

SASHING OUR

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∞ Warriors

CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

Sashing our Warriors

Violence Against Métis Women and Girls

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Violence against Women in Canada

- ▶ Half of all women in Canada have experienced at least one incident of physical or sexual violence since the age of 16.
- ▶ Approximately every six days, a woman in Canada is killed by her intimate partner. Out of the 83 police-reported intimate partner homicides in 2014, 67 of the victims—over 80%—were women.
- ▶ On any given night in Canada, 3,491 women and their 2,724 children sleep in shelters because it isn't safe at home.
- ▶ On any given night, about 300 women and children are turned away because shelters are already full.
- ▶ 70% of spousal violence is not reported to the police.



Violence against Women in Canada

The United Nations defines violence against women as:

- ▶ "Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life."



Violence against Women in Canada

Abuse can include:

- ▶ Physical abuse
- ▶ Sexual abuse
- ▶ Emotional or verbal abuse
- ▶ Financial abuse
- ▶ Spiritual abuse
- ▶ Criminal harassment/stalking



Violence against Indigenous Women

- ▶ Indigenous women are physically assaulted, sexually assaulted, or robbed almost three times as often as non-Indigenous women. Even when all other risk factors are taken into account, Indigenous women still experience more violent victimization. Simply being Indigenous and female is a risk.
- ▶ Indigenous women experience intimate partner violence more frequently, and more severely, than do non-Indigenous women. More often (52% versus 31%) Indigenous women in these situations fear for their lives.
- ▶ Aboriginal women are killed at six times the rate of non-aboriginal women.



Violence against Indigenous Women

- ▶ The RCMP conducted an operational review in 2014 of homicide and unsolved missing person cases from 1980 and 2012. The review found that there were 1,181 missing or murdered Indigenous women in this period.
- ▶ The Native Women's Association of Canada has stated that the number of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls is closer to 4000, which would also include cases that have been wrongly reported as accidents or suicides.



Violence against Indigenous (including Métis) Women

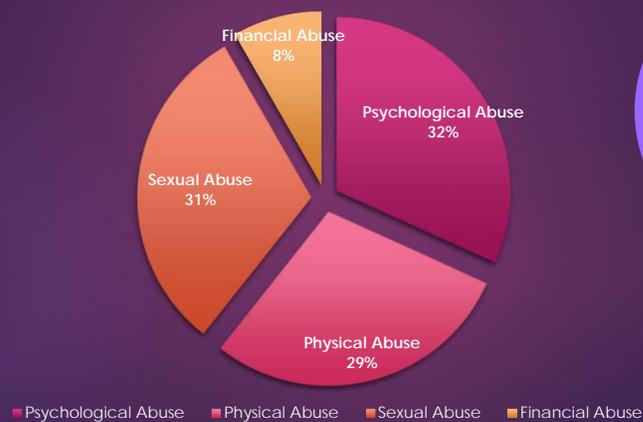
- ▶ Awareness of the much higher rates of violence against "Indigenous" women and girls is slowly translating into targeted action for Aboriginal women and girls, aimed at either support for survivors or efforts to prevent future violence.
- ▶ Unfortunately, these anti-violence initiatives are often not inclusive of Métis women and girls as the term "Indigenous" is often assumed to mean "First Nations".
- ▶ As such, Métis Nation British Columbia sought to collect the experiences of Métis women and girls who have experienced violence through an online survey in order to ensure that these supports and efforts are inclusive of the Métis voice.
- ▶ The survey was completed by 368 Métis women and girls.



Quantitative Analysis: Experience of Violence



Qualitative Analysis: Types of Abuse Experienced

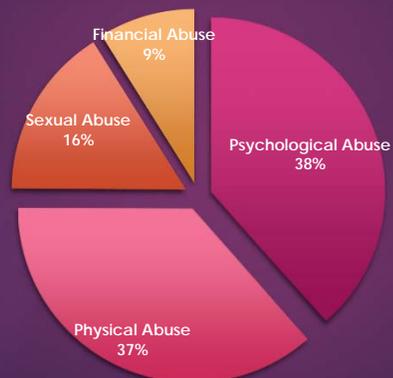


Quantitative Analysis: Witnessing Violence

Have you ever witnessed violence against Métis women and/or girls within your own family?



Qualitative Analysis: Types of Abuse Witnessed



■ Psychological Abuse ■ Physical Abuse ■ Sexual Abuse ■ Financial Abuse



Métis Women and Girls

- ▶ Victimization of Métis women was not part of traditional Métis culture.
- ▶ Métis women were part of an egalitarian society where their contributions were valued and their participation in their communities was essential to its existence.
- ▶ The situation of Métis women is compounded by sexist stereotypes and racist attitudes towards Aboriginal women and girls.
- ▶ Violence against Métis women is tolerated and accepted due to societal indifference to the welfare and safety of our women.



Métis Women are placed at risk simply because they are Métis women.



TRC Call to Action

In order to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission made 94 calls to action, which included the following:

- ▶ 41. We call upon the federal government, in consultation with Aboriginal organizations, to appoint a public inquiry into the causes of, and remedies for, the disproportionate victimization of Aboriginal women and girls. The inquiry's mandate would include:
 - ▶ Investigation into missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls.
 - ▶ Links to the intergenerational legacy of residential schools.



Violence against Indigenous (including Métis) Women

- ▶ According to the Interim Report by the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous women and girls (2017), many studies related to Violence against Indigenous Women and Girls are First Nations-specific and do not reflect the experiences of Inuit and Métis women and girls.
- ▶ Métis women and girls clearly experience more violence than do non-Indigenous women and girls in Canada, and pervasive racist and sexist stereotypes, as well as poorer socio-economic conditions, make them more vulnerable to violence.
- ▶ Without a more detailed assessment of the unique challenges Métis women and girls face, these reports' recommendations will not be as effective for them.
- ▶ This is a knowledge gap that will need to be filled in order for the National Inquiry to make specific recommendations concerning the safety of Métis women and girls.



Moment of Silence

