

VIOLENCE AGAINST INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS: A CONSOLIDATED LITERATURE REVIEW By Pippa Feinstein and Megan Pearce, December 2014

The following comprises a list of 40 reports provided by the federal government when arguing there is no need for a national inquiry concerning missing and murdered Indigenous women

| TITLE OF REPORT | YEAR OF PUBLICATION | PUBLISHING BODY | PURPOSE OF REPORT | SUMMARY | RECOMMENDATIONS / IMPLEMENTATION | LINK TO DOCUMENT |
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| Those Who Take Us Away: Abusive Policing and Failures in Protection of Indigenous Women and Girls in Northern British Columbia, Canada | 2013 | Human Rights Watch | This report was drafted pursuant to the organization's mandate to "conduct regular, systematic investigations of human rights abuses around the world". | The report asserts that Indigenous women are under-protected, and have in several instances been abused by RCMP officers. The report also argues current mechanisms for civilian oversight are inadequate to hold the RCMP accountable for its failure to curb violence against Indigenous women. | This report contains 20 recommendations for the federal government, the British Columbia government, RCMP, and the United Nations Human Rights Council. These recommendations fall under the following themes: call for a national commission of inquiry; the need for a national action plan; ratification of international instruments; properly resourced and culturally sensitive services for victims and families; data gathering and publications; general measures to improve police practices; and specific measures to improve investigations and prosecutions. Preliminary research suggests that the majority of these recommendations remain unimplemented. For more information, see Analysis of Implementation document. | http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/repor |
| Coordinated and Urgent Action to End Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls – Towards a National Action Plan | 2012 | Assembly of First Nations | Via its past resolutions, the AFN is mandated to address the issue of violence against Indigenous women. This report calling for a national action plan was drafted to further this mandate. | The report stresses that violence against Indigenous women and girls is in part the result of years of destructive Canadian policy that marginalized Indigenous women economically and socially. The AFN argues that attempts to combat this systemic violence must be grounded in respect for First Nation governments, their jurisdiction, laws, and traditions. | This report contains only one recommendation: a call for the establishment of a national commission of inquiry to address violence against Indigenous women and girls, designed and created by Aboriginal elected leadership, federal and provincial Ministers, and Indigenous women and girls. No inquiry has been established to date. Therefore, this recommendation has not been implemented. | http://www.afn.ca/uploads/files/missing_ |
| Criminal Victimization in the Territories, 2009 | 2012 | Statistics Canada | This is a report prepared by Statistics Canada analysing data they collected. | The report noted that Aboriginal people are more likely than non-Aboriginal people to express dissatisfaction with local police, victimization rates among Aboriginal people were higher than for non-Aboriginal people, and spousal violence was more common among Aboriginal people. | This report contains no recommendations. | http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/access_acces/alternativ |
| Summary Report: Yukon Aboriginal Women's Summit 2 – Strong Women, Strong Communities: Restoring Our Balance | 2012 | Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues and the Yukon Women's Directorate | This report was the product of an initiative led by the Council and Directorate. | The scope of this report concerns broad social and economic concerns (including leadership, education, housing, culture, and justice) in the Yukon. | This report contains 12 recommendations. While they are drafted very broadly and refer to wide-reaching social change, the recommendations can generally be characterized as falling under the following themes: properly resourced and culturally sensitive services for victims and families; and awareness raising and education. Some of the recommendations made have been addressed in the Yukon's Poverty Reduction Strategy. However, given the general terms in which the recommendations are expressed, it is difficult to assess the extent to which they have been implemented. For more information, see Analysis of Implementation document. | http://www.womensdirectoratorate.gov.yk.ca/pdf/yaws2.pdf |
| Forsaken – The Report of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry (aka "the Oppal Report") | 2012 | Missing Women Commission of Inquiry | British Columbia's legislature established the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry in 2010, under the authority of the Public Inquiry Act. | The British Columbia legislature determined the mandate of the Inquiry, which set the scope for this report. The Inquiry had to address the following: 1) to inquire into and make findings of fact respecting investigations conducted between 1997 and 2002 into women missing from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, 2) to inquire into and make findings of fact respecting the Criminal Justice Branch's decision to enter a stay of proceedings on charges against Robert Pickton in 1998, 3) to recommend changes considered necessary respecting the initiation and context of investigations in BC of missing women and multiple homicides, and 4) recommend changes considered necessary respecting multiple homicide investigations and their coordination. | This report contains 63 recommendations that relate primarily to the failure of policing, including general practices, investigations, prosecutions and police-community relations. Recommendations are also made with respect to matters "ancillary" to the commission's mandate, such as the need for an apology, the payment of compensation, community based response measures and improvements to transport. The report also includes guidelines for the implementation of the report's recommendations, and urges the appointment of an independent advisor to manage the implementation of the Commission's recommendations. Steven Point was appointed to this role by the government. However, Point stepped down in May 2013 after families of women murdered by Pickton launched a civil suit against Pickton for damages. British Columbia's Attorney General cited the suit as a reason to put the implementation of the Oppal report's recommendations on hold. For a more detailed analysis of the themes of the recommendations, see Analysis of Implementation document. | http://www.ag.gov.bc.ca/public_inquiries/docs/F |
| Voices of the Families – Recommendations of the Families of the Missing and Murdered Women - Consultation report prepared for the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry | 2012 | Missing Women Commission of Inquiry | This report was prepared by staff at the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry, in order to document recommendations made by families of missing and murdered Indigenous women. | This report is a companion to the report of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry (above row). It summarizes concerns and recommendations made by the families and friends of missing and murdered Indigenous women. | There are 95 recommendations made in this report, although there was not consensus among contributors with respect to all recommendations. The recommendations contained in this report were not endorsed by the official Inquiry. | http://www.missingwomeninquiry.ca/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/F |

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| Addressing the Legacy of Residential Schools | 2011 | Library of Parliament | This report was prepared as a "Background Paper" to provide information and analysis to parliamentarians, Senate and House of Commons Committees, and parliamentary associations. The report does not specify whether it was prepared pursuant to a specific request from a particular Committee or parliamentarian. | This report provides an overview of the history of residential schools and colonial policies towards Indigenous people in Canada. In addition, the reports stated purpose is to summarize recent policy and legal measures to address the legacy of residential schools. To that end, the report describes the 2007 Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement between the federal government and tens of thousands of residential school survivors which resulted in a "Common Experience Payment" of damages for survivors, the residential school Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and the Aboriginal Healing Foundation, among other initiatives. | This report contains no recommendations. | http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2 |
| Ending Violence Against Aboriginal Women and Girls: Empowerment – A New Beginning | 2011 | House of Commons Standing Committee on the Status of Women | This report was prepared pursuant to a federal Standing Order (108(2)) which allows the Committee to determine what subjects it will study (i.e. they were not asked to study this issue by the federal Cabinet or any other body). | This final report focuses on how to help empower and support Indigenous women and girls to strive for independence, confidence, and influence, in order to reduce victimization, poverty, prostitution, and abuse. | This report contains 9 recommendations. Most recommendations pertain to the need for properly funded and culturally sensitive services to be provided to Aboriginal women. In addition, recommendations relate to the following other themes: general measures to improve policing; data gathering and publication; and transport services and access to safe accommodation. For more information on implementation, see Analysis of Implementation document. | http://www.parl.gc.ca/content/hoc/Committee |
| First Nations, Métis and Inuit Women | 2011 | Statistics Canada Community Coordination for Women's Safety (CCWS); Ending Violence Association of British Columbia (EVA) | This report aims to describe "the unique characteristics of the Aboriginal female population, and examine how things have been changing over time". It has been prepared by Statistics Canada using data collected by that agency. | The report notes that Indigenous women experience disproportionately more violence than non-Aboriginal women. It also notes that Aboriginal women tend to have less access to formal education and employment opportunities than non-Aboriginal women, and tend to experience more health problems. | This report contains no recommendations. | http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/89-503-x/2010001/article/11442-eng.pdf |
| Increasing Safety for Aboriginal Women: Key Themes and Resources | 2011 | House of Commons Standing Committee on the Status of Women | This report was an initiative of the CCWS and EVA. | This document is essentially an annotated bibliography of other studies that have addressed violence against Indigenous women in Canada. It also includes several references to programs that are addressing this issue at a grassroots level. | This report contains no recommendations. | http://www.endingviolence.org/files/uploads/aboriginal |
| Interim Report - Call Into the Night: An Overview of Violence Against Aboriginal Women | 2011 | House of Commons Standing Committee on the Status of Women | This report was prepared pursuant to a federal Standing Order (108(2)) which allows the Committee to determine what subjects it will study (i.e. they were not asked to study this issue by the federal Cabinet or any other body). | This report summarizes testimony given by numerous witnesses (Indigenous women, organizations, academics, and various community service providers). This report constitutes an interim report (the final report is described at row 11, above), and has three goals: 1) gaining a better understanding of the extent and nature of violence, 2) examining the root causes of the violence, 3) recommending solutions in consultation with Indigenous women. | This interim report contained no formal recommendations. Rather, recommendations were only included in the final report of the Committee (see row 11, above). | http://www.parl.gc.ca/content/hoc/Committee |
| Collaboration to End Violence: National Aboriginal Women's Forum: Report on Outcomes and Recommendations from Working Sessions | 2011 | Co-hosted by the Province of British Columbia's Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation and the Native Women's Association of Canada | This report documents the outcomes and recommendations made at the Collaboration to End Violence: National Aboriginal Women's Forum. The report is an initiative of the conference organizers. | The forum had three working sessions: 1) post-incident support, 2) intervention, 3) prevention. Each of these three sessions developed recommendations for addressing violence against Indigenous women. | This report contains 29 recommendations. A repeated theme in the recommendations is the need for properly funded and culturally sensitive services for Aboriginal women and communities, and the need for those services to be developed and run by Aboriginal people. The recommendations can be grouped under the following themes: the need for a national action plan; public acknowledgment and prioritization; data gathering and publication; public awareness and education; first response/ search and rescue. The recommendations contained in this report are expressed in broad terms, which makes an assessment of their implementation difficult. For more detailed analysis of their implementation, see Analysis of Implementation document. | http://www.gov.bc.ca/arr/reports/down/bc_m |
| Stopping Violence Against Aboriginal Women: A Summary of Root Causes, Vulnerabilities and Recommendations from Key Literature | 2011 | British Columbia Ministry of Citizens' Services | This paper was prepared to support the British Columbia government's preparations for the National Aboriginal Women's Conference on violence against Aboriginal women (based in Vancouver). For more information on conference outcomes and recommendations - see row 15 above). | The report noted that there was clear consensus across most of the literature on this topic as to the root causes of disproportionate violence against Indigenous women: that years of colonial policies and practice excluded Indigenous peoples from the country economically and socially, and eroded parts of Indigenous cultures. This led to the poverty, dislocation, and trauma which underpin the current violence. | This report did not advance new recommendations. Rather, it synthesized common recommendations derived from the report's literature review. There were approximately 120 of these summarized recommendations, which echo the common themes identified at the conference (see row 15 above). Specifically: the need for a national action plan; public acknowledgment and prioritization; data gathering and publication; public awareness and education; Aboriginal involvement in program development and delivery; properly funded and culturally sensitive services for Aboriginal women and communities; general measures to improve policing; specific measures to improve investigation and prosecution; first response/ search and rescue. For more information, see Analysis of Implementation document. | http://www.gov.mb.ca/msw/resources/docs/vik |

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| Violence Against Aboriginal Women: Scan and Report | 2011 | Canadian Women's Foundation | The report is an initiative of the CWF. It aims to "provide as complete a portrait of the current environment for Aboriginal women experiencing vic obstacles to providing appropriate services to Aboriginal women as well as to highlight some of the most promising and successful approaches with Aboriginal family violence on a daily basis" [p. 6]. | The CWF compiled the information in this report by seeking information, data and resources from the Native Women's Association of Canada, Pauktuutit and the National Women's Circle Against Family Violence, Quebec Native Women, and the Aboriginal Healing Foundation. Therefore, the report is essentially a literature review of reports and data from these organizations, and has been supplemented by relevant academic literature. The report focuses on the levels of funding for services, and the need for a holistic and coordinated approach to violence against Aboriginal women. | This report contains no recommendations. | http://www.canadianwomen.org/sites/canadianwomen.org/ |
| Violent Victimization of Aboriginal Women in the Canadian Provinces, 2009 - Statistics Canada | 2011 | Statistics Canada | This is a report prepared by Statistics Canada analysing data gathered as part of the General Social Survey on Victimization. | This study explains that while numerous programs and policies have been developed to address violence against women, it persists and experienced to a disproportionately greater extent amongst Indigenous women. | This report contains no recommendations. | http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2011001/article/11439-eng.htm |
| A Framework for Action in Education, Economic Development and Violence Against Aboriginal Women and Girl | 2010 | BC Aboriginal Affairs Working Group | This working group was the result of a directive from provincial Premiers and National Aboriginal Organization (NAO) leaders. The group is comprised of provincial Aboriginal Affairs Ministers and the leaders of five NAOs. This report was prepared by the working group pursuant to several requirements in their enabling directive (which dictates the scope of this report). | This report identified uses social determinants of health as a context for analyzing the priorities of: education; economic development; and violence against Aboriginal women. This report advances the following goals: 1) closing the education achievement gap; 2) closing the income gap; and 3) ending violence against Indigenous women. While the report did not focus solely on the issue of violence against Indigenous women, it described it as an "urgent priority" for the member Ministries and NAO leaders. | This report contains 3 recommendations with respect to violence against women. Each recommendation emphasizes the need for greater collaboration between federal and provincial government agencies and services, non-government organisations, and other local and community based initiatives. | http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/DownloadAsset?assetId=3C8FA8C271984 |
| Issues Related to the High Number of Murdered and Missing Women in Canada | 2010 | Missing Women Working Group of the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Coordinating Committee of Senior Officials on Criminal Justice | In 2006 the Federal, Provincial, and Territorial Deputy Ministers of Justice established a working group of the Coordinating Committee of Senior Officials to review high rates of murdered and missing Indigenous women in Canada. The mandate for this working group required the consideration of effective identification, investigation, and prosecution of cases involving serial killers who target persons living 'high risk lifestyles' (including sex work). | The goals of the working group were to: 1) share information and expertise with personnel across the country responsible for identifying, investigating, and prosecuting these cases, 2) develop strategies to assist in resolving cases involving victims of serial predators, 3) promote the development of resources to assist personnel responsible for handling cases of missing and murdered persons, 4) ensure the Criminal Code and other relevant federal and provincial legislation provide the best tools for investigating and prosecuting cases of serial killers who target marginalized persons. | This report contains 52 recommendations. They relate primarily to the ways that police departments, public prosecutors, and judges can more sensitively and effectively respond to the needs of vulnerable Indigenous women and the families of missing and murdered Indigenous women. Police departments have shown an increasing awareness of the issues described in the report, however, it is difficult to determine whether specific programs have since been implemented to achieve the report's recommendations. For more information, see Analysis of Implementation document. | http://www.scics.gc.ca/CMFiles/830992005_e |
| What Their Stories tell Us: Research Findings from the Sisters in Spirit Initiative | 2010 | Native Women's Association of Canada | This report summarizes 5 years of research and information gathering concerning the disappearance or murder of Indigenous women. This research was conducted pursuant to a 5-year grant provided by Status of Women Canada for the NWAC to examine root causes, circumstances, and trends of missing Aboriginal women and girls. The five-year project was called Sisters in Spirit, and it involved research, educational programing, and policy development. It also resulted in this report, as well as a database of over 500 cases of missing or murdered Indigenous women. | The report presented a number of key findings concerning there disproportionate numbers of missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada. The majority of disappearances and deaths occur in the western provinces, more than half of those who died or disappeared were under 31 years of age, and Indigenous women are more likely to be killed by a stranger than non-Aboriginal women. | The report highlighted the need for a 'two-stream' approach to addressing the issue of violence against Indigenous women: a preventative pro-active stream, and a reactive stream. The report did not contain more specific recommendations. | http://www.nwac.ca/sites/default/files/imce/ |
| Final Report: Strengthening the Circle to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women | 2010 | Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres; Ontario Native Women's Association; Métis Nation of Ontario; Independent First Nations | This report is the product of a Summit initiated by Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres; Ontario Native Women's Association; Métis Nation of Ontario; Independent First Nations. | This report focused on how Ontario's Ministry of Community and Social Services could be improved to help Aboriginal women and families who are working to end violence in their lives. | This report contained 15 recommendations concerning the need to increase the scope and funding for many community services for Aboriginal people. Funding for many similar services has become increasingly limited, however, it is difficult to assess whether this is the case for all relevant services. For more information, see Analysis of Implementation document. | http://www.oaith.ca/assets/files/Strengtheni |
| First Nations Communities at Risk and in Crisis: Justice and Security | 2009 | (Academic article) Journal of Aboriginal Health | This report was an initiative of its authors. | This academic article focused on the legacy of Canadian colonialism. The thesis of the article is that communities need to decolonize themselves in order to undertake transformations which will result in healthier communities. | The authors provided 5 decolonizing recommendations for communities to better move forward. The article also included practical advice for how to build preventative and proactive community plans, support community capacity and infrastructure, build relationships, and model positive development. | http://www.naho.ca/documents/journal/jah0 |

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| Knowledge Exchange Workshop: Successful Approaches for the Prevention of Aboriginal Family Violence | 2009 | prepared by Dion Stout Reflections Inc for Public Health Agency of Canada's Family Violence Prevention Unit | The purpose of the workshop was to share information about "proven and promising approaches aimed at preventing the occurrence and re-occurrence of family violence and at reducing its harmful impacts and consequences" [p. i] | This report summarizes the outcomes of a workshop on the prevention of Aboriginal family violence held on 23 and 24 February, 2009 in Gatineau, Quebec. The report outlines the workshop presentations and participants' discussions, and identifies the following general themes: (1) the importance to adopting the lenses of First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples when considering what is known about family violence (2) the complex and fluid nature of responses to family violence and violence prevention efforts; (3) the need for resources to capture and record the success of response strategies (4) the importance of creating a knowledge circle, and community ownership of solutions. | This report contained no recommendations. | http://www.awotaan.org/assets/Page-Attachments/Aboriginal-FV-Workshop-Final-Report.pdf |
| No More Stolen Sisters: the Need for a Comprehensive Response to Discrimination and Violence Against Indigenous Women in Canada | 2008 | Amnesty International | This report is intended to update the 2004 Amnesty International report into missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada | This report updates the 2004 Amnesty International Stolen Sisters report, "which documented the underlying causes of violence against Indigenous women carried out by Indigenous and non-Indigenous men" (p. 8). This update reiterates that racism, poverty and marginalization are factors that continue to increase the risk that Indigenous women will be exposed to violence while at the same time operating to reduce the ability of Indigenous women to access services and the protection of police | This report contains 6 recommendations, which generally fall under the following themes: national action plan, general measures to improve policing; specific measures to improve investigations and prosecutions; ratification of international instruments. For more information on implementation, see Analysis of Implementation document. | http://www.amnesty.ca/sites/default/files/amr20 |
| Voices of our Sisters in Spirit, Report to Families and Communities | 2009 | Native Women's Association of Canada | This report tells the stories of missing or murdered Indigenous women, from the perspectives of their families. It aims to contribute to a broader NWAC Sisters in Spirit Initiative. | The report uses both primary and secondary materials to tell the stories of 23 missing or murdered Aboriginal women. The information for these narratives is gathered through interviews with the victims' families, as well as from demographic and statistical research. These stories are told in order to uncover root causes, circumstances and trends in racialized and sexualized violence against Aboriginal women and girls. | This report contained no recommendations | |
| Jumping through Hoops: A Manitoba Study Examining the Experiences and Reflections of Aboriginal Mothers Involved with Child Welfare and Legal Systems Respecting Child Protection Matters | 2008 | Prepared for Ka Ni Kanichihk and the Steering Committee of the Family Court Diversion Project, by Marilyn Bennett, First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada | The report aims to generate ideas to support a less adversarial approach to child protection matters involving Métis, First Nations, Inuit and other Aboriginal women and children. | The report describes the experiences of Aboriginal mothers and grandmothers dealing with the Manitoba child welfare system and family courts about child protection matters and includes information about the experiences of lawyers and service providers involved with these cases. Advice is given from study participants, but is not framed in terms of 'recommendations'. | This report contains no recommendations | http://cwrp.ca/sites/default/files/public |
| A Call for Action, Summary Report | 2009 | National Aboriginal Women's Summit | | This report summarizes the outcomes of the National Aboriginal Women's Summit held in Newfoundland on 20-22 June, 2007. The summit was designed to be a place where Aboriginal women could discuss issues of importance. Discussion revolved around the following themes: health, safety and wellness; equality and empowerment; strength, balance and honour. | This report summarizes the outcomes of the National Aboriginal Women's Summit held in Newfoundland on 20-22 June, 2007. The summit was designed to be a place where Aboriginal women could discuss issues of importance. Discussion revolved around the following themes: health, safety and wellness; equality and empowerment; strength, balance and honour. | http://www.womensdirectorates.gov.yk.ca/pdf/news1_2008_summ |
| Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women | 2007 | Ontario Native Women's Association & Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres | | This report summarizes the outcomes of a summit held in March 2007 entitled "A Summit to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women". The purpose of the summit was to develop a framework for a strategy to end violence against Aboriginal women. The report outlines 8 "strategic directions", which are intended to inform the development of the required strategic framework. | The summit resulted in 4 recommendations, falling under the following themes: national action plan; law reform; Aboriginal involvement in program development and delivery, and data collection and publication. For more information on implementation, see Analysis of Implementation document. | http://www.oaith.ca/assets/files/Publications |
| A Strategic Framework to End Violence against Wabanaki Women in New Brunswick | 2008 | New Brunswick Advisory Committee on Violence against Aboriginal Women | This report aims to provide a strategic framework for a comprehensive and coordinated approach to address the issue of violence against Aboriginal women in New Brunswick | The framework is intended for use by federal and provincial governments, as well as First Nations leaders and Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal service providers. | This report contains 49 recommendations in total, with 10 identified as being priority. These recommendations fall under the following themes: Aboriginal involvement in program delivery and development; awareness raising and education; general measures to improve policing; specific measures to improve investigation and prosecution. For more information on implementation, see Analysis of Implementation document. | http://www.justice.gov.sk.ca/adx.aspx/adxGetMedia |

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| Final Report of the Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons | 2007 | Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons | This report was developed by the Saskatchewan Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons, and "concludes the first phase of identifying action that are seen as necessary to improve the overall response to missing persons" [p. 2] | The report identifies the following approaches is being critical to an effective response: the need to raise awareness about the risk of people going missing, providing a coordinated response to find missing persons, and to provide adequate and appropriate support to families | This report contains 20 recommendations in total, with numerous 'sub-recommendations'. These recommendations are quite detailed, and relate generally to the following themes: awareness raising and education; specific measures to improve investigations and prosecutions; properly resourced and culturally sensitive services for victims and families. For more information on implementation, see Analysis of Implementation document. | http://www.justice.gov.sk.ca/adx/asp/adxGetMedia |
| A Review of Research on Criminal Victimization and First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples 1990 - 2001 | 2006 | Policy Centre for Victims Issues, Research and Statistics Division (prepared by Chartrand and McKay Consulting) | This study is a literature review of criminal victimization among First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples in Canada, designed to identify further research needs. | The study examines the under-reporting by Aboriginal people of victimization, as well as the particularly high rates of victimization among Aboriginal people, including vulnerable groups (women, youth and people with disabilities). The study notes that while explanations for such high rates of victimization are varied, predominant themes are the "overall impact of colonization and the resultant collective and individual "trauma" and its impacts" [p. v], and the need to responding to such high rates of victimization by breaking "the cycle of family violence" [p. v]. Ultimately, the literature review aims to summarize existing research so that future research projects can be identified that are culturally appropriate | This report contains no recommendations. | http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/aj-ja/rr06_vic1/rr06_vic1.pdf |
| Aboriginal Women and Family Violence | 2008 | Indian and Northern Affairs Canada | This report is a condensed version of a more detailed report prepared in 2006 on the scope and nature of family violence in Aboriginal communities. | The report outlines the prevalence of family violence in Aboriginal communities, its causes and consequences, and the nature of the response, including resources for victims of family violence, their families and abusers, gaps in resources and support, and issues relating to the provision of information and assistance with respect to family violence | This report contains 11 recommendations, which fall under the following themes: awareness raising and education; properly resourced and culturally sensitive services for victims and families. For more information on implementation, see Analysis of Implementation document. | http://www.onwa.ca/upload/documents/abor |
| Ending Violence in Aboriginal Communities: Best Practices in Aboriginal Shelters and Communities | 2006 | National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence | | This report provides detailed information about best practices for dealing with family violence in Aboriginal communities. It does not make any explicit recommendations, it acknowledges that Aboriginal shelters are chronically underfunded and inadequately resourced, and that, as a consequence, strategies to address family violence in Aboriginal communities are very limited | This report contained no recommendations | http://54.68.17.167/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/N |
| National Strategy to Prevent Abuse in Inuit Communities and Sharing Knowledge, Sharing Wisdom: A Guide to National Strategy | 2006 | Inuit Women of Canada | | This report highlights how the response to violence in Inuit communities has lacked adequate resources and proper coordination, and sets out a strategy to prevent abuse in Inuit communities. The strategy's objectives are to foster and maintain relationships between organizations committed to the goal of reducing abuse in Inuit communities, coordinate efforts to make best use of resources, and implement effective, practical and culturally appropriate services and programs to prevent abuse and promote healing. The report is presented in the manner of a lengthy brochure, and is described as being designed as a guide for use by agencies, organisations, governments, local communities and Aboriginal and Inuit organisations wanting to take effective action | All 9 recommendations contained in this report relate to the need to use the knowledge and philosophies of Aboriginal healers in the process of responding to violence against Aboriginal women. Therefore, the recommendations fall under the theme: Aboriginal involvement in program development and delivery. For more information, see Analysis of Implementation document. | http://pauktuutit.ca/wp-content/blogs.dir/1/assets/InuitStrategy_ |
| Building Safe and Healthy Communities and Families | 2006 | Summary of Policy Forum on Aboriginal Women and Violence: Building Safe and Healthy Communities | | The report summarizes the discussion at the Policy Forum on Aboriginal Women and Violence: Building Safe and Healthy Communities. The forum was convened with 3 main goals: to create a dialogue between government and Aboriginal organizations about policy and program initiatives; to share promising practices on violence prevention; and to show-case programs and services that had succeeded in making a difference. The report summarises the contents of presentations made by participants at the forum, but does not provide specific recommendations. | This report contains no recommendations. | http://humanservices.alberta.ca/documents/aboriginal-women-forum-english.pdf |

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| Highway of Tears Symposium Recommendation Report | 2006 | Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, Carrier Sekani Family Services, Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, Prince George Native Friendship Center, Prince George Nechako Aboriginal Employment and Training Association | | The report sets out recommendations made at the Highway of Tears Symposium, which aimed to raise awareness and develop a response to the murders and disappearances of women on the 'Highway of Tears' in British Columbia. The recommendations made at the Symposium can be grouped under 4 themes: victim prevention, emergency planning and team response; victim family counselling and support; and community development and support. In addition to setting out recommendations, the report describes the common features of each murder and disappearance along the Highway of Tears, and in particular, that each of the victims were young women living in poverty and travelling along Highway 16 which is characterised by a lack of transport and social infrastructure. | This report contains 27 recommendations. These recommendations fall under the following themes: properly resourced and culturally sensitive services for victims and families; awareness raising and education; general measures to improve policing; transport services and access to safe accommodation; first response and search and rescue; compensation. For more information on implementation, see Analysis of Implementation document. | http://www.ubcic.bc.ca/files/PDF/highwayoftea |
| Research Report: Applying Inuit Cultural Approaches in the Prevention of Family Violence and Abuse | 2005 | Pauktuutit Inuit Women's Association | The report is part of a broader Pauktuutit National Strategy for Abuse Project | The report was prepared based on interviews with four Inuit healers from different regions of Nunavut. The research was designed to gather knowledge and experience from Inuit healers "with the intention of providing direction for the implementation of a visible, consistent and accessible healing/counseling response throughout the Inuit communities" [p. 3]. The rationale of the report is that Inuit communities need an Inuit approach to healing. The report, therefore, aims to ascertain and record traditional Inuit values, philosophies and practices with respect to the treatment and healing of abused and abusers, with the ultimate goal being to develop concrete methods, models and activities to address the social problems currently faced by Inuit | This report contains 13 recommendations, all of which relate to the importance of using Inuit healing methods and philosophies to address the issue of violence against Inuit women. As a result, the recommendations in this report fall under the theme: Aboriginal involvement in program development and delivery. For more information on implementation, see Analysis of Implementation. | http://pauktuutit.ca/wp-content/blogs.dir/1/assets/InuitAbusePre |
| Stolen Sisters – A Human Rights Response to Discrimination and Violence Against Indigenous Women in Canada | 2004 | Amnesty International | | This report presents 9 case studies about missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls in three different Canadian provinces over a period of three decades. Amnesty International argues in this report that in each case, the Canadian authorities did not do enough to ensure the safety of these women and girls and that the continued marginalization of Indigenous Canadian women and girls results in continued violence and impunity for perpetrators | This report contains 6 general recommendations, with 25 sub-recommendations. The recommendations relate to the following themes: acknowledging the seriousness of the problem and coordinating the response, the need to sign international instruments, data collection, a national strategy, police training and improved investigations, funding for culturally appropriate services, and measures to improve the economic and social status of Indigenous women and girls. For more information on implementation, see Analysis of Implementation document. | http://www.amnesty.ca/sites/default/files/amr20 |
| Aboriginal Domestic Violence in Canada | 2003 | Aboriginal Healing Foundation Research Series | | This study reviews existing literature and knowledge of family violence and abuse in Aboriginal communities, with the intention of "mapping the complex web of factors that create and sustain" violence. This study provides a very detailed description of the current literature examining the causes and consequences of family violence in Aboriginal communities, ultimately arguing that Aboriginal family violence is a "multi-factoral social syndrome and not simply an undesirable behaviour" [p. ix], and (amongst other things) has its roots in the Aboriginal historical experience. The study also reviews current responses to Aboriginal violence, and aims to articulate a comprehensive framework for addressing violence in Aboriginal communities | The report contains 14 recommendations, which relate generally to the following themes: awareness raising and education; first response/search and rescue; properly resourced and culturally sensitive services for victims and families. For more information on implementation, see Analysis and Implementation document. | http://www.ahf.ca/downloads/domestic-violence.pdf |
| Moving Toward Safety: Responding to Family Violence in Aboriginal and Northern Communities in Labrador | 2002 | Provincial Association Against Family Violence (prepared by Kimberly Dreddy on behalf of) | The reports aims to describe current practices to address family violence, explores existing models of service delivery in Canada and abroad, identifies alternatives to traditional shelter services and to recommend elements of a framework for effective preventative measures. | The report is explicitly designed to address family violence in Labrador, and identifies the following factors as relevant: isolation, lack of community awareness, lack of culturally sensitive services, and the need to give communities adequate resources to maintain and control proposed initiatives. It also argues that development of short-term havens and community response teams is a good starting point for communities responding to persistent levels of family violence. | This report makes 9 recommendations, specific to the situation in Labrador. These recommendations relate to the following themes: transport services and access to safe accommodation; properly resourced and culturally sensitive services for victims and families. For more information see Analysis of Implementation document. | http://www.gov.nl.ca/VPI/publications/moving |

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| Report of the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry of Manitoba | 2001 | The Aboriginal Justice Implementation Commission | The Aboriginal Justice Implementation Commission (Implementation Commission) was mandated to review recommendations made by the earlier Aboriginal Justice Inquiry of Manitoba, and propose methods of implementing the necessary recommendations. | The report of the Implementation Commission examines multiple themes, such as treaty land entitlement, employment and cross-cultural training, child welfare, and criminal justice interventions for Aboriginal youth, in addition to violence towards women and children. (Only the Implementation Commission's conclusions with respect to violence towards Aboriginal women and children will be summarised here.). After examining policy developments that have occurred in the criminal justice since the original Inquiry was concluded, the Implementation Commission examined the conflict between the need to maintain the personal safety of women and child victims of family violence, while also reducing the disproportionate incarceration of Aboriginal people | | http://www.ajic.mb.ca/volume.html |
| Report of the Royal Commission On Aboriginal Peoples | 1996 | Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples | This Commission was established in 1991. It was appointed by the federal government, pursuant to Part 1 of the Inquiries Act. This provided the Commission with the ability to subpoena witnesses, taking evidence under oath, requisition documents, hiring experts. | The report is 4000 pages long and includes almost 450 recommendations. It is organized into 5 volumes: 1) an examination of difficulties in the historical relationship between Aboriginal Peoples and the Crown, and how the future relationship could be improved, 2) restructuring the Aboriginal - Crown relationship (re: land, resources, and economic development), 3) social policy (housing, health and healing, education, arts and heritage, family services), 4) other perspectives (youth, women, Metis, Elders), 5) outlining a 20-year commitment to implement the report's recommendations. Volumes 3 and 4 contained recommendations for addressing family violence and violence against Indigenous women. | The Commission explored family violence, as experienced by Aboriginal peoples, (as well as how Canadian law and policy has exacerbated these difficulties) and the inadequacy of current services in addressing these challenges. The Commission also recommended that more funding be provided to initiatives addressing the unique hardships of Indigenous women, in the Commission's section concerning the Aboriginal women's perspectives). Although the Commission's report did include an implementation guideline, it is difficult to find status updates concerning the extent to which recommendations have been implemented. For more information, see Analysis of Implementation document. | http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/webarchives/20071115 |
| ADDITIONAL REPORTS | | | | | | |
| The following reports were found by Megan Pearce and Pippa Feinstein, they are not part of the list of 40 reports provided by the federal government | | | | | | |
| Action Plan to Address Family Violence and Violent Crimes Against Aboriginal Women and Girls | 2014 | Government of Canada | This plan is the federal government's response to the recommendations of the Special Committee on Violence Against Indigenous Women. | This past year, the federal government drafted an "Action Plan to Address Family Violence and Violent Crimes Against Aboriginal Women and Girls" (Action Plan). According to the government, this 5-year Action Plan "consolidates and builds on existing Government initiatives", and has been funded \$25 million in total | Rather than recommendations, this plan outlines how the federal government would like to implement/address the Special Committee's recommendations. The government's commitment to implementation consists of promising funding for community initiatives as well as certain already existing government services. For more information, see Analysis of Implementation document. | http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/violence/efforts/action-eng.pdf |
| Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women: A National Operational Overview | 2014 | RCMP | In 2013, the Commissioner of the RCMP initiated this RCMP-led study of missing and murdered Aboriginal women. This study assessed data concerning all reported cases to date across the country. | This report is meant to "guide operational decision-making on a solid foundation" (p3), and lead to more targeted crime-prevention, better community engagement, and enhanced accountability for criminal investigations (p3). | The report contains no recommendations. Rather it outlines what actions the RCMP will take to address the failings noted in its report. Proposed actions include: enhancing efforts on unresolved cases, focusing on prevention efforts, increasing public awareness, and continuing to update the internal database that was created for this project as new cases arise. Some funding for these actions has been allocated, although it is difficult to gauge whether concrete actions have been taken. For more information, see Analysis of Implementation document. | http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/pubs/mmaw-faapd-eng.pdf |
| Changing the Landscape: Ending Violence - Achieving Equality | 1994 | Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women | In June 1991, the House of Commons Sub-Committee on the Status of Women released its report The War against Women. This report was the culmination of a six-month study during which the Sub-Committee had heard evidence from a number of witnesses representing many sectors of Canadian society. In response to one of the 25 recommendations in the Sub-Committee's report, the federal government established the Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women in August 1991. | The Panel's extensive mandate was to examine all forms of violence against women, document its incidence and explore its root causes. The Panel was also expected to increase public awareness of the issue, develop recommendations for prevention of violence, and establish a reasonable time frame for government action to bring about "zero tolerance" in Canadian society. | The Panel proposes a two-pronged plan; an Equality Action Plan and a Zero Tolerance Policy. The former deals with aspects of inequality that make women particularly vulnerable to violence – lack of equality rights, unequal access to the legal system, lack of political and public service participation, the tax/transfer system and other economic issues – and aims for the maintenance and/or creation of specific mechanisms for women's equality. | publications.gc.ca/Collection-R/LOPBdP/MR/mr122-e.htm |
| Victoria Rose Paul: Investigation Report | 2012 | Nadine Cooper Mont, Independent Investigator | The inquest was requested by the Minister for Justice of Nova Scotia, who was also responsible for appointing its Independent Investigator | Victoria Paul was an Aboriginal woman who died in police custody. Issues of racism and sexism arose in this case concerning the insensitivity of police in addressing Indigenous women. However, the inquest revealed little about systematic failures of police to adequately address the issue of missing and murdered Aboriginal women. | | http://novascotia.ca/just/global_docs/Victori |

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| The Tragedy of Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women in Canada: We Can Do Better | 2011 | Position Paper by the SisterWatch Project of the Vancouver Police Department and the Women's Memorial March Project | "The purpose of this report is to summarize the nature and depth of the problem; identify actions that have been taken, have been proposed, or are in progress; and to recommend what more should be done at the local, provincial and national levels to ensure an evidence-based, best practice approach to addressing an unacceptable situation" [p. 7]. | This report outlines the current problem of missing and murdered Aboriginal women, describes actions that have been taken in response, and makes recommendations to address remaining gaps in efforts to address this issue. The report is especially focused on gaps in prevention efforts, and police investigative capacity. Information in the report is based on consultations with the Women's Memorial March Committee and Vancouver Police officers, as part of a "unique police/community collaboration called SisterWatch. The report emphasizes the need for police to build the trust of Aboriginal communities, and for dedicated, specialized and adequate resources to be put towards the issue of missing Aboriginal women. It also describes the following common problems in police investigations: lack of coordination among police agencies, delays in reporting, lack of access to useful databases, lack of data. | This report contains 10 recommendations. 6 of these recommendations explicitly reiterate recommendations made previously. The additional recommendations relate to improved data collection and data availability. For more information, see Analysis of Implementation document. | http://vancouver.ca/police/assets/pdf/report | |
| Missing Women Investigation Review | 2010 | Vancouver Police Department | This review "examines the general failures that occurred in the Vancouver Police Department investigation" into missing women disappearing from the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver from the mid-1990s onwards. | The review is very detailed, providing a lengthy timeline of disappearances, and analyzing closely the missing women investigation. It notes the VPD's lack of commitment to a serious killer theory, bias against sex-trade workers, and the need for a multi-jurisdictional investigation, as contributing to the failure of investigations. It also acknowledges that the lack of resources within the VPD for such a major investigation, although this latter factor is not deemed a root cause of the investigations' failures. | This report contains 22 recommendations, which relate almost entirely to the need for improved police training and better investigation of missing persons cases. For more information, see Analysis of Implementation document. | http://www.cbc.ca/bc/news/bc-100820-vancouver-police-pickton-investigation-review.pdf | |
| Invisible Women: A Call to Action, A Report on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in Canada | 2014 | Special Committee on Violence Against Indigenous Women | The Committee was established by a motion of the House of Commons and mandated to "conduct hearings on the critical matter of missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada, and to propose solutions to address the root causes of violence against Indigenous women". | The Committee's work was organized around three themes: violence and its root causes, front-line assistance, and preventing violence against Aboriginal women and girls. The Committee gathered information through public meetings, where it heard testimony from the family members of missing and murdered Aboriginal women. It also held meetings with prevention experts and front-line service providers. The report summarizes the comments made at those meetings, many of which relate to the ways in which Aboriginal women and girls are not adequately protected from violence. | This report contains 16 recommendations, which relate to almost all the themes identified in the Analysis of Implementation document. Two recommendations that are notably absent are: the need to establish a national inquiry, and the need to ratify international instruments. For more information, see Analysis of Implementation document. | http://www.acatcanada.org/download/XC2-411-2-1-1-eng.pdf | |
| Report on the 2011 Western Regional Forum on Supporting Families of Missing Persons | 2011 | Prepared by Policy, Planning and Evaluation Branch of Ministry of Justice and AG | This report summarizes the outcomes of the Western Regional Forum on Supporting Families of Missing Persons. | The forum sought to achieve the following objectives: (1) to increase awareness of what support is needed by victims and to start discussions about linking services across jurisdictions; (2) to encourage government and non-government agencies to identify the common and unique needs of families of missing persons and current gaps in services (3) to start discussion about a coherent regional approach to provide both long-term and short-term support to families of missing persons. The report also provides information about the issue of missing persons generally, as well as specific information about the issue in the western regions. | This report contains 16 recommendations. The main themes in these recommendations are: awareness raising and education; data gathering and publication. For more information, see Analysis and Implementation document. | http://childfind.sk.ca/images/uploads/Report | |
| Missing Persons in Saskatchewan: Police Policy and Practice | 2006 | Prepared by Jeff Pfeifer University of Regina for the Saskatchewan Police Commission | The purpose of this report is to "provide information that may be used to assess the practicality of developing and implementing standardized police protocols and practices across the province" of Saskatchewan, with respect to the investigation of missing persons. | The report gathered information by interviewing police officers from municipal services and the RCMP and accessing data on missing persons cases. Based on this information, the report sets out the following issues with respect to missing persons investigations: challenges with communications between police and families; challenges implementing cooperative programs, for example, Safely Home Program; frustration at the number of missing persons reports; concerns regarding level of community input; confusion over the role of search and rescue; confusion over the actual number of missing persons; concern over 'gender and racial trends'. The report then goes on to make observations about areas worthy of consideration for the development of protocols. | This report contains no recommendations. | http://www.justice.gov.sk.ca/adx/asp/adxGetMedia | |

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| <p>Start of Something Powerful: Strategizing for Safer Communities for BC Aboriginal Women</p> | <p>2003</p> | <p>Pacific Association of First Nations Women, BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre, Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs</p> | <p>The publishing bodies are all organizations that work within BC only. They meet regularly as members of the BC Women's Violence Against Women Provincial Health Initiative Advisory Committee. Through their work, the Committee noticed an absence of accessible and appropriate services for Aboriginal women throughout BC and the critical need for services that address this. This report was initiated internally to address this issue.</p> | <p>The report noted that Aboriginal women experience higher rates of violence than non-Aboriginal women, and yet there are fewer relevant services available to Aboriginal women than there are for non-Aboriginal women.</p> | <p>The report contained 15 recommendations that concerned: a need for continued collaboration and funding to improve services for Indigenous women, as well as more research to help inform future policy. As these recommendations are broad, it is difficult to assess the extent to which they have been implemented. For more information, see Analysis of Implementation document.</p> | <p>http://www.endingviolence.org/files/uploads/SaferCon</p> | |
| <p>For more information about the information contained in this spreadsheet, please contact either Pippa at pippa.feinstein@mail.mcgill.ca or Megan at megan.pearce@mail.utoronto.ca</p> | | | | | | | |