

June 5, 2020

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa ON  
K1A 0A6

The Honourable Carolyn Bennett  
Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister  
House of Commons  
Ottawa ON  
K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Bennett

**RE: Postponing the release of an action plan for the Final Report of the  
National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls**

I am writing to share our deep concerns about the recent decision to delay the announcement of a comprehensive action plan to implement the 231 Calls for Justice provided in the Final Report of the National Inquiry into missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

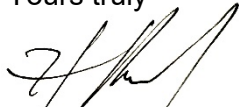
Over a year ago, the National Inquiry determined that, “human rights and Indigenous rights abuses and violations committed and condoned by the Canadian state represent genocide against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA people.”

Instead of delaying the release of a comprehensive strategy to act on the report indefinitely, we urge you to reaffirm your commitment to reconciliation and take up the Inquiry’s Calls for Justice. This includes meeting with organizations like the Native Women’s Association of Canada, who have offered to assist the government in developing the National Action Plan, and have publicly stated they are willing to do whatever is needed to move it forward. Action is required now to reduce the loss of life, prevent further harm, and continue the healing process for those who are suffering.

As an education union, we are committed to taking action that will protect human rights, promote mutual respect and trust, and foster inclusion. We believe the Calls for Justice will enhance the publicly funded education system in Ontario; however, the public and Indigenous peoples need action, not further delays.

It is crucial that you reconsider your decision to delay announcing your plans for the implementation of a National Action Plan that addresses the concerns raised in the National Inquiry and enact the 231 Calls for Justice. Consultation and collaboration with Indigenous peoples must continue, and the government is strongly encouraged to announce a plan so that the healing process can begin and meaningful changes can occur to prevent further death and harm.

Yours truly



Harvey Bischof  
President, OSSTF/FEESO

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