

# STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST INDIGENOUS WOMEN

“There is one fundamental fact: her murder was a racist and sexist act. Helen Betty Osborne would be alive today had she not been an Aboriginal woman.”

- Report of the Aboriginal  
Justice Inquiry of Manitoba



Helen Betty Osborne, 1952 - 1971

Helen, a high school student at the time of her murder, dreamed of becoming a teacher.



**CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS NATIONAL ABORIGINAL CAUCUS**

Dear Prime Minister Harper,

Discrimination and violence against Indigenous women in Canada have, for too long, been treated as isolated cases. On March 25, 2003, three decades after the murder of Helen Betty Osborne, Helen's 16-year old cousin, Felicia Solomon was also murdered. Despite a growing number of incidents of missing and murdered Indigenous women many of the solutions identified by government commissions and inquiries have yet to be implemented.

I urge you and your government to work with Indigenous peoples' organisations and police forces to implement plans of action that would include identifying and implementing appropriate and effective protocols for action on missing person cases consistent with the specific risks to Indigenous women and girls; ensure adequate, sustained multi-year funding to culturally appropriate services such as shelters and counselling, needed to prevent violence against Indigenous women; establishing a national hotline and registry so that police and frontline organisations across Canada have comprehensive and up-to-date information on reports of missing women; and educating police, justice officials and others to ensure effective action is taken to stop violence against Indigenous women.

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