

VIOLENCE AGAINST INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS: A CONSOLIDATED LITERATURE REVIEW By Pippa Feinstein and Megan Pearce*, February 2015

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	CAUSES FOR VIOLENCE	RECOMMENDATIONS AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION	LINK TO DOCUMENT
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 notes: Indigenous women's distrust of police, and poor relationship between police departments and Indigenous communities (including police officers' abuse of Indigenous women, police discrimination, law enforcement system's institutional biases, and political and public indifference) responsible for making Indigenous women more vulnerable to violence; violence against Indigenous women and girls is also linked to broader, long-standing patterns of discrimination faced by Indigenous women and girls in British Columbia and in Canada at large (includes structural discrimination related to social and economic inequality, according to government and academic experts. All of these issues are argued to contribute to systemic violence.	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/reports/canada0213webcover_0.pdf
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. The report notes 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 makes note of European economic and cultural expansion; high rates of First Nation child sexual abuse; and the underfunding of First Nation child welfare services; economic and educational disadvantages as causes for the violence.	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_and_murdered_indigenous_women/afnhdviolencepaper-naws.pdf
Criminal Victimization in the Territories, 2009	2012	Statistics Canada	This is a report prepared by Statistics Canada analysing data they collected.		The report identifies assimilation (i.e. culture and identity loss); residential schools as causes for the violence.	This report contains no recommendations.	http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/access_acces/alternative_alternatif.action?lang=eng&loc=http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2012001/article/11614-eng.pdf&ts=Criminal%20victimization%20in%20the%20territories,%202009
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 finds that contributing factors to violence against Indigenous women and girls include: the victim blaming that is perpetrated by statements, comments and other language used by the courts, RCMP, individual, leaders, (and others) when it comes to violence against women. Continued violence also related to the lack of prevention programs that are victim-based (rather than offender-based).	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.womensdirectorate.gov.yk.ca/pdf/yaws2.pdf
Forsaken – The Report of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry (aka "the Opal 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 cited several causes for violence including: the marginalization of Aboriginal Women (food insecurity, health inequities, extreme poverty, drug dependency, drug withdrawal- leading to a risk to safety, entrenchment- in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver, survival sex work), inadequate social assistance, continuing effects of colonialism and discrimination against Indigenous women, criminal regulation of prostitution (rather than harm reduction approaches), societal dismissal and abandonment.	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 Opal 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/Forsaken-ES.pdf
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.	The report noted the following causes for violence: Indigenous women's poor access to housing, addiction issues and survival sex work, failures of police to respond to Indigenous women's needs, the criminal justice system put women at risk (physically and emotionally), residue of the residential schools experience has negatively impacted survivors' coping mechanisms, intergenerational impacts of the foster care system.	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/Report-on-Family-Consultations.pdf
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 explained, Aboriginal women as a group have a heightened vulnerability to violence simply because they live in "a society that poses a risk to their safety." (p. 7) It also notes vulnerable and marginalized women are exposed to a higher risk of violence.	This report contains no recommendations. 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 to housing, survival sex work, lack of educational opportunities, and resulting low self-esteem and addiction).	http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2011/bdp-lop/bp/2011-76-eng.pdf
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 notes that poverty is linked to higher rates of violence (includes little access to housing, survival sex work, lack of educational opportunities, and resulting low self-esteem and addiction).	This report contains no recommendations. 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 to housing, survival sex work, lack of educational opportunities, and resulting low self-esteem and addiction).	http://www.parl.gc.ca/content/hoc/Committee/411/FEWO/Reports/RP5322860/fewor01/fewor01-e.pdf
First Nations, Métis and Inuit Women	2011	Statistics Canada	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 also makes the link between poverty and violence against women (including household crowding, lower average incomes; higher rates of alcohol abuse; more common-law unions). It also notes higher instances of family breakdown resulting from residential school experiences and the impact of colonization on traditional values and cultures causes this systemic violence.	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	Community Coordination for Women's Safety (CCWS); Ending Violence Association of British Columbia (EVA)	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 identifies historical and present impacts of colonization, poverty, racism and sexism all contribute to the violence.	This report contains no recommendations.	http://www.endingviolence.org/files/uploads/boriginal_Women_-_themes_and_resource_May_12.pdf	
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 report identifies causes of violence against Indigenous women as: systemic and institutionalized racism; historical violence, such as residential schools, the discriminatory laws in the Indian Act, and other legacies of colonization (such as the loss of culture). The report notes that these causes were intergenerational. Other identified causes include: the the Eurocentric model of society contributes to feelings of disenfranchisement in men; systemic discrimination; economic and social deprivation (including poverty; substandard housing; the child welfare system); alcohol and substance abuse; the intergenerational cycle of violence; the breakdown of healthy family life resulting from residential schools; and non-response of the police and the courts.	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/403/FEWO/Reports/RP5056509/feworp14/feworp14-e.pdf	
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.	The report notes that poverty; inadequate housing; substance abuse or mental health concerns make Indigenous women more vulnerable to violence.	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 responder 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_marr_reports_compiled_july_27_2011_w_dig.pdf	
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.	colonialism; legacy of residential schools; socio-economic exclusion; gender inequality; racism; family violence; colonial policy causing transgenerational poverty, dislocation and trauma; intergenerational abuse; racist assumptions that informed colonial governments' Aboriginal policy; sexism and of policies that are founded upon, and reinforce, gender inequality; government policies that support Aboriginal women's economic dependence on men; Societal and systemic racism and sexism; personal vulnerabilities such as youth, poor self-esteem, and problematic substance use; broader socio-economic issues, including poverty and economic dependence; inadequate provision of services and supports for women; distrust of the justice and child welfare systems	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 responder search and rescue. For more information, see Analysis of Implementation document.	http://www.gov.mb.ca/msw/resources/docs/violence_against_aboriginal_women.pdf	
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 violence as possible, including identifying 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.	The report attributes violence to Indigenous women's poor socioeconomic conditions; high rates of alcohol and substance abuse; systemic discrimination and racism; trauma and inter-generational cycles of violence resulting from the residential school legacy; impact of colonialism on traditional values and cultures; socio-demographic characteristics; age; alcohol and addiction; common-law unions and lone-parent family; overcrowding in homes; large number of children; high mobility rates; past experiences of sexual abuse; and homelessness; consequences of colonization—in particular, the undermining of traditional beliefs and values, and family and community structures through the residential school system.	This report contains no recommendations.	http://www.canadianwomen.org/sites/canadianwomen.org/files/PDF%20-%20VP%20Resources%20-%20Lamontagne_CWF_Aboriginal%20Women_Final_2011.pdf	
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 does not identify specific causes. The report notes inadequate resources in the areas of early childhood development; education; employment and job security; food security; health services; housing and income; social inclusion, and social safety nets contribute to increased rates of violence against Indigenous women. Colonization; residential schools; child welfare and justice systems; shifting (and unbalanced) gender regimes, linked to colonization and rapid social change and/or the impacts of colonization are also noted. The report stresses the lack of access to programs and services is even more acute; associated with or amplified by sexual exploitation, gang violence; social system that has failed to protect women from complex factors of racism, sexism and marginalization. Lack of resources; homelessness; overcrowding; poverty; lack of employment and/or skills; substance abuse also causes for violence.	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 identifies historical and present impacts of colonization, poverty, racism and sexism all contribute to the violence.	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=3C8FABC27198476D9F50F6F4DDF717AC	

Issues Related to the High Number of Murdered and Missing Women in Canada	2010	Missing Women Working Group of the Federal/Provincial/Territorial (FPT) 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.	Legacies of colonialism and racism have resulted in high rates of substance abuse as a coping mechanism; mental illness; isolation and social marginalizing factors; poverty leads to a high rate of trafficking; activities like hitchhiking or jogging in remote areas which all make Indigenous women more vulnerable to violence.	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_e1MAJ-2112011-6827.pdf	
What Their Stories Tell Us: Research Findings from the Sisters in Spirit Initiative	2010	Native Women's Association of Canada Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres; Ontario Native Women's Association; Métis Nation of Ontario; Independent First Nations	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 programming, 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 notes the importance of the history and impact of colonization in understanding violence against women, including: systemic racism and discrimination; purposeful denial of culture, language and traditions; legislation designed to destroy identity. All of these factors make Indigenous women more vulnerable to violence. Other factors contribute to violence such as: poverty, poor health, intergenerational trauma; overrepresentation of Aboriginal children in the child welfare system; a lack of access to justice, substance abuse, unstable families; large family size; experiences of sexual abuse, homelessness; institutionalization; and the non-responsiveness of the police and child welfare systems in working with cases of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls.	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/moe/2010_NWAC_SIS_Report_EN.pdf	
Final Report: Strengthening the Circle to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women	2010	Native Women's Association of Canada 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 Indigenous women and families who are working to end violence in their lives.	The report identifies causes of violence as: systemic discrimination; and Indigenous women's poverty, and social and economic exclusion.	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.oath.ca/assets/files/Strengthening-the-Circle-Report-Final-July09.pdf	
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.	This report sites the legacies of residential schools as a cause for violence, and it notes that critical measures have not been implemented that would reduce the marginalization of Aboriginal women in society. It also notes other causes of violence, including: a lack of police assistance in addressing violence against Indigenous women; a housing shortage on many reserves, issues associated with matrimonial property under the Indian Act, prohibits with the child welfare system; high rates of family violence and suicide in Indigenous communities; lack of culturally relevant education prevention programs and support services; sexual and physical abuse.	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/jah05_02/05_02_03_Communities.pdf	
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 Métis 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.	The report offers the following as causes for violence: discrimination and racism as a result of colonization and resistance; breakdown in intergenerational transmission of knowledge, language and culture; learned behaviours of violence that relate to the source of trauma; the legacy of residential schools; impacts of colonization; a context of grief/loss/stress that lead to high rates of suicide.	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	The report notes that causes include: racism and misogyny; sharp disparities in the fulfillment of Indigenous women's economic, social, political and cultural rights; continued disruption of Indigenous societies caused by the historic and ongoing mass removal of children from Indigenous families and communities; high number of Indigenous women in Canadian prisons, many of whom are themselves the victims of violence and abuse; inadequate police response to violence; suppression of Indigenous cultures, languages and institutions; the seizure of Indigenous lands and resources; history of colonialism; poverty; inadequate and overcrowded housing is also associated with family tension and violence; lack of legal provisions by federal government.	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/amr200122009enstolensistersupdate.pdf	
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 causes of violence.	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'.	The report notes colonization; culture loss; marginalization of Aboriginal women; higher rates of Aboriginal mother led families; poverty; drug and alcohol misuse/abuse; domestic violence; housing/mobility issues; family violence; violence witnessed in childhood, and the child welfare system all contribute to violence against women.	This report contains no recommendations	http://cwpr.ca/sites/default/files/publications/prairiebook2009/Chapter4.pdf	

A Call for Action, Summary Report	2009	National Aboriginal Women's Summit	This report was drafted as a result of the discussions between participants at the 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.	The report notes that Indigenous women's loss of power and authority and poverty makes them more vulnerable to violence.	This summit resulted in the identification of 137 recommendations, 59 of which were identified as priority and 29 of which require immediate action. The 29 recommendations for immediate action related generally to the following themes: Aboriginal involvement in program development and delivery; properly resourced and culturally sensitive services for victims and families; awareness raising and education; general measures to improve policing; specific measures to improve investigations and prosecution. For more information on implementation, see Analysis of Implementation document.	http://www.womensdirector.gov.yk.ca/pdf/news1_2008_summary_report.pdf	
Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women	2007	Ontario Native Women's Association & Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres	This report was an initiative of the publishing bodies.	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.	This report explains violence against Aboriginal women is rooted in systemic discrimination, and consequently, issues of gender, race and cultural exclusion must be considered in addressing these contributing factors. Levels of violence are unique for Aboriginal women, because they are directly related to such ongoing historical factors as colonialism, the impacts of residential schools, discriminatory provisions under the Indian Act, lack of recognition of Métis identity, the residual effects of related community trauma (i.e. mental illness, addictions, homelessness, poverty, etc.); as well as mobility and migration. The report asserts the current criminal justice system re-victimizes and re-traumatizes Aboriginal women within the context of addressing issues of violence.	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/Strategic_Framework_Aboriginal_Women.pdf	
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 identifies colonization; gender bias and racism; poverty; addiction issues; housing and property issues and a resulting criminalization of violence as key issues for violence against Indigenous women.	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.aspx?DocID=3025,104,81,1,Documents&MediaID=1615&Filename=missing-persons-final.pdf	
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 notes that discrimination leads to the marginalization of Indigenous women, making them more susceptible to violence.	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/aspx/adxGetMedia.aspx?DocID=3025,104,81,1,Documents&MediaID=1615&Filename=missing-persons-final.pdf	
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	clear connection between childhood abuse and abuse of women in later life (p. 27); colonization (p. 40); racism (p. 43); systemic discrimination of the justice system (p. 43); poverty, alcoholism; economic marginalization; self-defeating or self-destructive behaviour; hate crime and victimization (p. 44)	This report contains no recommendations.	http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/aj-ja/r06_vic1/r06_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.	Many factors are perceived as root causes of violence (loss of identity and way of life, continued impact of residential schools, intergenerational cycles of abuse, and general substance abuse can aggravate these factors). Poverty is another contributing factor, and violence nurtured by the economic insecurity of men and the lack of financial independence among women. Violence is prevalent and becomes a norm. According to first responders, intergenerational experience with family violence goes hand-in-hand with poor parenting skills and poor relationship skills in contributing to male violence against Aboriginal women. The report also identified a lack of access (by Indigenous women) to information and resources to deal with the problem. All of these causes perpetuate 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/aboriginal-women-and-family-violence.pdf	
Ending Violence in Aboriginal Communities: Best Practices in Aboriginal Shelters and Communities	2006	National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence	This report was the initiative of its authors.	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 also cited poverty and associated social difficulties with the high rates of violence against Indigenous women. This included: the lack of women's shelters; alcohol and other substance abuse; lack of parental role models; fading traditional practices; insecure housing, education, adequate nutrition and employment. (All of these, to some extent, stem from the intergenerational impact of residential schooling).	This report contained no recommendations	http://54.68.17.167/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/NACAFV-EN-Best-Practices.pdf	
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 was the initiative of its authors.	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, organizations, governments, local communities and Aboriginal and Inuit organisations wanting to take effective action	This report identified several causes of violence: loss of culture and tradition; loss of control over destiny; breakdown of families, alcohol and drug addictions; resulting increased feelings of powerlessness, fear, mistrust, cycles of abuse; loss of traditional sources of income; poor housing; and hunger. The report also notes the negative legacy of the residential school system and enforced relocations, as well as historical uncontrolled outbreaks of disease and famine as causes for violence, and how these factors have adversely impacted the power, cultural survival, and wellbeing of Indigenous peoples and communities.	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_e.pdf	

Building Safe and Healthy Communities and Families	2006	Summary of Policy Forum on Aboriginal Women and Violence: Building Safe and Healthy Communities	This is an initiative of the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women.	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 identified poverty and resulting powerlessness, lack of housing and homelessness; a culture of sexualized and racialized violence; residential schools; discriminatory laws concerning matrimonial real property; drug and alcohol abuse; lack of education as causes for violence. The report notes that these factors lead to issues of power loss and low self esteem and loss of cultural identity amongst Indigenous women, making them more vulnerable to violence.	This report contains no recommendations.	http://humanservices.alberta.ca/documents/aboriginal-women-forum-english.pdf	
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	This report was initiated and prepared by the authors.	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.	Underpinning causes that place young women on the highway at risk of violence: intergenerational poverty, post secondary student temporary poverty. It notes poverty and isolated communities lead to women taking more risky forms of transportation (such as hitchhiking).	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/highwayoftearsfinal.pdf	
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 makes reference to several causes of violence: uneven power distribution between members of Indigenous communities; cycles of victimization and abuse in communities, and a loss of culture and Indigenous identity due to Indigenous peoples' history in Canada.	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 document.	http://pauktuutit.ca/wp-content/blogs.dir/1/assets/InuitAbusePrevention_e.pdf	
Stolen Sisters – A Human Rights Response to Discrimination and Violence Against Indigenous Women in Canada	2004	Amnesty International	This report was initiated and prepared by the authors.	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.	According to this report, the social and economic marginalisation of Indigenous women, along with a history of government policies that have torn apart Indigenous families and communities, have pushed a disproportionate number of Indigenous women into dangerous situations that include extreme poverty, homelessness and prostitution. Despite assurances to the contrary, police in Canada have often failed to provide Indigenous women with an adequate standard of protection. Acts of violence may be motivated by racism, or may be carried out in the expectation that societal indifference to the welfare and safety of Indigenous women will allow the perpetrators to escape justice. Loss of ties to family, community and culture is a common element of many of the stories of missing and murdered women (especially youth).	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/amr200032004enstolensisters.pdf	
Aboriginal Domestic Violence in Canada	2003	Aboriginal Healing Foundation Research Series	This report was an initiative of the AHFRS and was prepared by academic researchers with the assistance of government officials, several program coordinators and support workers from several AHF community-based initiatives.	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-factorial social syndrome and not simply an undesirable behaviour" [p. x]. 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.	This report explains there is a direct relationship between the historical experience of Aboriginal people and current patterns of violence and abuse in Aboriginal communities. Loss of identity and social bonds within Indigenous communities, as a result of Canadian colonialism and discrimination, makes violence more prevalent. Other causes of violence include: absence of consequences and personal immunity for perpetrators, prevailing male beliefs and attitudes that devalue women, cycles of abuse, lack of professional support services, the lack of leadership in tackling this issue perpetuates violence, uneasy relationship between the RCMP and police officers and Aboriginal communities, delayed police response times to domestic abuse calls, a long history of racism and abusive behaviour by police in Indigenous communities and the resulting lack of public trust. Poverty and unemployment are also causes. As is the lack of community awareness and vigilance, the geographical and social isolation of many Aboriginal women. Further, the fact that Indigenous women are not adequately consulted about programming (and lack of funding for possible programming), means Indigenous women continue to be especially marginalized.	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 Dredy 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 states the prevalence of family violence is often attributed to the effects of colonization. It notes that for some, colonization has meant not only loss of lands and resources, but also loss of self-direction and the severe disturbance of cultural ways and values, fostered and enforced by institutions such as the residential school system. This situation has given rise to a "community syndrome" (i.e. poverty, substandard living conditions, substance abuse, isolation and intergenerational abuse - which foster family violence) thrives. Many women's isolation and distance from law enforcement, fear of gossip and ostracism, cultural misunderstandings and racism prevent Indigenous women from being adequately protected against 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/movingtowardsafety.pdf	

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	Colonialism is responsible for the breakdown of Aboriginal cultural values (and established gender roles) and the abuse suffered by Aboriginal children in residential schools has contributed to higher rates of family breakdown in Indigenous communities and cycles of abuse. Racist and sexist stereotypes not only hurt Aboriginal women and their sense of self-esteem, but actually encourage abuse—both by Aboriginal men and by others. The police and justice system have tended to be unresponsive to the distinct needs of Indigenous women, and have been unable to adequately protect them from violence or hold perpetrators to account. Indigenous leadership has also had a history of not being responsive enough to the needs of Indigenous women. According to this report, these factors enable violence against Indigenous women.	This report contained over 100 broad recommendations concerning the justice system, law enforcement, Aboriginal Justice Systems, Natural Resources, the Indian Act, Aboriginal women's welfare, as well as youth and children. For more information see Analysis of Implementation document.	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 Royal Commission assessed the relationship between Indigenous and Canadian governments, identifying several areas in which power relationships between all levels of government (federal, provincial, and Indigenous) needed to be rebalanced. Although specific causes for violence against Indigenous women was not discussed in great detail, the Commission did discuss many causes of power imbalances between Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations. These causes were rooted in colonialism and continuing discriminatory Canadian policy and practices. Volumes 3 and 4 discussed the devaluation and marginalization of Indigenous women in Canada.	The Commission also recommended that more funding be provided to initiatives addressing the unique hardships of Indigenous women, and that Indigenous women be included in program development. Although the Commission's report did include an implementation guideline, it is difficult to find status updates concerning can be applied to the systemic devaluation and implemented. For more information, see Analysis of Implementation document.	http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/webarchives/20071115053257/http://www.alinc-inac.gc.ca/ch/rcap/sq/sgmm_e.html
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	This report notes that factors such as lower educational achievement and poverty make Aboriginal women and girls more vulnerable to violence.	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 contains more targeted prevention, better community engagement, and enhanced accountability for criminal investigations (p3).	The report does not identify causes of violence.	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.	This report noted that Indigenous women experienced a lack of access to the legal system, lack of political and social inclusion, and very disproportionately impacted by tax and property transfer systems. Violence against Indigenous women was a result of political, social and economic marginalization, sexism, racism, and other ways of thinking that devalued their lives.	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/LoPbDPMR/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.	This report did not examine causes for violence against Indigenous women in general terms.	This report did not include recommendations.	http://novascotia.ca/just/global_docs/Victoria_Rose_Paul_investigation_Report_20120524.pdf
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 stresses the importance of history of institutionalized racism and discrimination in understanding violence against Indigenous women: the federal government's historic emphasis on assimilation, residential school system created the conditions for the violence. Survival sex work (and associated risks), lack of police services for challenges specific to Indigenous women, and a failure of the criminal justice system to address these issues causes and perpetuates the violence.	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/reports-policies/missing-murdered-aboriginal-women-canada-report.pdf
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.	The report noted unique challenges Indigenous women faced that made them more vulnerable to violence (including: survival sex work and substance abuse) as well as police inability to address these issues effectively. These were suggested as possible causes for high rates of violence.	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.	Domestic violence, human trafficking, substance abuse, prostitution, poverty, lack of housing and poor living conditions, lack of prevention services such as mental health services, and the ongoing legacy of residential schools. (p.17)	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 noted that the majority of missing Aboriginal women lived in poverty, experienced homelessness, lacked social networks, were addicted to alcohol or drugs, resorted to survival sex work and hitchhiking, and experienced mental health issues.	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_on_the_2011_Western_Regional_Forum_on_Supporting_Families_of_Missi_r	
Missing Persons in Saskatchewan: Police Policy and Practice	2006	Prepared by Jeff Pfeiffer 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, Safety 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 also calls on to make observations about areas worthy of consideration for the development of protocols.	This report did not examine causes for violence against Indigenous women.	This report contains no recommendations.	http://www.justice.gov.sk.ca/adx/aspx/adxGetMedia.aspx?DocID=3025,104,81,1,Documents&MediaID=acc6862a8-8ecc-4979-bc5f-70c005fd273e&Filename=JEFF+PFEIFER+REPORT+ON+Missing+Persons+-+Police+Policy+and+Practice+-+Final+Report.pdf	
Start of Something Powerful: Strategizing for Safer Communities for BC Aboriginal Women	2003	Pacific Association of First Nations Women, BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre, Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs	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.	The report noted that Aboriginal women experience higher rates of violence than non-Aboriginal women, and that there are few relevant services available to Aboriginal women than there are for non-Aboriginal women.	This report identified several causes for this violence including: systemic racism and institutionalized racism; historical violence such as residential schooling, discriminatory laws such as the Indian Act; police not responding to 911 calls on reserve; Aboriginal women not reporting violence to police due to distrust of police and courts; significant cuts to the Aboriginal community based victim assistance programs; poverty and a lack of access to health, social and legal services; and the fact that Indigenous women are often excluded from policy decisions that directly affect them.	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.	http://www.endingviolence.org/files/uploads/SaferCommforBCAAboriginalWom.pdf	
The Life and Death of Minnie Sutherland	October, 1989	Ottawa Magazine	Ron Corbett wrote this as a feature for the magazine. The Minnie Sutherland case was very high profile.	The article noted that the series of events that lead to Ms. Sutherland's death exemplified the systemic racism faced by Indigenous people across the country. The article also argued that Ms. Sutherland's death was preventable, were it not for these systemic failings. Police, emergency medical personnel, and a detox centre had all refused to provide Ms. Sutherland's with the medical attention she required after she was involved in an accident.	This article alluded to racist perceptions of Indigenous women as causes to women in need being denied assistance and treatment by police and health care professionals.	According to this feature, Hull police conducted an internal investigation, which has since been largely discredited as being "too generous", and "self-serving". Ottawa police chief, and Ottawa's then Mayor dismissed calls for an independent citizen's inquiry. The jury for the coroner's inquest into Ms. Sutherland's causes of death recommended that police officer take "sensitivity" and "multiculturalism" training. The Hull Police Department soon afterwards established "multicultural sensitivity" seminars for officers and the Ottawa Police Department began to plan how they would offer additional instruction to officers concerning "communication skills". These issues are discussed in more detail in our implementation document, which includes some updates about Police Departments' cultural sensitivity programming.		
Aboriginal Deaths and Injuries in Custody and/or with Police Involvement: An Initial Survey of Information and Incidents in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario. (Preliminary report).	2003	Report prepared by Nancy Hannum for the Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of British Columbia	The report is the product of a 2003 AFN resolution regarding unacceptably high numbers of police shootings of Indigenous people, and the deaths of Indigenous people in police custody. The AFN requested a report on this issue from the NCCABC with the expectation that it would be submitted to the Summit on Aboriginal People in BC. The report "outlines the results of an initial survey of information sources and incidents".	The report makes note of the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the criminal justice system and also notes that the numbers and proportions are increasing over time (suggesting the problem is getting worse). The report also notes that the percentage of Indigenous people shot by RCMP officers is also hugely disproportionate (43% of all fatalities). The report had three goals: 1) identify the names of Indigenous victims, 2) identify key agencies that collect information on this issue, and 3) collect information from these identified agencies to determine what they do and don't report. The report concluded that there is no apparent systematic compilation of information on this issue. It also noted that finding any information about the cultural identity of victims is rare, and that general records and data collection on this issue is scant and what does exist seems haphazard.	The causes of violence identified in this report include systemic discriminatory practices and racial or cultural prejudice.	No specific recommendations were made in this report. Note: While this report is an "initial" survey, it doesn't appear as though a more detailed subsequent report has been prepared.	http://nccabc.ca/images/articles/nccabc_aboriginaldeathsincustody.pdf	
Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in British Columbia	2015	Inter-American Commission on Human Rights	This report was a produced on the Commission's own initiative.	This report focuses on missing and murdered Indigenous women in British Columbia. It assesses the context in which Indigenous women have gone missing and been murdered over the past several years as well as the Canadian government's response to this issue. The reports stresses that state action to address this issue will only be sufficient if underlying factors are addressed too (e.g. discriminatory laws, residential school legacy, past and present institutional and structural inequalities, housing, employment and other social and economic barriers to Indigenous women's rights). The report noted the failure of police to prevent and protect Indigenous women from violence, and their failure to diligently and promptly investigate these cases, which perpetuated violence by giving perpetrators a sense of impunity. The report also made note of the lack of any trustworthy statistics or reliable disaggregated data on this issue in Canada.	The IACHR concludes that the causes for violence against Indigenous are sociological. "The disappearances and murders of indigenous women in Canada are part of a broader pattern of violence and discrimination against indigenous women in Canada. The fact that indigenous women in Canada experience institutional and structural inequalities resulting from entrenched historical discrimination and inequality is acknowledged by the Government of Canada and by civil society organizations. There is also agreement on certain root causes of the high levels of violence against indigenous women and the existing vulnerabilities that make indigenous women more susceptible to violence." (para. 305).	The report's recommendations are geared towards assisting the federal government in strengthening its efforts to protect and guarantee Indigenous women's rights. The report stressed the need for a national coordinated response that addressed this issue, and included addressing underlying social and economic causes for this violence. The report also discussed the benefits of having a national inquiry into this matter. Finally the report noted implementation efforts made by BC and federal government to this point, including implementation of the Oppal Commission's recommendations, the BC government's steps towards addressing safe public transportation in the province, and initiatives addressing issues faced by Indigenous people in the criminal justice system. More information on these recommendations and their implementation can be found in our implementation document.	http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/reports/pdfs/Indigenous-Women-BC-Canada-en.pdf	

Blueprint for an Inquiry: Learning from the Failures of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry	2012	British Columbia Civil Liberties Association, Pivot Legal Society, British Columbia Legal Education and Action Fund.	This report was prepared by these agencies on their own initiative as a response to the failures of the Oppal Commission (included above).	Although the report discussed the BC Commission, it focused on "broad trends and procedural approaches that future commissioners of inquiry and their staff may usefully adapt to the particularities of their jurisdictions". And stressed the importance of meaningful inclusion of marginalized communities in inquiries that addressed issues these communities are especially impacted by.	This report notes the systemic causes for violence which stem from Canadian colonization, and the residential schools and child welfare systems.	The report made 23 recommendations for future inquiries withing to address issues experienced by marginalized populations. These recommendations concerned ways to ensure that individuals from marginalized communities be encouraged to serve as witnesses/give testimony, and ensure commissions continue to engage in thorough community consultations to ensure the proceedings prioritize and effectively facilitate continued engagement of marginalized communities. Recommendations also concerned the importance of commission staff education to teach cultural appropriate ways to gather evidence and conduct themselves. Recommendations also addressed what a commissioner can do if they don't receive adequate support from the enabling government body to improve the commission's accessibility.	https://bcdca.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/20121119-Report-Missing-Women-Inquiry.pdf	
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 . * the authors would like to thank Gail Levitt, Alyssa Lane, and Chantelle Coulson for their assistance with this research								