

MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

COUNCIL REPORT

DATE: Monday, September 27, 2021

TITLE: SISTERS IN SPIRIT DAY

FROM:

Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua

Whereas, the National Inquiry's Final Report 1a and 1b reveals that persistent and deliberate human and Indigenous rights violations and abuses are the root cause behind Canada's staggering rates of violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people;

Whereas, the Final Report is comprised of the truths of more than 2,380 family members, survivors of violence, experts and Knowledge Keepers shared over two years of cross-country public hearings and evidence gathering;

Whereas, the Final Report outlines four pathways that maintain colonial violence including historical, multigenerational and intergenerational trauma; social and economic marginalization; maintaining the status quo and institutional lack of will; and ignoring the agency and expertise of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people;

Whereas, the Final Report outlines 231 individual Calls for Justice to develop and implement an Action Plan to address violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people in partnership with Indigenous Peoples;

Whereas, underlying social, economic, cultural, institutional and historical causes create vulnerabilities for Indigenous women and girls in Canada contributing to the ongoing violence, including sexual, domestic and gender-based violence, against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people; and

Whereas, colonial and patriarchal policies that displaced Indigenous women from their traditional roles in communities and governance and diminished their status in society, leaving them vulnerable to violence, and

Whereas, the Sisters in Spirit Vigil honours the lives of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people; supports grieving families and provide opportunities for healing; and is a movement for social change encouraging education and understanding related to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Two-Spirited Persons.

It is therefore recommended:

1. **THAT** the City proclaim every October 4 as Sisters in Spirit Day.
2. **That** the proclamation be posted on the City's website and the Corporate and Strategic Communications department be directed to promote the proclamation on corporate communications channels.
3. **THAT** the City of Vaughan mark the day with a vigil in partnership First Nations, Metis, and Inuit communities and the Native Women's Association of Canada.

Attachments

1. [Final Report Volume 1a](#)
2. [Final Report Volume 1b](#)
3. [Executive Summary](#)
4. [Calls for Justice](#)
5. [Supplementary Report – Genocide](#)
6. [Master List of Report Recommendations Organized By Theme and Colour-Coded by Jurisdiction](#)
7. [Consolidated Literature Review of Reports relating to Violence Against Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA People](#)