



**Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith
Office of the Bishop**

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September 8, 2016

**Dear Clergy, Religious Sisters, Lay Leaders, Brothers and Sisters of
the Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith:**

Re: National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

I join with all of you in offering my prayers and support for the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Young people. We hope and pray that the work of the Inquiry will bring clarity to what has happened to the lives of over 1,200 murdered or missing Indigenous women, to bring about justice for victims and their families, and to provide insights to prevent any possible potential victims.

The work of the inquiry will also contribute to the larger discussion regarding important social issues that need careful consideration and response, including sexual violence, domestic violence and human trafficking.

We pray for the blessing and guidance of the Holy Spirit on all of the commissioners as they deal with the important and difficult tasks of examining and ending the violence that is associated with Indigenous women and young people who end up going missing.

May we also all work together to reverse any systemic causes that contribute to people turning to the streets through prostitution, human trafficking, and expanded drug and alcohol addiction.

In Our One Creator,

✠ Mark A. Hagemoen
Bishop of Mackenzie-Fort Smith