



Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc.

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Office of Grand Chief Garrison Settee

To our Families of our missing and murdered and Survivors of violence,

I would like to begin by acknowledging families and the two-spirit community who have experienced the tragic loss of one of our sisters. My deepest condolences are with you all.

To the survivors, your resilience and strength is unimaginable. You have survived horrific violence, from systemic violence, domestic violence, sexual violence, sexual exploitation, and human trafficking, compounded by racism and patriarchal dominance.

The families, survivors and the two-spirit community are the real experts in this process. You are our greatest teachers on how to protect you - based on your lived experiences. As Canadians and Government representatives, we must ensure action and implementation of all the recommendations based on the truths you all shared.

The time of leaving reports and recommendations to collect dust on shelves is over. The lives of Indigenous women and girls and two-spirit individuals matter. You all have the right to live a life free of violence and thrive in environments that are healthy and where you are respected.

As the Grand Chief of the Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc., I give you my personal commitment to do the best I can to create those safe spaces for all of you **NOW** and for generations to come.

Where possible, I will make every effort to educate and bring in partners to support strong and healthy women and girls who, in turn, will support healthy families and safe communities.

The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls is a vehicle to share important truths, but as a country, we all have an obligation to protect the lives of Indigenous women and girls and two-spirit individuals. As a Leader, I have the political will to implement the recommendations to the best of my ability using the limited resources and supports we have within the MKO Territory to end the violence.

Love, light and peace to you all.

Grand Chief Garrison Settee
Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc.