



## Native Women's Association of Canada

March 7, 2012

Melina Buckley  
Policy Counsel  
Missing Women Commission of Inquiry  
1402 – 808 Nelson Street  
Vancouver, BC V5Z 2H2  
Via email: [info@missingwomeninquiry.ca](mailto:info@missingwomeninquiry.ca)

Dear Ms Buckley:

NWAC is Canada's national voice for Aboriginal women and was uniquely positioned to speak to concerns about missing and murdered Aboriginal women. NWAC was granted full standing by Commissioner Oppal, but the Government of British Columbia refused to provide funding for legal counsel and NWAC was forced to withdraw from the Inquiry on July 27, 2011 because it could not participate without financial support.

Recently, NWAC received an invitation from the Commission to participate in policy sessions. However, since NWAC was excluded from the fact-finding hearings, NWAC has decided not to participate in this secondary policy forum. Neither the Inquiry nor the Government of British Columbia is likely to attach the same weight to submissions that are made in the policy sessions. Aboriginal women, and their organizations, should not be relegated to a secondary forum.

NWAC still hopes that individual families will find some answers through this Inquiry. NWAC will continue to seek real and long-lasting solutions to the grave and systematic violations of the human rights of Aboriginal women and girls.

Sincerely,

Jeannette Corbiere Lavell  
President

