



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MN–S continues the Call for Action ahead of Saskatchewan-lead Missing and Murdered Women and Girls (MMIWG) walk

February 11, 2022 – Métis Nation–Saskatchewan continues to call for an increase in action by all levels of government to address the issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people across Canada.

The Métis Nation has collectively voiced its disappointment in the lack of Métis specific data and experiences included in the 2019 National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. No database currently exists that speaks to the distinct Métis experience when it comes to MMIWG. Métis women and girls are often misidentified as Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal. The Métis Nation government is working to address this, and the barriers Métis women and girls often face within the justice system. MN–S is a part of the national efforts of the women of the Métis Nation, Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak (LFMO), to lead in Métis specific perspectives and analysis of gender-based violence.

With the support of MN–S and the Métis Nation Governing Members, LFMO has identified 62 Métis-specific Calls for Miskotaha (change). As the National Action Plan on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People unfolds, now with a Métis sub-working group and the addition of the 62 Calls for Miskotaha, MN–S continues to seek justice for Métis MMIWG at the national, regional and local level.

Last spring, MN–S introduced the office of the Family Information Liaison Outreach (FILO) as a Métis-specific service to gather information from public agencies on behalf of MMIWG families. Through the FILO network across Canada, the MN–S office now has the ability to pull information from sources outside of Saskatchewan and begin to build a Métis specific database.

MN–S is proud to support all efforts to raise awareness of MMIWG, including an upcoming Saskatchewan-led movement that has sparked a national dialogue on the subject. A 10-month, cross-country walk led activist and Saskatchewan resident, Krista Fox, will start in British Columbia and end in Newfoundland and Labrador. MN–S citizen, Lindsey Bishop will join Krista in Victoria to kick off the walk on Friday, February 18, 2022.



Lindsey Bishop's sister Megan Gallagher went missing in Saskatoon on September 19, 2020. She hasn't been seen or heard from since. Lindsey's efforts to scour neighbourhoods, distribute posters and find potential witnesses to her sister's disappearance have been in vain.

Lindsey is now taking a year off work to, "Hop on and support (Krista's efforts) and try to heal myself," Lindsey said. She leaves Saskatchewan to join Krista on Saturday, February 12, 2022. The two will participate in the annual 'Women's Memorial Walk' in Vancouver on Monday, February 14, just days before their own trek begins.

Krista Fox is closely tied to the MMIWG cause. A good friend of hers, Ashley Morin, went missing from the Battleford, SK region, in July of 2018. Krista has now become an advocate for all MMIWG families. She started organizing the cross-Canada walk a year ago.

MN-S Women and Gender Equality Minister Loretta King will travel to BC later this month to see the group begin their journey of hope and healing. "When the national inquiry into MMIWG was announced in 2015, the national conversation began, and yet, our Indigenous women and girls continue to fall victim to violence. We need awareness and we need change," she said.

The MMIWG walk will also connect grieving families across the country in solidarity and in spirit, "so they can look into each other's eyes and say, '*I know*' what you're going through," said Krista Fox in a zoom conversation before leaving for BC earlier this month.

The walk will be documented on social media channels, including TikTok and Facebook. Follow Lindsey at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100075449472125> and Krista at <https://www.facebook.com/Kristas-Kilometres-for-MMIW-106665611488673>. Lindsey is accepting e-transfer donations to support the walk at lyn_z01@hotmail.com.

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About Métis Nation-Saskatchewan



Métis Nation–Saskatchewan (MN–S) is the recognized government of the Métis Nation in Saskatchewan. MN–S is built on a foundation of Métis identity, culture, values and language. MN–S works to advance Métis rights and recognition. MN–S represents the political, socioeconomic, cultural and educational interests of more than 80,000 Métis in the province through an elected representative system at local, regional and provincial levels.

About MN–S Family Information Liaison Outreach

Established in April 2021, The MN–S Family Information Liaison Outreach (FILO) office is committed to working with the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) and their surviving family members in a Métis-specific trauma informed manner. The MN–S FILO office will help ensure the Métis perspective is included as the federal government moves to implement the National Action Plan to address violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ persons.

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