



# Manitoba Keewatinowí Okimakanak Inc.

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## Press Release

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**For Immediate Release**  
**December 14, 2018**  
**12:00 p.m. CST**

**Unceded Traditional Territories of the Algonquin Nation, OTTAWA, ON** - Manitoba Keewatinowí Okimakanak Grand Chief Garrison Settee and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Liaison Hilda Anderson-Pyrz provided statements at the Oral Closing Submissions of the Parties with Standing with the National Inquiry into the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

“I want to create a pathway for change for Indigenous women and girls to survive and thrive in environments that are safe, healthy and positive” stated Grand Chief Settee. “We have the political will within the MKO territory to move towards action. This Inquiry should make transformative change, and MKO wants to be part of that change” affirmed Grand Chief Settee.

Hilda Anderson-Pyrz stated “our families are very important to our communities, and when we experience the loss of a loved one, it fractures that relationship”. As the MMIWG Liaison at MKO, families have approached MKO to provide support for healing. “Prevention and education are key to ensuring that our women and girls are safe. We go to our Grandmothers to make us feel safe. We call upon this inquiry to recommend that ongoing support for prevention and healing programs continues for our women and girls in northern Manitoba” added Ms. Anderson-Pyrz.

MKO provided a written submission containing 5 overarching Recommendations and 72 sector-specific to the Inquiry, including:

- ✓ Utilize a family-centric approach to form all actionable recommendations that respect the diverse and unique needs of families, survivors and Communities.
- ✓ Recognize that our women and girls deserve to be safe, no matter their race or geography and the appropriate measures must be taken- no matter the cost.
- ✓ Focus on the need for Indigenous-led programs and services that include women and youth in the decision-making processes and core funded.
- ✓ Establish a legacy fund for families and survivors, regardless of participation in this Inquiry, such that there is individual compensation for victims but also a fund that will last over time to create safe spaces and programs for the future.
- ✓ Recommendations are specific to, and applicable and implementable in, remote and isolated Communities in northern regions.