findings are direct reports or results of literature reviews, and presents finding by citing conclusive statements like 'most shelter directors felt…' even when there is a low response rate. It does present a review of funding provisions for family violence programs, and reviews traditional and holistic approaches in shelters. The report touches on topics such as: support for men; training needs; outreach; awareness and preventive services; transitional housing; and staff support. Despite its shortcomings, the most useful aspect of the report is the appendix, which includes an overview of grant funded projects across Canada. This is a well-intended project, which may be worth replicating if the response rate issues are addressed.

Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, Carrier Sekani Family Services, Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, Prince George Native Friendship Center, Prince George Nechako Aboriginal Employment & Training Association. (2006).

Highway of Tears Symposium Recommendation Report: A collective voice for the victims who have been silenced.

Prince George, BC.

The Highway of Tears Symposium was held in Prince George, British Columbia on March 2006. This symposium was specific to young women who have gone missing or were found murdered along the Highway of Tears. The Highway of Tears refers to the 724-kilometre length of Highway 16 in Northern British Columbia between Prince Rupert and Prince George. Many women have disappeared along this Highway since the 1970's, some of whom were girls. The exact number of missing and murdered women along the Highway of Tears is unknown, although a current police task force is investigating 18 linked disappearances and murders dating from 1969 to 2011. Community speculation puts the number above 30. In many cases, the bodies of the victims have not been found. The recommendations focus on issues related to these cases and the report is dedicated to the memory of these young women.

This report summarizes the recommendations that emerged from the symposium that was attended by victims' families and community stakeholders. It includes the sharing of stories of loss and providing direction to move forward. The four recommendations include: victim prevention; emergency planning and team response; victim family counselling and support; and community development and support. The recommendations are outlined with specific actionable steps, short and long term goals, and rationale to support each recommendation. The report also presents a section on victim profiles and situational analysis to provide an understanding as to why these young women would be hitchhiking on the highway, and addresses issues such as poverty, highway geography and public transportation.

Missing Women Commission of Inquiry. (February 2012).

Police protection of vulnerable and marginalized women.

British Columbia, Canada.

This policy discussion report from the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry was developed using national and international information. It facilitates public input and deliberates on recommendations for change. Recognizing the many social and economic factors are apparent in missing and murdered women cases, the report highlights the challenges police face in providing protection to vulnerable and marginalized women. It also identifies and discusses seven major policy options and sets out a number of questions to generate recommendations for change. According to this report, there are three law enforcement concerns that are contributing to the ineffective protection of vulnerable women:

1. Discrimination and discriminatory policing;

2. Problematic police-community relationships; and,

3. Limited policing model, which is typically jurisdictionally based versus resource-based.

The policy options presented to address the issue include: systemic reviews and audits; non-discrimination in policing standards; targeted protocols and strategies; stronger police-community relations; enhanced community policing models and methods; effective deployment of diverse police personnel; and training to help combat racism, sexism and to identify the specialized needs of marginalized women. This is a valuable explanatory document that is robustly referenced and connected to previous reports and reviews. Its focus is on the issues and actions that could be taken to address the policing issues. The thirteen questions that conclude the report provide more insight into the issue, and propose best practices and direction.

Missing Women Commission of Inquiry. (March 2012).

Comparative approaches to missing persons procedures: an overview of British, American and Australian policies.

British Columbia, Canada.

This report provides a comparative review of publicly available missing person policies from police services in the United Kingdom, the United States and Australia. It is intended to serve as an introductory discussion on how these policies might impact the investigation of missing vulnerable and marginalized women. The report does not comment on the effectiveness of such investigations in each of the countries, limits its discussion on specific policies that deal with missing children and youth, and is not intended to be comprehensive in scope. A brief description of the scope of the missing person issue and the agencies involved in the investigations in each country is presented. Generally speaking, every jurisdiction coordinates missing person investigations at the federal level, and includes the use of federal databases. It is not intended to analyze the effectiveness of missing persons investigations across jurisdictions, but the report briefly summarizes approaches and highlights both high-level commonalities and differences. The report intends to generate discussion about the interaction between missing person policies and the investigation of reports of missing vulnerable and marginalized women.

Missing Women Commission of Inquiry. (April 2012).

From report to substantive change - healing, reconciliation and implementation.

British Columbia, Canada.

This policy discussion report provides an overview of the Commission's research in the area of missing women to date, through its consultations. It has a specific focus on policing aspects and what went wrong in a series of missing women investigations. Four approaches are presented and discussed that may be relevant to implementing change: acknowledgement and reckoning; healing and reconciliation;

the 'wicked' problems approach to complex social problems; and organizational change management. The report sets out a number of questions for further discussion and calls on the public to be engaged. The recommendations outlined in the report are provisional, and the issues identified are not exhaustive, and should be considered as a starting point for discussion.

Missing Women Commission of Inquiry. (May 2012).

Voices of the families – recommendations of the families of the missing and murdered women.

British Columbia, Canada.

This report was developed to summarize discussions with family members of the missing and murdered women in British Columbia. It details potential recommendations for change on policing policies from the family members' unique perspectives. Information was collected through individual interviews and by a one day meeting between 25 family members and Wally Oppal, the Commissioner. Participants were generally displeased the short amount of time allocated to the meeting, and they recommended a five-day symposium. The group self-identified and prioritized primary topics for discussion, and some participants submitted written recommendations drafted in advance of the meeting. The report presents these primary points: safety of women; prevention measures; Aboriginal issues; missing persons investigations; inter-jurisdictional issues; needs of the children of missing and murdered women; and healing for all family members. Personal stories and quotes are included as a way of providing context for the recommendations. The numerous recommendations include those specific to governments regarding increasing women's safety, and to the police regarding the criminal justice system. Other topics mentioned related to compensation and counselling, accountability, and the legal status of prostitution. The report provides specific perspectives from families on this important issue.

National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence. (NACAFV). (January 2006).

Ending violence in Aboriginal communities: best practices in Aboriginal shelters and communities.

This document presents best practices for shelters that deal with family violence in Aboriginal communities. It includes information gleaned from consultations and site visits to 12 shelters across Canada. These shelters are in Aboriginal communities or in centres with a high number of Aboriginal clients. Staff from hospitals, social services, faith communities, advocacy agencies, and legal services contributed to the report. Shelters were selected to provide a balance between urban, rural and remote areas, as well as on and off-reserve locations. The exclusion of shelters in the Territories was done purposely to reduce duplication, as another Aboriginal organization was conducting similar work in this location.

An overview of each shelter's location, catchment area, type and profile are presented to provide context to the best practices. There are bulleted lists of best practices regarding: shelter location; physical safety; security; administrative issues such as intake and data collection; funding, community involvement; programing; capacity-building; and follow-up. Funding, legal, child and family, staff and training, and housing barriers and challenges are also presented. Overwhelmingly, the report identifies that strategies to address family violence in Aboriginal communities are very limited due to both a lack of awareness of the effects of the issue, and the lack of resources.

National Aboriginal Women's Forum. (June 15-17, 2011).

We are courageous and we are healing ourselves.

Collaboration to End Violence. Provincial, Territorial & National Aboriginal Organization: Initiatives, Programs & Services.

This document is a compilation of the provincial and territorial activities, frameworks and initiatives aimed towards ending violence against Aboriginal women. This information was presented at the National Aboriginal Women's Forum in 2011. The document provides a point-in-time perspective of the work happening across Canada to address this topical issue. It highlights the various activities in each jurisdiction and provides a summary overview and contact information about the projects. This is a good resource for reviewing known projects that may or may not still be underway.

Native Women's Association of Canada. (March 2009).

Voices of our sisters in spirit: a report to families and communities

(2nd ed.). Canada

The Sisters in Spirit initiative was a multi-year research, education and policy initiative funded by Status of Women Canada and carried out by the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC). Using a collaborative approach, primary research was gathered about missing and murdered loved ones through storytelling and interviews with families. Secondary research included newspaper articles, court decisions, law enforcement websites, and reports from community members and key informants, including statistical and demographic research. This report uncovered root causes, circumstances and trends that can guide policy change to increase the personal safety and security of all Aboriginal women and girls across Canada. In addition, a database of interviews with families of the missing and murdered women was developed for recording this information. This report shares the stories of nine women who have gone missing or have been murdered, and includes interviews with the families. Although these conversations are beneficial to the research, there are some challenges with this work. It is not surprising that some family members are without telephone service or Internet access, considering their high rate of poverty. NWAC was also working with a

restrictive budget and had limited resources to travel to the homes of the family members who wished to share their stories. However, one of the many reasons that this report is extremely helpful to understanding this issue is the presentation of the families' perspectives. They were able to provide firsthand accounts of how the police handled their specific case, and speak to gaps that they experienced in reporting their loved one missing and being supported through their own ordeal. Additionally, NWAC has developed four tool kits for use by community members, individuals and organizations. The tool kits include: Raising Awareness Tool Kit; Unlocking the Mystery of Media Relations Tool Kit; Navigating the Missing Persons Process Tool Kit; and Safety Measures for the Aboriginal Women Tool Kit.

The final portion of the report focuses on recommendations from NWAC based upon their research findings. There are recommendations for individuals, communities, government and policing agencies. NWAC continues to identify new information and any additional data to help understand the root causes, the trends, and the impact that violence has against Aboriginal women and girls.

Native Women's Association of Canada. (2012).

Good relations: supporting Aboriginal women and families who have experienced violence.

The purpose of this guidebook is to educate formal and informal support people, practitioners and managers about the needs of Aboriginal women and families who have experienced violence. The Native Women's Association of Canada, along with numerous partners, developed this guide as a result of its work with missing and murdered Aboriginal women. It recognizes that families looking for support often experienced re-traumatization rather than healing. The guide was developed from other existing resources, toolkits and studies related to Aboriginal women, trauma and healing. It includes the wisdom from family members and service providers interviewed in Ottawa, Winnipeg and Edmonton in 2012. The overall premise is to provide culturally appropriate tools and approaches to address wellness and healing. Over four chapters, the resource provides the 'what to do' and 'how to do it' through background information, which sets the stage for understanding. It includes: tools and forms to help guide questions; guiding

principles; checklists; tips; and other useful resources. This comprehensive guide incorporates very specific cultural components including: the Inuit Models of Healing; the Medicine Wheel; Advocacy Wheel. It also ends with references to key resources including a self-assessment and planning protocol for organizations to become a trauma-informed organization. This resource is a positive and supportive document with a clearly outlined glossary of terms that is a useful tool for those working with Aboriginal peoples.

Native Women's Association of Canada. (2010).

Community resource guide: what can I do to help the families of missing and murdered aboriginal women and girls?

Ottawa, ON: (ISBN: 978-0-9867335-0-5)

Developed by the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) through their Sisters in Spirit initiative, this resource guide was developed and distributed to organizations to assist them in their work with Aboriginal communities to help prevent violence against Aboriginal women and girls. The toolkit was developed in response to the high volume of requests NWAC received about how to show support for missing and murdered Aboriginal women, their families and their community. The guide shares knowledge and helps communities to respond and heal. The information presented reflects experiences with volunteers from across Canada and focuses on three areas: advocates and campaigners; people assisting families; and teachers and educators.

This comprehensive toolkit includes: fact sheets on the statistics and evidence known about the issue; root causes of violence and historical details about Aboriginal women in Canada; lists of resources, books, videos and support organizations; descriptive paragraphs setting the stage for the issue; recommended actions and activities with specifically outlined steps on how to hold events, and raise awareness; and details on existing and ongoing activities such as the Sisters in Spirit Vigils. This complete toolkit will enable others to support the cause with step-by-step instructions and resources.

Native Women's Association of Canada. (2010).

What their stories tell us: research findings from the Sisters in Spirit initiative.

Ottawa, ON, Canada.

This report brings together five years of qualitative and quantitative research related to missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls in Canada. It spans from 2005-2010. The report presents demographic and statistical evidence from the Sisters in Spirit database, draws on information gathered from literature, and highlights stories and experiences shared by families of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls. The purposes are to: identify the circumstances, root causes and trends leading to violence against Aboriginal women in Canada; determine the number of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls; and examine how violence has led to such high numbers of victims without connection by authorities. The report presents primary data collected in the database that is not available elsewhere at the time of publication. It should be reviewed for context regarding root causes, circumstances and anecdotal accounts from families.

The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) makes suggestions for addressing the issue of missing and murdered Aboriginal women. These include: the need for preventative programming; building of positive relationships between police and those filing a missing person's report; addressing the issue of racism towards Aboriginal women; and creating more services to help victims navigate the justice system. Emerging concerns among Aboriginal women are also highlighted, including: the need for attention on the increasing deaths of Aboriginal women due to drugs, alcohol and suicide; the living and social conditions of Aboriginal women; the issue of domestic human trafficking; and the jurisdictional barriers.

NOWSCOPE. (2011).

Aboriginal Women's Initiative – Literature review: a review of the literature on intergenerational trauma, mental health, violence against women, addictions and homelessness among Aboriginal women of the north.

Retrieved from: www.ywcacanada.ca.

This three-part literature review discusses the historical impact of colonization on Aboriginal women and the current status of Aboriginal women's health, social determinants of health and perspectives on healing. It provides special attention on urban Aboriginal women; outlines the details of violence against Aboriginal women; shares their views and challenges such as mental issues, addiction and homelessness; and looks at violence prevention and shelters for Aboriginal women. The overall methodology and inclusion criteria are not clearly stated, and there are limitations in research availability. However, the report attempts to focus on issues impacting Aboriginal women from Northern Ontario, but also includes national and provincial studies to understand the broad issue. It cites both published and grey literature from as early as 1984 through to 2010. This thorough review presents detailed aspects of each topic and concludes that the most obvious gap is the lack of stable funding for shelters and prevention programs. It also identifies the gap in research on various areas of Aboriginal women's health.

Ontario Native Women's Association & the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres. (2007).

A Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women.

This document outlines the development of a Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women. It is the result of a 2007 Summit that brought together 120 Aboriginal women and their communities from across Ontario, and built on previous work from 2006, such as the National Policy Forum on Aboriginal Woman and Violence. It includes various research reports that helped form the Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy, including the ONWA Breaking Free report. The framework identifies a number of foundational principles, including that: violence

against Aboriginal women must end; gender-based analysis must underlie all work in the strategy; and that violence against Aboriginal women is rooted in systemic discrimination.

The foundational principles are pointed, direct, and present a summary of the challenges and barriers that impact violence against Aboriginal women. The actual framework designed is comprised of eight areas for change, with specific action based and measurable steps needed to achieve the underlying goals. The eight areas include: research; legislation; policy; programs; education; community development; leadership and accountability. This strategic framework, while developed with a focus on Ontario, could be transferable as a starting point for other jurisdictions to address the issue across the country.

Oppal, WT, QC Commissioner. (November 19, 2012).

Forsaken: the report of the missing women: executive summary.

Missing Women Commission of Inquiry. British Columbia.

This report is the summation of work conducted by the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry in British Columbia, as written by the Honourable Wally T Oppal, QC Commissioner, who was appointed to oversee the inquiry. The four volume work focuses first on *'The Women, their lives and the Framework for Inquiry: Setting the Context for Understanding and Change.'* It provides a framework for the Inquiry's factual findings, and conclusions and recommendations for forward-looking change. The second volume contains facts and conclusions pertaining to the police investigations outlined in the report. The third volume summarizes the information gathered through the study commission process, and outlines recommendations for reform. Volume four includes materials related to the Commission's process, intending to provide a public record of the work that led to the preparation of the report.

The introduction of the report takes into account many issues, including the media sensationalization and coverage of the topic. The report notes the specific attempt to counterbalance the negative storyline through the choice of cover design depicting positive words about the women. From the outset, this report reads like a comprehensive review of nearly all of the findings and facts presented in many of the documents included in this bibliography. It outlines the root causes

of the issue, focusing on: the women; the conditions of their lives; their vulnerability to violence; the police investigations and related issues; and abating the negative storylines typically found in the media. This highly detailed specific review concludes that the police investigations into the missing and murdered women were blatant failures. It requests that the provincial government immediately act with respect to providing funding to existing centres that provide emergency services to women engaged in the sex trade to enable them to stay open 24/7, and to develop and implement an enhanced public transit system to provide a safer travel option connecting the Northern communities (particularly along Highway 16).

The report makes several recommendations along the following themes: restorative measures; equality-promoting measures; measures to enhance the safety of vulnerable urban women; measures to prevent violence against Aboriginal and rural women; improved missing person policies and practices; enhanced police investigations; establishing a regional police force; effective multi-jurisdictional policing; increasing police accountability to communities; and measures to assure the women's legacy. This is a significant report that sets the tone for future investigations.

Pacific Association of First Nations Women. Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs. (September 9, 2005).

Researched to death: B.C. Aboriginal women and violence.

BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre. British Columbia.

This report reviews ten studies and one book related to Aboriginal women and violence within their world. It outlines a variety of recommendations. A synopsis of each paper is provided followed by a comparison of the identified causes and remedies. The studies reviewed reflect interviews and information from Aboriginal women, their families, communities, service providers, government agencies and international organizations. The congruency and similarity of findings across the reports written over a 15-year timespan (1988-2004) is striking and is summarized into the following four high-level areas to be addressed:

1. The need for Aboriginal women to be involved in social policy development.

2. Funding for culturally relevant Aboriginal community-based programs and services should be focused on healing, safety and well-being.

3. Additional training and education for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, organizations and government agencies on Aboriginal people's history and the present challenges that support family violence.

4. The implementation of policy and research, including past government commissions and inquiries reports on Aboriginal women and violence; the inclusion of Aboriginal women in policy discussions that directly affect them; and specific actions to protect human rights of Aboriginal women, including the transformation of Canadian laws.

The specifics of each area are described in detail with steps to be taken for action, including changes within the judicial system. Reflecting its title, the report suggests that while it is already known what needs to be done to address the issue, it is now time to act.

Pearce, M. (November 5, 2013).

An Awkward Silence: Missing and Murdered Vulnerable Women and the Canadian Justice System.

Common Laws Section, Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa. Retrieved from: http://www. ruor.uottawa.ca/handle/10393/26299

This dissertation is an evidence-based research paper that discusses the missing and murdered women in Canada. It focuses on sex work in Canada and the associated negative impacts of this occupation, including violence. The dissertation examines the legal status and forms of prostitution in Canada and internationally, as well as the individual and societal impacts of prostitution. A review of current research on violence and prostitution is presented. The thesis provides summaries from 150 serial homicide cases targeting prostitutes in Canada, the U.S., and the U.K. A database was created for dissertation purposes in which 3,329 missing or murdered women across Canada were included for analysis, and risk factors were identified from available source material. Using information gathered from websites, police files on the Internet, print and electronic newspaper articles,

books, journals, theses, government and non-governmental reports, missing women posters and other publicly available information, cases from 1946 until 2013 were collected, coded and analyzed. A second set of statistics were derived from the affidavits of women involved in sex work in the Downtown Eastside (DTES) of Vancouver.   Data limitations were identified with respect to only collecting publicly available information to include the database (which was not always comprehensive).

This dissertation aims to fill the gap in information of missing and murdered women in Canada, since there is not one authoritative database. Through extensive cross-referencing, 824 missing and murdered Aboriginal women (242 more than were identified by Native Women's Association of Canada) were identified. This nine-chapter dissertation touches on so many issues it is difficult to do it justice in a describing it in this bibliography. It should be noted that the major topics presented have numerous sub-topics outlined, and this dissertation serves as a detailed and specific document for one who wants to start looking at a wide-variety of issues regarding sex work in Canada. Some of the main issues discussed are: Aboriginal women (including a background of historical context and socio-economic realities); sex work and the law; social, familial and individual impacts of sex work; violence and sex work; the missing women of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside (specific projects associated with this area and a section on the search of the Pickton property); investigations of cases of missing and murdered vulnerable women; and an entire section devoted to lessons learned with specific insight and review of projects KARE (Alberta), E-PANA (British Columbia), and Devote (Saskatchewan). The conclusion of the report summarizes the findings of the causes and impacts on Aboriginal women and those in the sex trade. The author contends that more must be done to prevent violence and to hold offenders responsible, and in her own words 'This dissertation is a plea for resources and attention; to turn apathy into pragmatic, concrete action founded on solid evidence-based research.'

Pfeifer, D. J. (2006).

Missing persons in Saskatchewan: police, policy and practice.

Law Foundation of Saskatchewan Chair in Police Studies. University of Regina. Regina, Saskatchewan. Retrieved from: http://www.justice.gov.sk.ca/adx/aspx/adxGetMedia.aspx?DocID=3025,104,81,1,Documents&MediaID=ac6662c8-6ecc-4979-bc47-70c005fd273e&Filename=JEFF+PFEIFER+REPORT+ON+Missing+Persons+-+Police+Policy+and+Practice+-+Final+Report.pdf

This report was written to provide the Saskatchewan Provincial Missing Persons Committee (comprised of numerous government, police and grassroots organizations) with information for developing standardized police, policies and practices with respect to the issue of missing persons across province. This work directly supported one of Saskatchewan's three-part responses to the issue of missing persons, which was examining the practicality of developing and implementing standardized policy policies, protocols and practices across the province. The study comprised of an undisclosed number of interviews with police and key informants across all police services and RCMP, as well as a review of police data. There is an analysis of missing persons data from 2003-2005. Challenges and concerns identified from interviews include: issues related to communication problems between families and police services; lack of information on current numbers of missing persons; unclear roles; lack of resources; and concerns over gender and racial trends. The data analysis corroborates the concerns over the need to distinguish between the 'number of reports' and 'number of actual' missing persons i.e. one individual could run away 10 times in a year which would be presented as one missing person or 10 reports.

While the observations section of the report provides no overarching conclusion and is muddled between observations and recommendations, contains repetitive recommendations, and cobbles together 'findings' from the interviews, it is clear that there is much to do to address the issue at hand. With some sifting, key recommendations and suggestions can be identified. As such, the main recommendations and findings include:

- The development of a seven-feature 'standardized component model' that would allow each police service to respond to cases of missing persons in a standard way, while still allowing for differences across geographic and demographic composition.

- Clarifying for the public how missing persons cases are prioritized by implementing risk assessment and triage approach.

- The need for clear communication approaches with the family of missing persons. This is a multi-faceted issue regarding: the type and amount of information that can be shared; identification of who the information should be shared with; and who should be doing the communication i.e. police services or a group of stakeholders.

- Systematic approach to data collection for reliability and validity and to address the issue of 'number of reports' versus 'number of missing persons'

- Other recommendations focus on: the need to address response times to missing persons cases; determining the involvement of 'search and rescue' efforts; ensuring adequate knowledge of policies and procedures within the police services; and for police services to be aware of and participate in other agency programs related to the issue.

Policy, Planning & Evaluation Branch. (May 26, 2011).

Report on the 2011 Western Regional Forum on Supporting Families of Missing Persons.

Ministry of Justice and Attorney General. Retrieved from: http://childfind.sk.ca/images/ uploads/Report_on_the_2011_Western_Regional_Forum_on_Supporting_Families_of_Missi ng_Persons.pdf

The Western Regional Forum on Supporting Families of Missing Persons brought together approximately 60 representatives from across Western Canada to focus addressing the needs of families of missing persons. The representatives included: victim service workers; law enforcement; Crown counsel; criminal justice workers; community-based organizations; First Nations, Metis and aboriginal organizations; and federal participation from Justice Canada and Public Safety Canada. The Forum consisted of numerous presentations on: current provincial approaches and initiatives; Australia's national approach to coordinating action in missing persons; specific work with families and media from Sister's in Spirit

initiative, the RCMPs new initiative National Police Support Centre for Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains (NPSCMP); and insights on the Robert Pickton case. The Forum was interactive and developed a list of 'next steps' to move the issue forward and achieve a more comprehensive response to the needs of families in missing persons cases. Some of the next steps included: producing a report; providing a report to families; building relationships; identifying champions; raising awareness; developing a communication strategy; and establishing a national databank. The Saskatchewan Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons was tasked with taking the recommendations forward for the next steps.

Public Health Agency of Canada. (2008).

Aboriginal women and family violence.

Ottawa, ON: National Clearinghouse on Family Violence.

This report is a condensed version of a 2006 report from Ipsos-Reid entitled 'Aboriginal Women and Family Violence.' It focuses specifically on issues related to intimate partner violence (IPV) within the Aboriginal context. Information was gathered through focus groups with a total of 40 First Nations and Metis women in four locations across Canada (representing women both on and off reserve), and telephone interviews with 15 professionals considered 'first responders' working with Aboriginal victims of IPV. Key findings of the report indicate that physical and emotional abuse were the two most common forms of IPV perpetrated, and confirmed reported incidences of abuse and root causes of violence while pointing to drug and alcohol consumption as an aggravating factor. The detailed findings of the report describe the incidence and severity of the issue and present: common characteristics; focus on the impact of male violence against Aboriginal women including on family members, the perpetrator and the women themselves and barriers to reporting violence; and existing resources available for victims and their children, the perpetrator. Other issues such as gaps in resourcing were identified and the report suggested ways to access services. The action-oriented recommendations within the report reflect on these findings.

Reichwein, B. (2013).

Missing and murdered girls and women: exploring connections with child welfare services and Crown guardianship

1-8.

This discussion paper explores the possible connections or associations between the disappearances and/or the murders of women and girls, and the involvement with Child Protection Services (CPS) or other statutory authorities. In response to the 2012 *Forsaken* report from the Missing Women Commission Inquiry submitted to the Government of British Columbia, the author of this paper takes exception to the report, suggesting it is limited in its findings because it did not delve deep enough into all services (such as Child Protective Services) in which the women and girls may have been associated. In reviewing the statistical information and presentation of past reports, the author questions how the Commission's report did not include more specific findings about the involvement of CPS. This paper presents further lines of questioning regarding how one might provide a more in-depth review of this component. A personal interest in the topic is evident through the author's opening letter and use of first person accounts and research. The paper serves to highlight that more specific attention to CPS, Crown guardianship and foster care issues should be reviewed and addressed as they may have a connection to the disappearances of missing and murdered women and girls.

Roloff, L. (2011).

Listening and learning: an opportunity to connect with Aboriginal families.

Connections. Alberta Home Visitation Network Association. 6(2).

This edition of the Alberta Home Visitation Network Association's publication 'Connections' highlights several articles on violence and Aboriginal families in Alberta. It includes their feature writer Dr. Cathy Richardson discussing the 'Islands of Safety' program implemented in Vancouver. The key focus of this program is human dignity and resistance to violence so that individuals that have experienced violence will have the opportunity to be safe, be respected and be in harmonious relationships with their family.

Richardson's article summarizes the program and its response-based ideas and describes it as a safety process and model used in child protection in cases of violence. The other features of the document include: updates; skills and tips on home visitation issues when working with Aboriginal families; and personal recommendations when working general with Aboriginal families – including the need for trust, being genuine, flexibility and education. The document ends with a page of relevant statistics on violence against women and children.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police. (2014).

Missing and murdered Aboriginal women: A national operational overview.

Canada. (ISBN: 978-1-100-23789-3)

This report summarizes the work of a 2013 RCMP-led study of reported incidents of missing and murdered Aboriginal women across all police jurisdictions across Canada, from 1980-2012. The RCMP completed the collation of the data in the report and the assessments and conclusions are the RCMP's. The report summarizes that police-recorded incidents of Aboriginal female homicides and unresolved missing Aboriginal females in this review total 1181 (164 missing and 1017 homicide victims). Limitations are clearly noted, with the data collection having inconsistent variables, definitional challenges, and a lengthy period of time over which data was collected. However, it is presented that this is the most comprehensive data that has ever been assembled by the Canadian policing community on the topic. The report is organized into four topics: the numbers of missing and murdered Aboriginal females; homicide perpetrator characteristics; what we understand about the outstanding cases; and victim circumstances. Details each of these sections are clearly presented in text and table/graphical formats. The report's intention is to guide the Canadian Police operational decision-making and planning, resulting in more targeted crime prevention, better community engagement and enhanced accountability for criminal investigations. Four key areas of next steps are outlined, including: enhancing efforts on unresolved cases; focusing prevention efforts; increasing public awareness; and strengthening the data.

School of Social Work, University of Victoria. (2013).

Someone's Mother, Sister or Daughter Project: Sex workers, their families and transitioning out of street sex work.

This is the final report of a 2009 project called `Someone's Mother, Sister or Daughter Project: Sex workers, their families and transitioning out of street sex work.` It summarizes the major findings of the project in terms of the common themes and patterns that emerged from the stories gathered through interviews. The report is organized into five significant topics: leadership; mothering; families and transition out of sex work; ethical and effective service; and the media. The project was developed to address the gap in research about the impact of family relationships on the experiences of women involved in street sex work and the family roles played by women who engaged in street sex work. Prior to this work, research literature and the media often held families responsible for their children entering sex work and portrayed sex workers as having few family relationships. Using a two-pronged approach, the project conducted an analysis of print media coverage and then interviewed women (including trans-women) involved in street sex work and family members of women involved in street sex work. Using grounded theory methodology, the findings of the project contribute to the in-depth and complex understanding of the relationships women who engage in street sex work have with their families and the impact of these relationships on their experiences of receiving services and/or transitioning out of street sex work. These stories also provide important insights into the ways in which people's lives are shaped by their struggles against systemic injustices such as violence, colonial racism, poverty and sexism. The findings of this report are intended to provide feedback and discussion.

Sethi, A. (2007).

Domestic sex trafficking of Aboriginal girls in Canada: issues and implications.

First Peoples Child & Family Review, 3(3), 57-71.

This preliminary study focuses on examining the issues of sexual exploitation of Aboriginal girls as identified by grass root agencies and contextualizes them within the trafficking framework. It includes interviews with key informants from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), women's organizations and community-based

groups or individuals dealing with the issue of sexual exploitation in Canada. This resulted in the analysis of the information gathered and substantiation of the findings with existing published research. The authors note several study limitations in because the interviews were typically conducted by phone (and that it was unethical to interview sexually exploited girls), and thus the views presented to not necessarily reflect the views of trafficked girls themselves. There is also is no distinction between First Nation, Metis and Inuit girls, though issues and realities may be different. There is limited data on domestic trafficking, and the small sample size failed to identify issues specific to each Aboriginal community involved. Interviews identified recruitment methods of girls into trafficking, and summed up the issues and implications in the domestic sex trafficking of Aboriginal girls in Canada into ten root causes. The causes included: lack of awareness; racism; substance abuse; and poverty. The paper puts forth ten specific action based policy recommendations to address what is known about the issue. The recommendations reflect changes or actions that can be taken across all levels of government. The authors suggest further research should also include other groups such as immigrant girls, having more reliable data on actual numbers of girls, and addressing the role of men in Aboriginal communities.

Sikka, A. (2009).

Trafficking of Aboriginal women and girls in Canada.

Ottawa, ON: Institute on Governance.

This article discusses the particular ways in which Aboriginal women and girls in the prairie provinces are recruited into the sex trade by third parties under exploitive circumstances. It addresses the way in which these acts fit (or do not fit) within the definition of 'trafficking of persons' in Canadian criminal law. Conducted as a phenomenological qualitative research study, 44 key informants were interviewed across Winnipeg, Regina and Edmonton. These locations were chosen as they have high numbers of Aboriginal women and girls in the sex trade and a lack of research on 'trafficking in persons.'. Snowballing sampling was used following a review of national studies on trafficking and community-based research dealing with prostitution and sexual exploitation. The author comprehensively describes the difficulty in the inconsistent use of the term 'trafficking' across international and Canadian law. It focuses on: cross-border issues; the differences in the underlying

images and media portrayal of the 'victim'; historical representation of Aboriginal women and girls; and how all of this has led to viewing Aboriginal women and girls as perpetrators rather than victims of crime. This is a thoroughly researched and referenced article that describes the web of connections weaved into the analysis from an array of topics including: addiction; the child welfare system; prostitution; coercion; mobility; and familial-based sex trafficking. The study concludes 'reframing some of the exploitive acts that are perpetrated against Aboriginal women as girls as 'trafficking' may undermine the stereotypes that have been long attached to them i.e. prostitute and criminal and is a worthy pursuit'. Notably, it calls for: a shift away from the perceived notions of what a 'victim' looks like when interpreting legislation; the need for law enforcement and prosecutors to acknowledge psychological harm within the concept of 'safety' in the Criminal Code; new guidelines and programming in the child welfare system; and training for providers interacting with exploited Aboriginal youth.

Statistics Canada. (February 25, 2013).

Measuring violence against women: statistical trends.

Sinha, M (Ed.). Juristat Article. Component of Statistics Canada catalogue no. 85-002-X Juristat. ISSN 1209-6393.

This collaborative report from the Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FTP) Status of Women Forum and Statistics Canada presents information on Aboriginal women and women living in Canada's territories. It expands the focus of a previous 2006 report by including information on: dating violence; violence against girls; and violence that occurs outside of the intimate partner/family context. It also shows trends over time and provides data at national, provincial/territorial, and census metropolitan area levels. The report presents a study on the economic impacts of spousal violence against women. It uses police-reported crime data, self-reported victimization data, and five-year prevalence rates to facilitate reliable estimates of small sub-groups in the population (such as Aboriginal women). Additionally, information from two administrative surveys conducted every two years is used to provide an indicator of the availability and use of services for

female victims. The majority of the information presented focuses on violence against women aged 15 years and older, and special attention is given to the situation of violence against Aboriginal women. It should be noted that due to a lack of consistent reporting of Aboriginal status by police services, analysis on the victimization of Aboriginal women is largely limited to self-reported victimization data. A descriptive and statistical analysis of violence against Aboriginal women is clearly presented in text box 1.5. The authors acknowledge the need to address gaps in data on cyber-violence and trafficking in persons would provide a more comprehensive picture of violence against women and girls. The report also discusses the need for increasing emphasis on building evidence about promising prevention and intervention practices.

The Aboriginal Corrections Policy Unit. (2010).

Community Safety Plans Public Safety Canada.

The Aboriginal Corrections Policy Unit (ACPU) is working collaboratively with a number of Aboriginal communities, in an effort to enhance the safety of Aboriginal communities. The ACPU is: developing tailored approaches to community safety; creating community safety plans for integrated responses to safety issues that will help define risks; building on assets; and identifying gaps in responding to risks. This project overview provides: details on the workshop format (developed by Aboriginal people to be inclusive and accessible); outlines the requirements having a workshop facilitated in a community; and shares an overview of the community healing, community engagement and community safety planning components of the workshop. The document provides guidance to interested communities in how to prepare a proposal for the development of a safety plan, and provides details on administrative issues for the project. The intended benefit to this integrated approach is that federal departments will be able to more effectively target programs and services to meet community needs and expectations.

**The Native Courtworker and Counselling Association
of British Columbia. (2011).**

Women's right to be safe.

British Columbia, Canada.

This free resource guide was developed by the Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of British Columbia and is intended to enhance personal safety. It can be used as a starting point to discuss the issue of violence against women. Seven sections of the guide speak to various topics, including: cyber safety; young women; working alone; elder safe; rights of the child; community; and resources. Each section discusses the topic, and provides tips on how to be safe. Powerful statements and photos are used throughout the guide with comments from various advocates on the issue including enforcement personnel, Chiefs, First Nations women, elders, and university professors. The resources section at the end of the document provides over ten pages of links and contact information for organizations that provide support and services related to each of the topics detailed through the guide.

Tordoff, MJ. (April 11, 2008).

Bad mothers and reckless Women: The use of negative stereotype to excuse societal injustice – a discursive analysis of media representations of female Aboriginal victims of crime.

The Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women.

This directed research project examines media coverage surrounding violent crime against Aboriginal women. Its intention is to demonstrate that historical injustice has led to a collective need to excuse the injustice, resulting in Aboriginal women being assigned responsibility if they are victims of violence. The background information presented in this report is well researched and historical components are shared such as: The Indian Act; residential schooling; eugenics law; the 'sixties scoop' (referring to the movement to remove Aboriginal children from their homes to be placed with non-Aboriginal families); systemic racism in the justice system; social services' response to problems in Aboriginal homes; and violence against Aboriginal women. The author delves into the media portrayal of Aboriginal women

when they are victims of crime, using discursive analysis and focusing on rhetoric, hyperbole and the guise of government accepting responsibility for tragedy, transposed with negative representation of Aboriginal women. Referencing several examples of violence against Aboriginal women through media coverage, and how Canadian media seems to minimize the importance of Aboriginal women as the victims, the author also presents a case study of the Nina Courtepatte murder as seen through media coverage. The paper presents an example of how stereotype can be used to minimize the severity of the crime committed and how blame is reassigned to the victim and their family.

Vancouver Police Department & The Women's Memorial March Committee. (2011).

The tragedy of missing and murdered women in Canada: we can do better.

Vancouver Police Department.

This report is based on collaborative consultations between members of the Women's Memorial March Committee and Vancouver Police. It outlines: the current problems; actions that have been taken, proposed or are in progress; and makes recommendations to address remaining gaps in the issue of missing and murdered Aboriginal women at local, provincial and national levels. Reviewing several Canadian-specific reports (which are also cited in this bibliography), the document specifically discusses the issues of 'investigative challenges' in policing. It cites existing task forces or joint operations across the country that are working to address these issues, and delves into specific areas such as: lack of police expertise and capacity; lack of coordination among agencies; mobility of missing persons; delays in reporting; lack of data; and access to useful databases. Using case studies and quotes from key partners throughout the report to accentuate the need for action on this issue, the report summarizes key recommendations from the reviewed reference sources, and specifically calls for the development of provincial centralized and national 'clearing houses' with 1-800 numbers to assist in reporting. Serving as an example of success, the report also presents an overview of the police/community collaboration model called SisterWatch, which aims at addressing the reporting issue.

Wathen, N. (2012).

Health impacts of violent victimization on women and their children.

Research and Statistics Division: Department of Justice Canada.

This well-researched, analyzed and referenced study examines the consequences of intimate partner violence (IPV) against women. It also discusses children witnessing IPV, emphasizing the association with specific physical and mental health outcomes, including health-related quality of life and health risk behaviours. Through a synthesis of current research, the links between violence and health are presented. The report highlights key findings, trends, risk factors, common themes and gaps in research in Canada and includes studies from the United States, Australia and the United Kingdom as appropriate. The study presents growing evidence of the strong links between violence against women and children and significant physical and mental health impairment; and risky health behaviours. It points out that longer-term mental health and chronic diseases are associated with violent victimization. Key findings from the report specific to the health impacts of violent victimization are vast and comprehensively detailed across four categories: intimate partner violence and its impact on women and children's health; non-partner sexual assault of women; child sexual abuse; and multiple forms of child maltreatment/adverse childhood experiences.

Working Committee of Canada. (September 4, 2013).

Submission of Canada to the committee of the elimination of discrimination against women concerning its inquiry into the situation of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls in Canada.

United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

This document defends Canada's record against the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women*, arguing that it has not systematically violated the rights set out by the Convention. It is in response to two petitioners to the contrary – the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) and the Feminist Alliance for International Action (FAFIA). The submission highlights some of the concrete steps taken and progress achieved in: enhancing prevention efforts; law enforcement; justice system responses; assisting victims and their families; and improving socio-economic conditions of Aboriginal Canadians which have resulted in positive outcomes for Aboriginal women and girls and their families. A lengthy document details the recent historical activities, policies, best practices projects and actions undertaken by the government at federal and provincial levels. It shares the perspective on the issue of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls as far back as the 1990s. The document serves as a forensic timeline of events from the government's perspective. Additionally, the response of the Government of Canada addresses the CEDAW committee's particular concern regarding Canada's refusal to adopt a national action plan to address violence against Aboriginal women and girls. Canada notes that its 'policy choice to not develop a specific national action plan cannot be equated with a refusal or failure to take a specific action in this area,' and that it has the discretion to choose 'how' to structure its response to the matter. The report asserts that government and police have acted in strategic, coordinate and collaborative ways to address the issue and provides supporting evidence, citing many of the reports in this bibliography.

YWCA. (2011).

Digital Conversations about women, gender and violence in social and new media.

YWCA Canada Brief to the Standing Committee on the Status of Women: Study of the Impact of social media and new communications technologies on violence against women and girls. Toronto, ON.

This brief discusses why new and social media platforms are attractive to women end users, and how they present dangers and can contribute to violence against women. The paper also shares the ways in which new and emerging technology can offer digital spaces for intervention, violence prevention and community building. It is sufficiently stacked with references and statistics on how women are driving the development of social media and their enhanced social participation online over men - dubbed the 'gender divide of influence.' The report details how location-based GPS tracking of online applications can be used to find out about personal information and real-life habits that may subject women to cyber-bullying or cyber-stalking techniques. It also introduces the notion that while social media presents new concerns, challenges and obstacles to women's safety, it can also be used for good (and shares examples such as the *YWCA Safety Siren* app for iPhone users – a take on the rape whistle). The article is published by the YWCA, who has been a leader in providing a voice for women, and, in particular, for those in vulnerable circumstances. It calls for Parliament, as social policy makers, to reach out and engage women about resources and supports that will work towards their safety, and suggests using crowd sourcing to collect women's views on the subject, and doing this through digital participation.

Alberta Justice and Solicitor General
Victims Services
www.victims.alberta.ca

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