



Indigenous women and girls in Canada are disproportionately affected by violence . and many communities and organizations, including the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#), have asked for an inquiry into this matter. SGEU is also committed to raising awareness and promoting action on this grave issue.

According to the RCMP, there have been 1,181 cases of missing or murdered Indigenous women in Canada between 1980 and 2012, including 164 missing, and 1,017 homicide victims.ⁱ However, this tally likely misses a lot of cases.ⁱⁱ

As of April 2015, 174 Aboriginal women across all police Canadian jurisdictions remain missing, 111 of these under suspicious circumstances.ⁱⁱⁱ

Statistics Canada homicide data show that 67 Aboriginal women were murdered in Saskatchewan from 2001 to 2014 . a murder rate 6.1 times higher than for non-Aboriginals.^{iv}

While these grim statistics paint a horrific picture, and are important data for inciting a national conversation and inquiry, these numbers don't tell the stories of the women and girls who've been taken or killed, nor do they tell of the suffering that their friends and families have experienced as a result of losing a loved one.

CBC's investigative project [Missing and Murdered](#) tells these stories. One woman from B.C., who went missing at 22 years old, grew up on her father's boat and loved the outdoors.+ Another woman, who was murdered in 2002, was a 20-year-old nursing student from Saskatchewan. CBC has identified 30 specific cases of missing and murdered women in Saskatchewan, dating back as far as 1951 and as recent as 2015.

The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) also shares [these women's life stories](#). Their storytelling project is intended to raise awareness, educate, and promote change and to honour the daughters, sisters, mothers and grandmothers who have been lost to violence and remember those still missing.+

SGEU is committed to raising awareness about missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. An International Women's Day conference on March 8 & 9, hosted by the SGEU women's committee, centered around the theme of Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women & Girls and the Role Unions Play. Dr. Carrie Bourassa, an associate professor at the First Nations University of Canada, was the keynote speaker.

Last fall, the SGEU women's committee partnered with the Sisters in Spirit Gathering for a traditional feast, candlelight vigil and round dance at the First Nations University of Canada to call for justice for missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. The women's committee provided an offering of coffee, hot chocolate, and cookies.

The women's committee will also be hosting a fundraiser luncheon on April 22, with all proceeds donated to Sisters in Spirit . an organization working with the families of Indigenous women and girls who are missing or have been murdered.

SGEU and our women's committee will continue to draw attention to the violence disproportionately facing Indigenous women and girls. We encourage our members to get involved and to reflect on how to eliminate racial discrimination and injustice in our communities.

ⁱ Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women: A National Operational Overview, RCMP. <http://www.rcmp-gc.gc.ca/pubs/mmaw-faapd-eng.pdf>

ⁱⁱ RCMP report on murdered and missing Aboriginal women is statistically skewed, rabble.ca. <http://rabble.ca/blogs/bloggers/pamela-palmater/2015/04/rcmp-report-on-murdered-and-missing-aboriginal-women-statisti>

ⁱⁱⁱ Part 4. Statistical Analysis of New Data: Missing and Murdered Cases, RCMP. <http://www.rcmp-gc.gc.ca/pubs/abo-aut/mmaw-fada-eng.htm#p4>

^{iv} Table 7. Total female victims of homicide, by Aboriginal identity, Canada, 1980 . 2014, Statistics Canada. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2015001/article/14244/tbl/tbl07-eng.htm>