



# Media Alert

For Immediate Release

## MANITOBA DELEGATION TO PRESENT AT THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

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March 1, 2019

Winnipeg, MB (Treaty Territory One) – In preparation for International Women’s Day (March 8th), the Institute for International Women’s Rights Manitoba (IIWR-MB) delegation announced that it will be hosting a parallel event during the sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women ([CSW63](#)) at the United Nations. The delegation’s event titled **“YOUTH SPEAK OUT: Canada’s Social Protection Systems”** will take place on March 12th and will focus on the session’s priority theme: Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

In July 2016, the IIWR-MB received Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, making it the first and only non-profit organization in Manitoba to have such a designation. It is with this special status from the United Nations, that the IIWR-MB is able to send a delegation to the CSW63 and host it’s third official parallel event.

The IIWR-MB delegation is comprised of a number of Manitoba and Ontario based organizations who support the rights of Indigenous Youth and communities. There will also be youth representation from the refugee community. A short video, capturing the diversity of youth, will be shown. In keeping with the group’s interests, their event aims to educate the global community and Canadian Government representatives about the challenges Youth face in Canada’s protection systems but also share the resilience of Youth and share solutions to address challenges.

The delegation has also informed representatives of the Government of Canada and has invited them to attend the presentation. They will also be developing a report from the CSW63 that will be shared with the community and key government officials for further engagement and action.

The delegation acknowledges and thanks the team who have supported and coordinated the delegation. The delegation includes individuals and representatives from the following organizations: The Institute for International Women’s Rights - Manitoba (IIWR-MB); The University of Winnipeg Global College; Ma Mawi Chi Itata Centre Inc.; Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc. (MKO); Grand Council Treaty 3; the Southern Chiefs Organization Inc. (SCOINC); The Office of Senator Marilou McPhedran; Canadian Women 4 Women Afghanistan (MB); Operation Ezra; and NorWest Community Coop.

#### Quotes:

*"Youth: we are the leaders of yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Give us our voice. Listen to us. We are decision makers, peacemakers, and peacebuilders. Invite us to the table of discussion."*

**Teruni Walaliyadde, Vice President, Diversity, IIWR-MB, and Lead of Delegation - The Institute for International Women's Rights – Manitoba, Inc. (IIWR-MB)**

*"We are very excited to send our students to the United Nations as delegates to attend this most important event to advance equality for women and girls around the world."*

**Dr. Jan Stewart Director, Global College, PhD, University of Winnipeg.**

*"We strongly believe Indigenous youth are not only the Leaders of tomorrow but are the Leaders of TODAY! They face unique challenges in today's society and have always inspired us with their practical and meaningful solutions. Indigenous youth are the fastest growing population in Canada and we are so proud that they represent the past, present and future. We are grateful to our partnership and this opportunity for YOUTH VOICE to be heard; we are listening!"*

**Diane Redsky, Ma Mawi Chi Itata Centre Inc.**

*"All colonial government systems, particularly Social Protection Systems, have failed the women, girls and youth of the MKO First Nations. Manitoba is home to the highest rates of Indigenous child welfare apprehension, the highest rates of Indigenous youth incarceration, and the lowest Grade 12 graduation rates for Indigenous youth and girls in the entire country. These unacceptable outcomes, which have included MMIWG issues, are the legacy of colonialism and a symptom of the ongoing degradation of our inherent, Treaty, and title rights by both the provincial and federal governments. In solidarity with the delegation, MKO calls on the international community to support recognition of the rights of women, girls, and youth of MKO First Nations. International recognition of rights, and determined efforts on the domestic front, will assist with the root causes of the marginalization and disempowerment of the women, girls, and youth who are the foundation of our MKO Treaty Nations within the Canadian nation state. The State attempts at Indigenous eradication have not worked; and our northern Manitoba First Nations women, girls, and youth have remained resilient and, for the most part, remain connected to our lands, languages and cultures these attempts at eradication notwithstanding."*

**Grand Chief Garrison Settee, Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc. (MKO)**

*"Grand Council Treaty#3 is pleased to have Chief Kathy Kishiqueb and Chief Darlene Comegan join this year's Institute for International Women's Rights – Manitoba delegation to attend the Commission on the Status of Women 63"*

**Grand Council Treaty 3**

*"The social protections systems in Canada continue to have challenges in addressing the needs of our youth in Canada. Thank you to our Youth Chief Ashley Daniels and the rest of the panelists for being our voice and shedding light on these issues at the United Nations Summit."*

**Grand Chief Jerry Daniels, Southern Chiefs Organization Inc. (SCOINC)**

*"It's just plain good strategy for Parliamentarians to engage in more dialogue with women's civil society. On women's human rights, Women, Peace and Security and all forms of multilateralism, civil society plays a crucial role in global governance - NGOs are at the heart of advocacy and progressive social change."*

**Senator Marilou McPhedran**

*"The women and girls victimized by the ISIS genocide has gone on for far too long without proper action from the International Community. We appreciate the opportunity presented by the UN Commission on the Status of Women to give these women and girls a voice, raise awareness for their plight and pressure Western leaders to intervene."*

**Michel Aziza, Operation Ezra.**

*"As a global citizen I want to be part of this international community and stand among partners who are dedicated to bringing women's challenges to the forefront, assist in the development of policies that promote gender equality and advance women rights on a global scale."*

**Mariam Omar, Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan - Manitoba Chapter (MB)**

The Delegation will be sharing information and live feeds from CSW63 on the IIWR-MB Facebook page and will be shared through associated organizations who have representatives on the delegation. See more here: <https://iiwrmb.ca/global-events/commission-status-women/>

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**The delegation welcomes interviews prior to leaving to CSW63 but can also interviewed by phone and other means while in New York during the week of March 11-15.**

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Teruni Walaliyadde  
[diversity@iiwrmb.ca](mailto:diversity@iiwrmb.ca)  
[1-204-390-7065](tel:1-204-390-7065)

Hilda Anderson- Pyrz  
[hildaandersonpyrz@gmail.com](mailto:hildaandersonpyrz@gmail.com)  
1-204-3075919

Tyler Andrade  
[Tyler\\_andrade94@hotmail.com](mailto:Tyler_andrade94@hotmail.com)  
1-204-391-4885