



## Coalition Calls on the Federal Government to Fully Restore Recent Funding Cuts to the Quebec Native Women's Association and Honouring the Circle Transitional Shelter

PRESS STATEMENT- May 26, 2015

Vancouver, B.C., Coast Salish Territory

A Coalition on Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls is denouncing federal funding cuts to the Quebec Native Women's Association (QNWA) and to Honouring the Circle (HTC), a transitional shelter for single women and women with children.

As of April 1, 2015, the federal government will not be providing funding to QNWA for the first time in 35 years. Annual funding of \$150,000 to \$175,000 from the federal government covered essential administrative costs for QNWA. The federal government has told QNWA that funding is being cancelled because the federal government no longer considers the QNWA an Aboriginal-representative organization; however, the QNWA actively assists Aboriginal women and their children living with gendered violence, family violence, substance abuse, education, and equality issues. The Coalition questions whether the cancellation of funding is related to the QNWA's political advocacy for the well-being of Indigenous women and girls.

Further, the Coalition is troubled by the additional cut of \$200,000 in federal funding previously provided to the HTC, which is operated by the Native Women's Centre and assists women who are recovering from the trauma of violence from husbands or intimate partners, family abuse, addictions and mental health issues. The Coalition is extremely concerned that the cancellation of federal funding to the QNVA and HTC will directly result in decreased essential support services for Indigenous women and girls who are have experienced violence against them.

The Coalition acknowledges the immense amount of work the QNVA and HTC have carried out in supporting Indigenous women and girls, and calls on the federal government to fully reinstate funding to both the QNVA and HTC. Women's groups like QNVA and HTC are essential in providing Indigenous

women and girls experiencing violence a safe environment and support systems, and to preventing a further increase in the tragically high number of murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls.

*The Coalition on Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls initially came together in response to the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry in British Columbia overseen by Commissioner Wally Oppal. Unfortunately the groups who formed the Coalition were shut out of the inquiry; however, the Coalition continues to meet regularly to pursue justice for murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls and has grown in number and strength.*

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