



Nishnawbe Aski Nation

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100 Back Street, Unit 200 Thunder Bay, ON P7J 1L2  
Tel: (807) 623-8228 Fax: (807) 623-7730

## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **NAN DECRIES REPORT, RENEWS CALL FOR INQUIRY INTO MURDERED AND MISSING ABORIGINAL WOMEN**

**THUNDER BAY:** Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Deputy Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler today decried a parliamentary committee report on violence against Aboriginal women that fails to recommend a national public inquiry into murdered and missing Aboriginal women.

“For the second time in nearly two years a parliamentary committee has failed to recommend the action we need to fully address the high levels of violence against Aboriginal women in Canada,” said NAN Deputy Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler, who holds the women’s directorate portfolio. “The special committee process that developed this report and its recommendations isn’t nearly enough to address the magnitude of this issue, and this government’s continued failure to call an inquiry to fully investigate these disappearances is nothing short of a national disgrace.”

The Special Committee on Violence Against Indigenous Women tabled its report, “Invisible Women: A Call To Action”, in the House of Commons today. It makes 16 recommendations but fails to recommend that the federal government hold a national public inquiry.

“The homicide rate for Indigenous women and girls is shockingly higher than all other women in Canada and it is shameful that the Government of Canada is choosing the status quo over a commitment to meaningful action,” said Fiddler. “The Prime Minister is mistaken if he thinks we will allow his government to hide behind reports that essentially say everything is fine as-is when our mothers, sisters and daughters are dying and disappearing without a trace.”

NAN continues to call for inquiry into murdered and missing Aboriginal women. NAN will honour all missing and murdered Aboriginal women including Loretta Saunders, an Inuk woman found dead last month while working on her thesis on this issue, at the upcoming NAN Special Chiefs Assembly and NAN Women’s Forum later this month.

In August 2013, NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly endorsed an Ontario-wide declaration by First Nations political leadership to end violence and abuse in First Nation communities.

*Nishnawbe Aski Nation is a political territorial organization representing 49 First Nation communities in James Bay Treaty No. 9 and Ontario portions of Treaty No. 5 – an area covering two thirds of the province of Ontario in Canada.*

**For more information please contact:** Nick Sherman, Communications Officer – Nishnawbe Aski Nation  
(807)625-4906 or cell (807) 472-1464 or by email [nsherman@nan.on.ca](mailto:nsherman@nan.on.ca)