

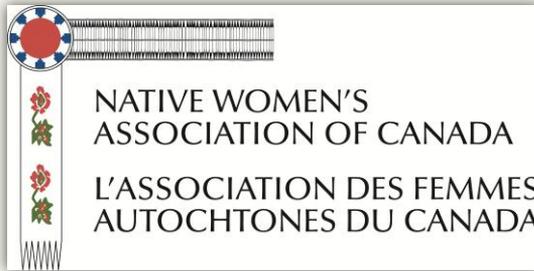
Welcome / Bienvenue

This presentation is being shared with you today on behalf of the
Native Women’s Association of Canada (NWAC).

We are sorry that we could not attend this conference in person.

A big thank you to the Chair, Kelly Megyesi, BC PSAC Women’s,
who will be presenting on our behalf today.

- NWAC



The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) works to advance the well-being of Aboriginal women and girls, as well as their families and communities through activism, policy analysis and advocacy.



NWAC is an *aggregate* of 12 Aboriginal women's groups from coast to coast to coast,





NWAC was incorporated in 1974 and is one of the five officially recognized National Aboriginal Organizations (NAOs) whose purpose is to represent and speak, at the national level, on behalf of Aboriginal women in Canada.



NWAC Departments

- Environment
- Health (100% health cuts in 2012)
- Human Rights & International Affairs
- Labour Market Development
- Violence Prevention and Safety
- Finance



Committed to the issue

NWAC is the only National Aboriginal Organization with an entire department working directly to address the issue of extreme violence experienced by Aboriginal women and girls.

NWAC began this work with the Sisters In Spirit initiative and continues with the Evidence to Action project and the creation of new department called "Violence Prevention and Safety."



Why this work?

Violence has impacted our communities and people in many ways; we ALL suffer directly and indirectly – sadly, no one is immune.

As women, as the givers of life, and as NWAC we have a great responsibility to ensure the well-being and safety of our mothers, daughters, sisters, aunties and grandmothers.

This is 'our story, our lives' as missing and murdered Aboriginal women.



What does the VPS Dept. do?

An introduction to five of the main activities *(of the Violence Prevention and Safety Department)*:

- October 4th SIS Vigils
- Community Resource Guide (CRG): What Can I Do To Help the Families of Missing and Murdered Aboriginal and Girls?
- NWAC Petition for a National Inquiry
- SIS Research (see ON Factsheet)
- NWAC Faceless Doll Project



October 4th
Sisters In Spirit Vigils:
A movement for social change



Every October 4th, Sisters In Spirit Vigils:

- Honour the lives of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls; and,
- Support grieving families and provide opportunities for healing.
- Vigils can take many forms (rally, candlelight vigil, community feast, moment-of-silence).



*United we can demand action
on a Canadian issue that impacts
us all!*





Events such as these have been going on since 2003, when NWAC and family members held peaceful demonstrations on the Hill.

The first SIS Vigil was held on the steps of Parliament Hill in 2006.

SIS Vigil progression and momentum:

- 2006 vigil – 11 cities
- 2007 vigil – 30 cities
- 2008 vigil – 40 cities
- 2009 vigil – 70 cities
- 2010 vigil – 84 cities

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NWAC Announces an unprecedented 175+ Sisters In Spirit Vigils registered for October 4th 2012



Find the one nearest to you at www.nwac.ca

Communities continue to plan vigils each year, demonstrating how the Sisters In Spirit Vigils have transformed into *a movement for social change*.

NATIVE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF CANADA
L'ASSOCIATION DES FEMMES AUTOCHTONES DU CANADA

October 4th Sisters In Spirit Vigils:
A movement for social change

NWAC is the national voice of Aboriginal women since 1974.

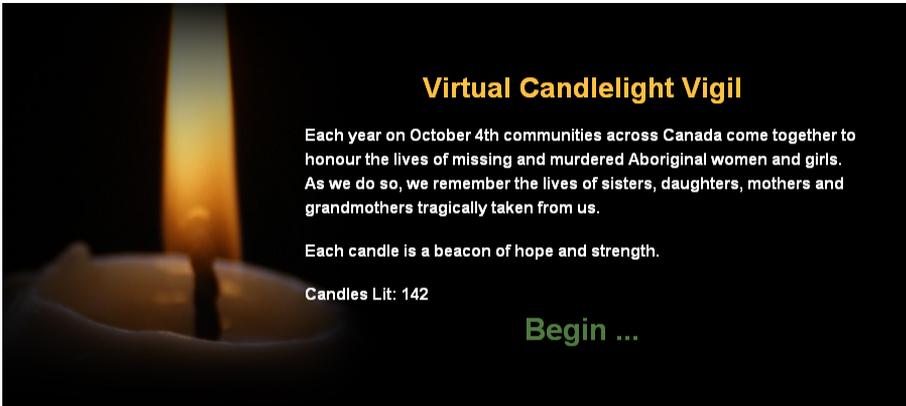
NWAC is grateful to our long-standing partners for the continued success of SIS Vigil:

- Families and communities,
- Sister organizations, grassroots advocates
- Amnesty International Canada,
- KAIROS Canada,
- National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC)
- Canadian Federation of Students (CFS)
- Labour Movement (CUPE, PSAC, CLC, NUPGE, CUPW)



NEW Feature in 2011 - www.october4th.ca

2012 Virtual Candlelight Vigil NOW OPEN



Virtual Candlelight Vigil

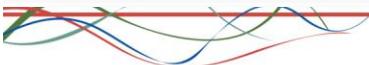
Each year on October 4th communities across Canada come together to honour the lives of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls. As we do so, we remember the lives of sisters, daughters, mothers and grandmothers tragically taken from us.

Each candle is a beacon of hope and strength.

Candles Lit: 142

Begin ...

Welcome to the Sisters In Spirit Candlelight Vigil!



What are you doing on October 4th 2013?

Contact NWAC for more information at 1-800-461-4043.



Community Resource Guide (CRG): What Can I do to Help the Families of Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women and Girls?



- Plain-language resource
- CRG Training Video
- Chapter 1: Advocates & Campaigners
Chapter 2: People Assisting Families
Chapter 3: Teachers & Educators
- 10 toolkits, 3 fact sheets poster, CD
- www.nwac.ca for download

- 
- Some of the most popular topics addressed in the CRG are:
 - “Getting Involved in Your Community (Page 10),”
 - “Sisters In Spirit Vigils – A Movement for Social Change (Page 15),”
 - “Navigating Victim Services (Page 29),”and
 - “Fact Sheet: Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women and Girls (Page 64)”
- 

- New Action Item: NWAC Petition for a National Inquiry

A National Inquiry is needed!

Dear Prime Minister Harper:

The Native Women's Association of Canada has documented over 582 occurrences of missing or murdered Aboriginal women and girls. We know that there are more cases that have not been documented. We also know that this epidemic of violence is continuing to claim more lives and irrevocably harm more families every month.

Addressing this issue requires that the factors causing it are correctly identified, and that those individuals, processes and policies responsible for maintaining the status quo – and the subsequent harms to Aboriginal women and girls – are remedied. Recommendations and ACTION for change are needed to increase the safety of Aboriginal women and girls in all walks of life across Canada.

I support holding a National Inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls in Canada. I also ask that you involve those most affected by this tragic issue – Aboriginal women – in the design, decision-making, process and implementation of this inquiry.

Such an inquiry would be a crucial step in implementing a comprehensive and coordinated national action plan to address the scale and severity of violence faced by Aboriginal women and girls.

Name (Please print)	City/Postal Code	Signature	Email	I want to know what went on:
JARVIS GIBSON	T7H 3H4, Calgary	[Signature]	lguevin@cup.ca	<input type="radio"/>
Summer Soper	R2A 0T1, Ottawa	[Signature]	summer@cup.ca	<input type="radio"/>
Tredy Egerton	K1V 2V1, Ottawa	[Signature]	tredy@cup.ca	<input type="radio"/>
Deby Kuper	T2P 2V4, Ottawa	[Signature]	deby.kuper@cup.ca	<input type="radio"/>
Donna Campbell	K0A 4H0, Ottawa	[Signature]	donnacampbell@cup.ca	<input type="radio"/>
Lois Duggall	Ottawa, K1G 1E1	[Signature]	lois.duggall@cup.ca	<input type="radio"/>
Don M. Mounghin	Ottawa, K1N 8P8	[Signature]	don.mounghin@cup.ca	<input type="radio"/>
Carol Ritchie	Ottawa, K1Z 3E5	[Signature]	carol@cup.ca	<input type="radio"/>
Ray Lawrence	Ottawa, K1N 8N2	[Signature]	ray@cup.ca	<input type="radio"/>
PAT Soper	Ottawa, K1N 8N2	[Signature]	pat@cup.ca	<input type="radio"/>
Chris Van Gennep	Ottawa, K1N 8N2	[Signature]	chris@cup.ca	<input type="radio"/>
Jill P. Bell	Ottawa, K1N 8N2	[Signature]	jill@cup.ca	<input type="radio"/>
Tina Adams	Ottawa, K1N 8N2	[Signature]	tina@cup.ca	<input type="radio"/>
Wynne Booth	Ottawa, K1N 8N2	[Signature]	wynne@cup.ca	<input type="radio"/>
Stephanie D'Amico	Ottawa, K1N 8N2	[Signature]	stephanie@cup.ca	<input type="radio"/>
Jane Doe	Ottawa, K1N 8N2	[Signature]	jane@cup.ca	<input type="radio"/>

PLEASE RETURN PETITIONS to:
Native Women's Association of Canada
1 Nicholas Street 30th Floor
Ottawa, ON K1N 7K7
NEED MORE PETITIONS? Call 1.800.461.4043

The national voice of Aboriginal women in Canada since 1974.

What is going on?

Violence and Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women and Girls

The issue of extreme violence and missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls is an outcome and is indicative of a broader social problem.

- Devaluing of Aboriginal women and girls
 - Racialized-sexualized violence
 - Societal ignorance
 - Policing indifference
 - Legislative policies

NWAC findings: What We Know

What Their Stories Tell Us: Research findings from the Sisters In Spirit initiative (2010)

<http://www.nwac.ca/programs/sis-research>

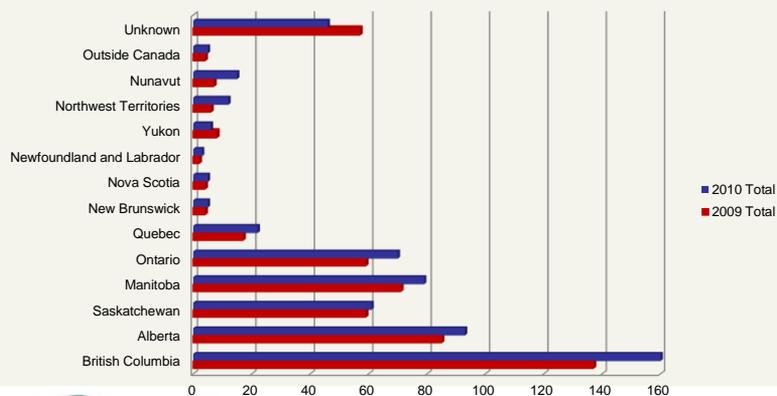
- 582 'known' cases of missing or murdered Aboriginal women and girls (NWAC database)
- This issue impacts all Aboriginal women and girls – First Nations, Métis and Inuit



Every province and territory is touched by this issue

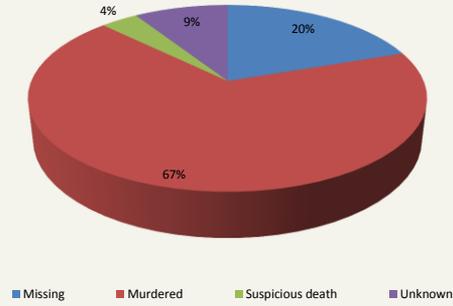
(See NWAC's individual provincial and territorial fact sheets at <http://www.nwac.ca/programs/sis-research>)

Geographic Distribution of Incidents, 2009 and 2010



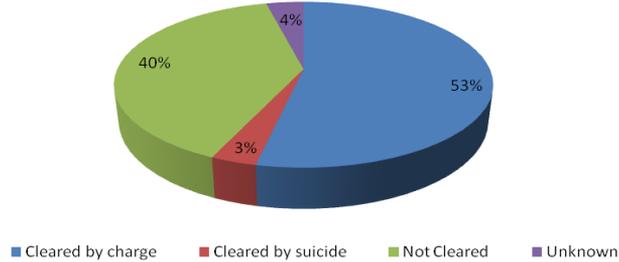
Significantly more murder cases than missing cases

Figure 1: Summary of Canada in SIS Database, 2010



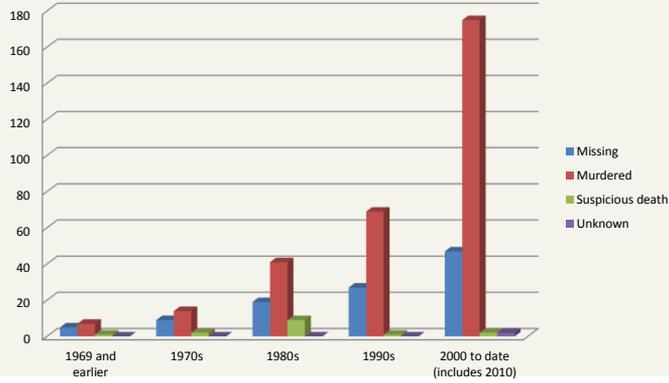
Nearly Half of Murder Cases Remain Unsolved

Figure 8: Clearance Rates for Homicide Cases, 2010



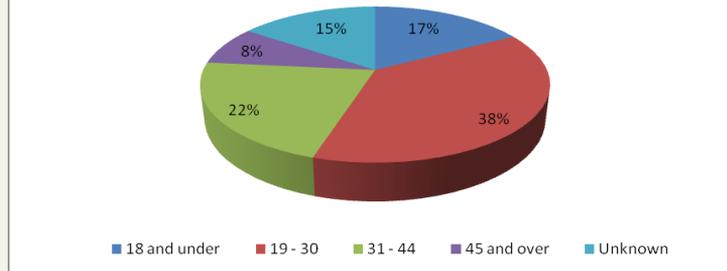
Most of the cases in the database are from the last 10 years

Figure 2: Year of Incidents in SIS Database, 2010



Majority of Cases Involve Young Women and Girls

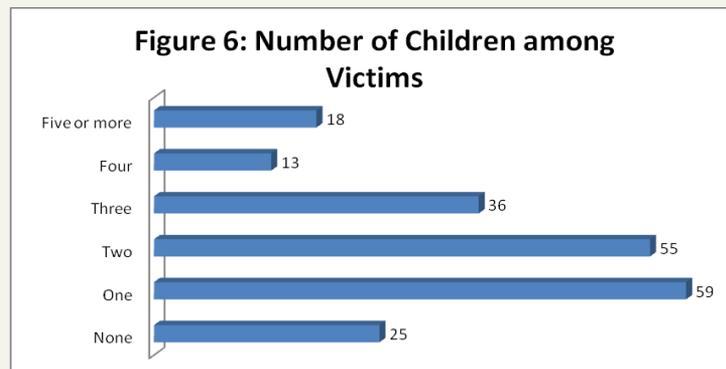
Figure 5: Age of Woman at Disappearance or Death



Most Cases Occur in Urban areas

- 60% of women and girls murdered in urban areas
- 28% in rural areas and 13% on-reserve
- 70% of women and girls missing in urban areas
- 22% in rural areas and 7% on-reserve

Intergenerational Impact of Missing and Murdered Women: Many are Mothers



***“We remember that a beautiful
Aboriginal woman is
represented by every number
shared, that each statistic tells
a story.”***



Amber,
Beatrice,
Daleen,
Danita,
Debbie...

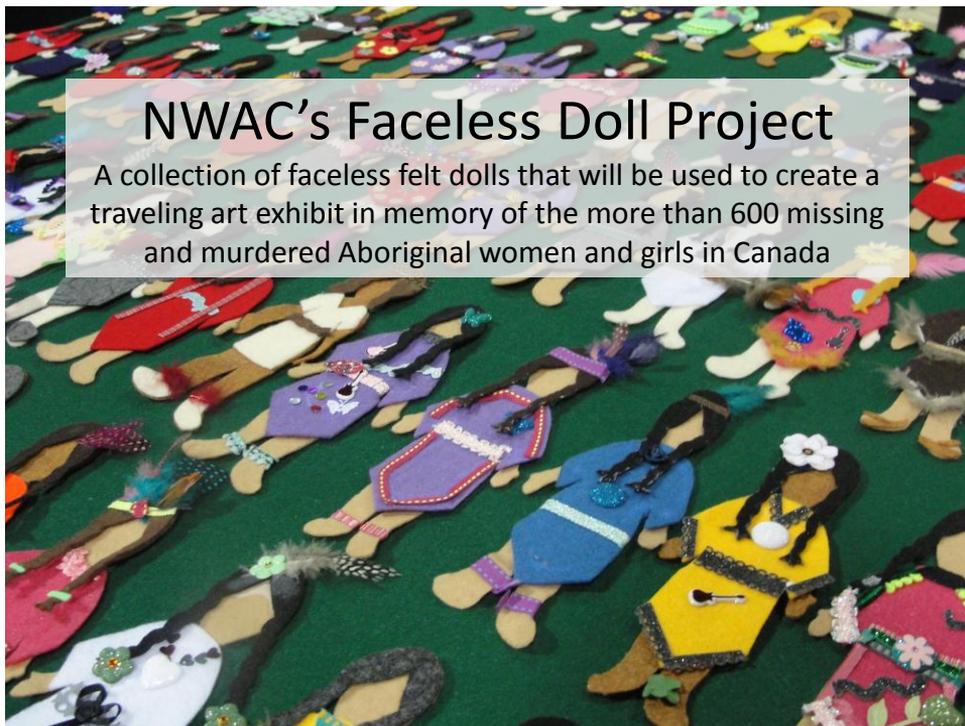




*Delores,
Georgina,
Gladys,
Lisa, and
Nina
are loved
by their
families.*

Learn more about these
women in NWAC's Life
Stories at

<http://www.nwac.ca/programs/sis-research>



NWAC's Faceless Doll Project

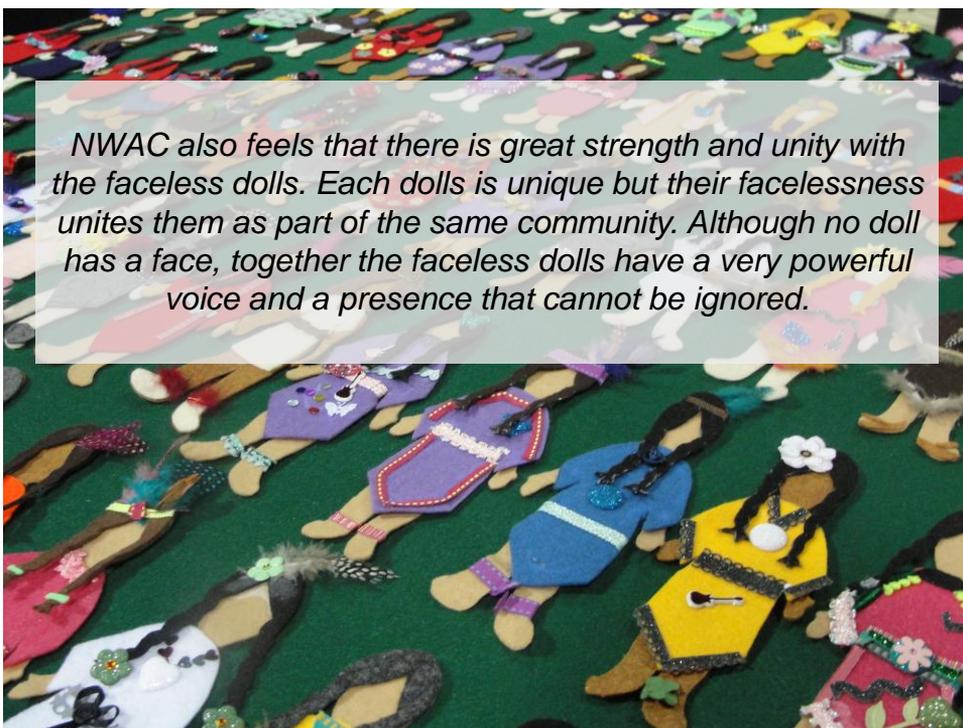
A collection of faceless felt dolls that will be used to create a traveling art exhibit in memory of the more than 600 missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls in Canada

- Builds on the legacy of the Aboriginal Angel Doll Project created by Gloria Larocque (Vancouver, 2005).
- NWAC looking for a hands-on project to bring across the country
- Visually and physically create a representation of the 582 known cases of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls (*What Their Stories Tell Us: Research findings from the Sisters In Spirit initiative, 2010*).



- Each doll is:
 - Hand cut by Gloria Larocque creator of the Aboriginal Angel Doll Project
 - Women and little girl dolls available (2 sizes)
 - First Nations & Métis (Inuit dress coming soon)
 - True reflection of Aboriginal women (varying skin tones and hair colours)
 - Each doll is made by a workshop participant (family members, community members, service providers, teachers, advocate, youth etc.)
 - No two dolls are the same.







All 600 dolls are now complete. We are creating the NWAC Faceless Doll Traveling Exhibit (thanks in part to funding provided by the Elementary Teachers Federation of ON (ETFO)).



Four of the eventual eleven panels of faceless dolls were presented to families who have a missing or murdered loved one in February 2013.

The remaining panels will be completed soon.

What will 582 dolls look like?



Building on the legacy

- We are grateful and humbled that other organizations and individuals are making their own Faceless dolls in tribute and in solidarity.
- NWAC Faceless Doll Templates are now available. Write jlord@nwac.ca for more information.



For more information or for a copy of this PPT:

- Contact the Native Women's Association of Canada, Jennifer Lord at jlord@nwac.ca
- NWAC will be issuing a Call Out for stops/hosts for the NWAC Faceless Doll traveling exhibit for 2013-2014.