



JUNE 10, 2019

JOINT STATEMENT FROM:

**INTERNATIONAL FUNDERS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (IFIP)
and THE CIRCLE ON PHILANTHROPY AND ABORIGINAL PEOPLES IN CANADA (THE CIRCLE)**

HONOURING MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN

The Circle on Philanthropy and Aboriginal Peoples in Canada (The Circle) and International Funders for Indigenous Peoples (IFIP) honour the memory of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls in Canada and stand in solidarity with the calls for justice and an end to violence, discrimination and violation of Indigenous women's individual and collective rights.

On June 5, 2019 the National Inquiry into [Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls report](#) (MMIWG) revealed 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" amount to an act of genocide. We support the recommendations of the report and the calls for justice.

We call upon our peers, our members and all those engaged in philanthropic endeavors to consider the following actions:

- Orient upcoming calls for proposals, grant criteria and opportunities for funding to align with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC), Calls to Action and/or the MMIWG Calls to Justice.
Resource: [Funding Indigenous Peoples: Strategies for Support](#)
- Ensure that all grant requests or partnerships focused on Indigenous issues are Indigenous led or with the free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous communities.
Resource: [Circle 2.0 Funding Matrix](#)
- Mobilize funds, social capital, donor engagement in an effort to support Indigenous led research, advocacy, policy development and movement building.
Resource: [Canada's Emerging Indigenous Rights Framework: A Critical Analysis](#)
- Mobilize support for unrestricted, multi year operational grants to Indigenous led women's, children and youth organizations to continue their essential work on the pathway toward healing, as defined by them.

- Make a serious commitment to breathing life into The Philanthropic Community's Declaration of Action by ensuring that your staff, volunteers and board have read the UNDRIP, TRC Calls to Action, the MMIWG National Inquiry Report as well as the Calls to Justice and understand how they can use their influence to enable change.

Resource: [The Philanthropic Community's Declaration of Action](#)

On June 2, 2019 the Canadian Government announced the pledge made to the [Equality Fund](#) to resource grassroots women's organizations and networks globally. We acknowledge the collective work and recognize the trailblazing collaboration that will amplify resources for women's rights as we reimagine a world that is just and one where we heal our relationship with Mother Earth.

As we welcome the recommendations of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and celebrate the bold multi-sectoral Equality Fund initiative, [IFIP](#) and [The Circle](#) encourage the philanthropic community to deeply listen to the priorities and perspectives of local Indigenous women, who are on the frontlines advocating for solutions for the climate crisis, fighting for self-determination, and respect of Indigenous Peoples rights. Funders interested in learning how to support Indigenous women can join IFIP's Indigenous Women Funders Working Group a platform to facilitate funders' education and collaboration, and learn about Indigenous women's organizations.

At a time when Indigenous women are leading the way globally by creating inter-cultural philanthropic models to respectfully partner with Indigenous communities, we trust and look forward to seeing deeper engagement and decision-making leadership for Indigenous women to define the values of collaboration and their funding priorities.

In solidarity,

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