FOR RELEASE

April 11, 2017

## Yukon advisory committee to support work of National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in Yukon

Joint news release

In preparation for the work of the national inquiry in Yukon and the ongoing issue of violence against Indigenous women, the Yukon advisory committee on missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls (MMIWG) has been re-established.

The advisory committee will continue the work of bringing together governments, agencies, communities and families to share information and guide our common work during the inquiry. The committee is co-chaired by Minister responsible for the Women's Directorate Jeanie Dendys, Kwanlin Dün First Nation Chief Doris Bill and Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council president Doris Anderson.

The goal of this advisory committee is to support the work of the commission of the national inquiry while ensuring this work meaningfully integrates the voices of Yukon families of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. The advisory committee is also committed to further action on the urgent issue of violence against Indigenous women and girls without delay as a result of waiting for new recommendations and the conclusion of the inquiry.

In order to ensure the voices of Yukon women and families are included in this important inquiry, the advisory committee urges those who want to participate to contact the national inquiry through their website, by emailing profile@mmiwg-ffada.ca or by calling their toll-free number 1-844-348-4119.

Quotes

"I am so pleased to be moving forward on this important work in collaboration with an incredibly knowledgeable group of community partners that make up this advisory committee. We are very supportive of the work of the commission and are committed to doing all that we can to ensure that the inquiry process is successful, that family feel supported and that we start off the inquiry process in Yukon grounded in ceremony and with the Yukon context at top of mind."

–Minister responsible for the Women's Directorate Jeanie Dendys

"We come here to honour the lives of the lost loved ones and family members that remember them. I commend the Government of Canada for launching this inquiry to 'find the truth, honour the truth, and give life to the truth as a path to healing.'"

–Kwanlin Dün First Nation Chief Doris Bill

"I support the re-establishment of this advisory committee and I know this group will stand up for the best interests of Indigenous women. We have been working on this issue since long before the inquiry started and we will continue to move forward both with the inquiry and while the inquiry takes place, because this is an issue that can't wait any longer."

–Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council president Doris Anderson

Quick facts

- The Yukon delegation that attended the national roundtable requested a regional process in advance of the second national roundtable. As a result, an interagency committee called the Yukon Advisory Council on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls was established to provide direction to a family gathering and a Yukon roundtable on MMIWG.
- The Government of Yukon, alongside the Government of Canada and all other provinces and territories, has publicly communicated its intention to support and participate in the national inquiry.
- The national inquiry commissioners announced that the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls will start in Yukon with family hearings during the week of May 29 to June 2, 2017.
- In preparation for these hearings, regional advisory meetings are taking place across the country, including in Yukon from April 11 to 13 at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre.

Learn more: www.womensdirectorate.gov.yk.ca/Missing-murdered-Indigenous-women-girls.html

Contact:

Sunny Patch

Cabinet Communications

867-393-7478

sunny.patch@gov.yk.ca

Marie-Louise Boylan

Communications, Kwanlin Dün First Nation

867-633-7835

marie-louise.boylan@kdfn.net

Doris Anderson

Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council

867-334-1838

yawc@northwestel.net

Alex Hill

Communications, Women's Directorate

867-667-8675

alex.hill@gov.yk.ca