



Native Women's
Association of Canada

L'Association des
femmes autochtones
du Canada

Head office
85 Albert Street, 12th floor
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 6A4
T: 613-722-3033 613-722-7687
reception@nwac.ca www.nwac.ca

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Dear Commissioner Lucki,

I am looking forward to our meeting in July.

In advance of that meeting, I am writing to ask that you join the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC), and politicians and police forces across Canada, in taking the first steps to end the needless deaths and assaults of Indigenous women and men at the hands of Canadian police.

We, as Indigenous women, did not need to read the recent spate of tragic news to understand the tragic outcomes that can occur when our people have encounters with law enforcement in this country. But we ask that you use this moment to begin taking the steps necessary to prevent further lives from being lost.

The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) is asking for three reforms that find their basis in the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Gender Diverse People.

We are asking that all frontline RCMP police officers be equipped with body cameras.

We are asking that "shoot-to-kill" orders be revised to make non-violent apprehension the imperative when suspects are not brandishing firearms, and to better train officers on how to de-escalate potentially dangerous situations.

And we are asking, as have so many others in recent days, that some of the duties currently performed by RCMP when called to deal with an Indigenous person who is suffering from a mental health issue be turned over to social workers, health professionals or elders.

These reforms would be a starting point in ending the violence. Many more would have to follow. But we are asking you to quickly implement in the RCMP them as quickly as possible.

We also ask the RCMP and other Canadian police forces to join NWAC in forming a task force that will rewrite the relationship between police and Indigenous women.

We want culturally appropriate protocols that will keep our women, girls and gender-diverse people safe, not just from street killers and other assailants who have targeted them as prey, but from the police themselves.

Sincerely
Lorraine Whitman
President of the Native Women's Association of Canada