

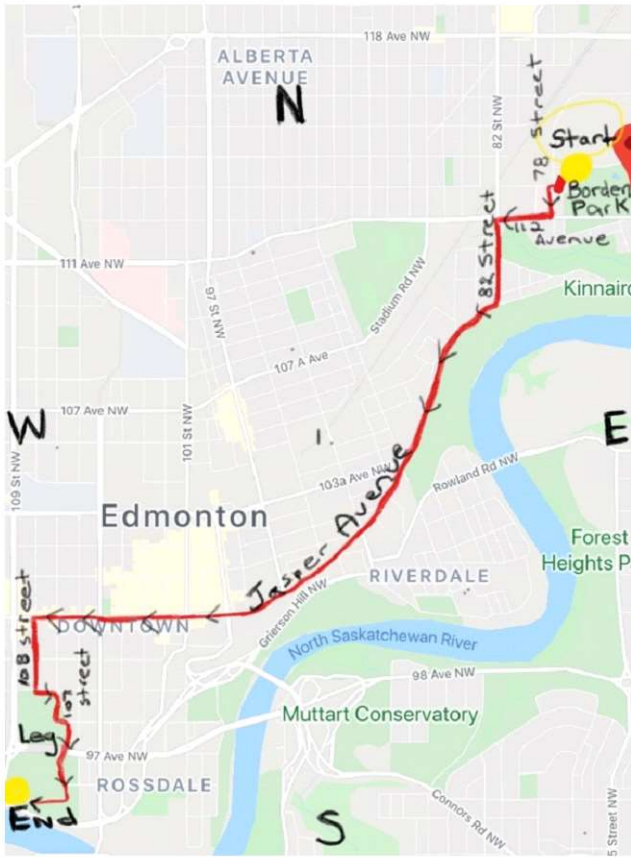
Convoy 4 Action: National Inquiry Calls for Justice 231

Wednesday June 3, 2020 - Edmonton, AB

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

CONVOY ROUTE

Start: Borden Park Road & 78 Street (parking lot)



END: Alberta Legislature grounds (107 Street and River Valley Road)

Starting Point – Corner of
Borden Park Road & 78
street (parking lot)

Exit South on 78 street and
then right at 112 avenue

Then *left* on 82 street

Down Jasper Avenue

Turn *left* onto 108 street

Turn *left* onto 99 avenue

Right on 107 street

To Fortway Drive to River Valley Road where vehicles will disperse

STEPHANIE HARPE



After the murder of her mother and her friends in Edmonton, Stephanie has been advocating for murdered and missing Indigenous peoples through speech and song including “Somebody’s Daughter”. She has presented at REDX TALKS, Edmonton and spoke at the Spirit of our Sisters Gathering, along side Dr. Gabor Mate, Rinelte Harper, Tantoo Cardinal, and Wab Kinew. Her mission is to share her story through her advocacy work, music, and public speaking engagements. She participated in the National Inquiry on MMIWG and is a two-time award-winning humanitarian.

APRIL EVE WIBERG



April Eve Wiberg is nehiyaw iskwêw, advocate and founding member of the Stolen Sisters & Brothers Awareness Movement (SSBAM), a social justice movement raising awareness on the human rights crisis of Missing, Murdered and Exploited Indigenous Peoples (MMEIP). The SSBAM is an entirely grassroots movement and therefore is not funded nor seeks any type of funding from government, businesses or individuals. Formerly named the Stolen Sisters Awareness Movement, the Stolen Sisters Awareness Walks began in Edmonton in 2007 and was the first walk in the province of Alberta raising awareness specifically on the violence and disproportionate number of missing, murdered and exploited Métis, Inuit, Non-Status and First Nations Women and Girls in

Canada. April Eve is an intergenerational survivor of the residential school system and in her lifetime has overcome addiction, racism, homelessness, violence and sexual exploitation. She is committed to being a strong voice against sexual exploitation, racism and other human rights abuses.

SONJA PURCELL



Sonja Purcell supports a range of community causes and events but is especially dedicated to raising awareness of the crisis of MMEIP. Her company, Ayana Communications, has powered various community events in Edmonton, including the Building Empathy, Conquering Apathy Symposium, Belcourt Brosseau Metis Awards Gala and recently, The ME Project – YEG2019. As an ally, she encourages all Canadians to familiarize themselves with the human rights crisis of MMEIP and join in the call for action.

Some facts:

- i. Human rights violations are not just a global issue. While Canadian citizens experience many human rights violations; Indigenous peoples in Canada are more often the victims of these violations. There is a national **human rights crisis of Missing, Murdered and Exploited Indigenous People (MMEIP)** in Canada.

Available statistics consistently point to a greatly disproportionate incidence of violence against Indigenous women in Canada. In a 2009 government survey of the ten provinces, Indigenous women were nearly three times more likely than non-Indigenous women to report being a victim of a violent crime; this was true regardless of whether the violence was perpetrated by a stranger or by a spouse. Not only do Indigenous women face more frequent incidence of violence, the violence is also much more severe. *A Statistics Canada report suggests that the national homicide rate for Indigenous women is at least seven times higher than for non-Indigenous women. Amnesty International has also called the issue of violence against Indigenous women in Canada a National Human Rights crisis.*

With the one-year anniversary of the release of *“Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report on the National Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls”* there has been little to no movement on the implementation of actions to answer the over 200 Calls for Justice contained within the report. These measures are necessary in addressing human right violations and this national human rights crisis.

Despite earlier calls and recommendations from organizations including the Native Women’s Association of Canada who released the report *“Boyfriend or Not - Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Aboriginal Women and Girls in Canada: Report to the Embassy of the United States”* in October 2014, action has not been taken. Recommendations within the NWAC report include *the implementation of a national strategy to raise awareness on issues increasing vulnerability of Aboriginal women and girls to sexual exploitation and trafficking*, often a precursor to many women and girls going missing or being murdered.

The [final National Inquiry 1,200 page report](#) calls violence against First Nations, Metis and Inuit women and girls a form of “genocide” and a crisis that has been “centuries in the making.”

“As the evidence demonstrates, human rights and Indigenous rights abuses and violations committed and condoned by the Canadian state represent genocide against Indigenous women, girls, and (LGBTQ and two-spirit) people,” it concludes. “These abuses and violations have resulted in the denial of safety, security, and human dignity.”

It states that all Canadians have a role to play in taking the actions required to address this human rights crisis.

There is a lot of disagreement about the number MMIWG in Canada. Canada’s national police force acknowledged in a 2014 report that there have been more than 1,200 missing and murdered Indigenous women between 1980 and 2012.

Indigenous women's groups, however, document the number of missing and murdered to be well over 4,000. The variance can be attributed in part to the under-reporting of violence against Indigenous women and girls and the lack of an effective database, as well as the failure to identify such cases by ethnicity.

- ii. ***The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*** is a document that describes both individual and collective rights of Indigenous peoples around the world and was adopted by resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on September 13, 2007. It offers guidance on cooperative relationships with Indigenous peoples to states, the United Nations, and other international organizations based on the principles of equality, partnership, good faith and mutual respect. It addresses the rights of Indigenous peoples on issues such as:

- a) culture
- b) identity
- c) religion
- d) language
- e) health
- f) education
- g) community

In November 2010, Canada issued a [Statement of Support](#) endorsing the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

In November 2015, the Prime Minister of Canada asked the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs and other ministers, in the [mandate letters](#), to implement the declaration.

In May 2016, the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs [announced](#) Canada is now a full supporter, without qualification, of the declaration.

Source: <https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1309374407406/1309374458958#a1>