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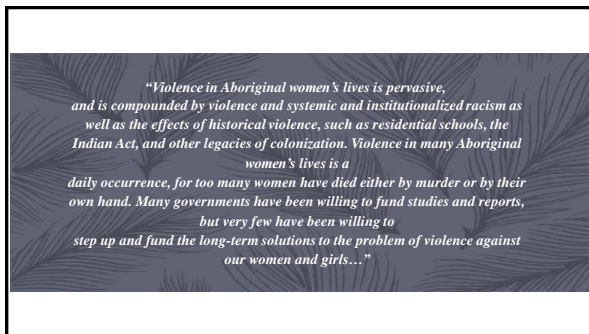
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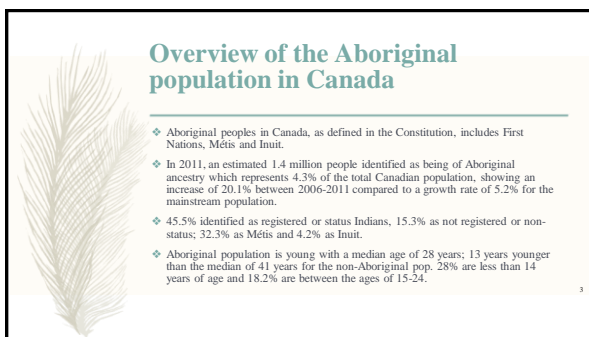
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## Aboriginal population cont'd

- ❖ Eight in 10 Aboriginal people live in Ontario and the western provinces. Ontario has the highest number of Aboriginal people.
- ❖ The majority of the population in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories are Aboriginal and in the Yukon they represent 23.1% of the population.
- ❖ There are over 600 First Nations communities/bands in Canada with over 60 Aboriginal languages.
- ❖ Nearly half (49.3%) of the First Nations live on-reserve or an Indian settlement with the remainder living off-reserve.
- ❖ Winnipeg, Edmonton and Vancouver have the highest number of registered First Nations.

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## Profile of Aboriginal women in Canada

- ❖ In 2011, Aboriginal women accounted for 4% of the total female population.
- ❖ 61% reported being First Nations, 32% as Metis and 4% as Inuit.
- ❖ Increased by 20% between 2006-2011 compared to an increase of 5% for the non-Aboriginal female population in Canada.
- ❖ Projected that the female Aboriginal population will continue to increase to between 987,000 to 1.3 million by 2036.
- ❖ Fertility rates of Aboriginal women are higher compared to mainstream (2.2 children compared to 1.6).
- ❖ Becoming mothers during adolescence is 3 times the Canadian rate

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## Aboriginal women cont'd

- ❖ Teen mothers are less likely to complete high school.
- ❖ Largest concentration of women and girls live in Winnipeg, Regina and Saskatoon.
- ❖ Over 1/3 live on-reserve.
- ❖ Nearly ¾ of Inuit females live in Nunangat (Nunatsiavut (Labrador), Nunavik (northern Quebec), Nunavut and Inuvialuit region (NWT)).
- ❖ A younger population with the median age for all Aboriginal females as 29.1 compared to 41.5 for the Canadian female population.
- ❖ Women living on-reserve and Inuit women living in Nunangat are more likely to live in crowded or dilapidated homes.

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## Aboriginal women cont'd

- ❖ In 2011, half of Aboriginal women between 25-64 had postsecondary education.
- ❖ Aboriginal women have lower literacy and numeracy scores compared to non-Aboriginal women.
- ❖ Aboriginal women are less employed than non-Aboriginal women and experience higher unemployment rates.
- ❖ The median income was lower than Canadian women in 2010 ((\$19,289 compared to \$24,842).
- ❖ 12% of First Nations women aged 25 and older attended residential schools with the number who attended residential schools increasing with age (28% of women over 65 attended residential schools). 21% of Inuit women aged 25 and over and 31% of Inuit women over 55 also attended these institutions. 4% of Metis women aged 25 year of age and over stated they also attended residential schools.

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## Rates of Violence Experience of Aboriginal women


- ❖ 24% of Aboriginal women reported being victims of domestic violence.
- ❖ In 2004, the rate of violence was more than 3 times the Canadian average.
- ❖ Aboriginal women are more likely to report severe and potentially life-threatening forms of violence (choking, use of gun or knife or sexually assaulted).
- ❖ **Are 7 times more likely to be murdered than their non-Aboriginal counterparts.**

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## Addressing Violence Challenges specific to Aboriginal women

- Lower education attainment.
- Unemployability due to lack of education and lack of employment opportunities.
- Poverty.
- Fear of losing children to child welfare agencies if violence is reported.
- Lack of parenting skills resulting from the legacy of residential schools-intergenerational impacts.
- Overcrowding.
- Remoteness or isolated community.

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### Challenges cont'd

- Lack of services or access to services for women fleeing violence.
- Not enough culturally-appropriate services in urban areas.
- Inadequate response or understanding by the justice system i.e. police, judicial and correctional systems.
- Systemic racism.
- Substance abuse (alcohol and drug abuse).
- Shortage of policing, health and social services providers especially in remote and/or isolated communities.
- Lack of violence-prevention programs to raise awareness and to violence prevention for various age groups.

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### Challenges cont'd

- Not enough shelters, transitional/second stage housing to assist women fleeing violence.
- Non-affordable and safe housing for women fleeing violence.
- Transportation costs, especially in fly-in communities, too high.
- Difficult to leave community and family supports.
- Normalization of violence.
- Stigma in speaking about violence.
- Loss of culture and traditional roles.

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## Opportunities

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: 94 Calls to Action presented and widely accepted to address challenges regarding:

<b>Child Welfare</b> <i>Five calls to action</i>	<b>Reconciliation</b> Canadian Government and the United Nations Declaration on the Right of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) <i>Two calls to action</i>
<b>Education</b> <i>Seven calls to action</i>	Royal Proclamation and Covenant of Reconciliation <i>Three calls to action</i>
<b>Language and Culture</b> <i>Five calls to action</i>	Settlement Agreement Parties and the UNDRIP <i>Two calls to action</i>
<b>Health</b> <i>Seven calls to action</i>	Equity for Aboriginal People in the Legal System <i>Three calls to action</i>
<b>Justice</b> <i>Eighteen calls to action</i>	National Council for Reconciliation <i>Four calls to action</i>



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## Opportunities cont'd

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: 94 Calls to Action presented and widely accepted to address challenges regarding:

**Professional Dev't & Training for Public Servants**  
*One call to action*

**Church Apologies and Reconciliation**  
*Four calls to action*

**Education for Reconciliation**  
*Four calls to action*

**Youth Programs**  
*One call to action*

**Museums and Archives**  
*Four calls to action*

**Missing Children and Burial Information**  
*Six calls to action*

**National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation**  
*Two calls to action*

**Commemoration**  
*Five calls to action*

**Media and Reconciliation**  
*Three calls to action*

**Sports and Reconciliation**  
*Five calls to action*

**Business and Reconciliation**  
*One call to action*

**Newcomers to Canada**  
*Two calls to action*



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## Resources

1. Awo Tan Healing Lodge, Calgary, AB
2. Begoodenoo Neeshdum, Chisasibi, QC
3. Circling Buffalo Program, Erickson, MN
4. Gignoo Transition House, Fredericton, NB
5. Ikwe widdjitiwin, , Winnipeg, MN
6. Islands of Safety, Vancouver, BC
7. Katujaj Society Safe Shelter, Rankin Inlet, NU
8. Kaushee's Place, Whitehorse, YT
9. Millbrook Family Healing Centre, Millbrook, NS

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## Resources cont'd

10. Onyotacka Family Healing Lodge, London, ON
11. Soaring Spirit Healing Program, Vancouver, BC
12. Tahshtwekyah Transitional Housing for Victims of Violence, Southwold, ON
13. Watson Lake Yukon Women's Shelter and Transition Home, Watson Lake, YK
14. Waycobah Mi'kmaw Family Healing Centre, Cape Breton Island, NS
15. Ganohkwasa Family Violence Program, Ohsweken, ON
16. Adlohsa Native Family Healing Services, London, ON
17. NATIONAL ABORIGINAL CIRCLE AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE

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## Managing Risk for Aboriginal Women

- ⌘ Evaluate the level of risk of a victim of domestic violence using a risk assessment tool such as:
  - Ontario Risk Assessment Guide (ODARA);
  - Domestic Violence Risk Appraisal Guide (DVRAG);
  - Spousal Assault Risk Assessment Guide – Version 3 (SARA-V 3);
  - Brief Spousal Assault For the Assessment of Risk, Second Edition (B- Safer); Summary of Domestic Violence Risk Factors;
  - Domestic violence screening Inventory Revised (DVSIR);
  - Danger Assessment.
- ⌘ Must be a coordinated and multi-disciplinary (holistic) approach to address violence against women
- ⌘ Solutions must be tailored to the community needs

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## Managing Risk for Aboriginal Women con't

- Systemic issues such as housing, poverty and racism must be addressed
- Implement the TRC's calls for action.

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**Thank you  
Miigwech  
Merci**

Claudette Dumont-Smith, RN, MPA

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