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## News Release

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### **First Nations Health Council Welcomes Publication of MMIWG Report as Important First Step**

Coast Salish Territory – The First Nations Health Council (FNHC) welcomes today's publication of the National Inquiry Into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls report as an important step towards protecting our women going forward.

The women of the FNHC, as part of the regionally appointed Council providing leadership and advocacy in health transformation in British Columbia, submitted oral and written testimony to the inquiry. Many of our recommendations on the importance of cultural safety and quality health and wellness services have been included in the collective response to this crisis.

"We stand with our sisters and their families, holding up those who can no longer speak for themselves," said FNHC Member Tania Dick. "At the FNHC we are working today to shape better health outcomes for generations to come."

In the past, many communities and Nations here in BC were matrilineal and guided by the voices of women and it is in that spirit that our women leaders have come forward now. The FNHC strongly supports the report's recommendation on the need to implement a wide array of health and wellness supports for women, especially mental health supports, to break the cycle of intergenerational trauma and providing them the protection and care they deserve.

This truth gathering has given voice at last to almost 1,500 family members and survivors of this serial tragedy.

"I am relieved that something is finally being done, that people are finally acknowledging the truth," said Ms. Dick. "Now we can begin to respond to this with meaningful action."

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