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Commissioner Marion Buller
National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

Dear Commissioner Buller:

The United Church of Canada continues to offer our prayerful support for the success of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. We honour your efforts to address the root causes of this national human rights crisis.

We are writing to encourage you to include, in your final report, a specific recommendation that a national action plan to end violence against Indigenous women, girls, and Two Spirit individuals be developed and implemented, and that the federal government identify sufficient budget to achieve this.

For too long, the rights of Indigenous women, girls, and Two Spirit peoples have been violated in a country that is obliged by international human rights standards to protect them. Your interim report, issued in November 2018, identified a number of the underlying systemic reasons for this, which have recently been echoed in a report from the Canadian Feminist Alliance for International Action (FAFIA), Canada Without Poverty, and the Chair of Indigenous Governance at Ryerson University. Titled *A National Action Plan to End Violence against Indigenous Women and Girls: The Time Is Now*, the report provides a critical overview of the ongoing crisis and the need for the federal government to publically acknowledge it and act upon it.

We also wish to highlight a recommendation that appears to be missing from the National Inquiry's Interim Report: the need for all non-Indigenous peoples to confront their own racism and dismantle the systems of privilege that marginalize and stereotype Indigenous women, girls, and Two Spirit peoples. As a church, we have committed to a new relationship by adopting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the framework for reconciliation, and by seeking to fulfill the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. It is our responsibility to continue to transform not just policies, practices, and attitudes, but also ourselves, in order to truly walk in the spirit of Christ with all our relations. We hope that the Inquiry will not shy away from urging Canada to confront racism and privilege.

As the Inquiry nears its end, we hold our breath in anticipation of its recommendations. We believe that this national human rights crisis must end. The time is now to stand in solidarity with Indigenous women, girls, and Two Spirit peoples. Thank you for your commitment to this important work.

With respect,

The Right Rev. Dr. Richard Bott
Moderator

The Rev. Maggie Dieter
National Indigenous Council