



Téléfax: (41-22) 917 90 08
Téléphone: (41-22) 917 9301
Internet www.ohchr.org
E-mail: cedaw@ohchr.org



Address:
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 GENEVE 10

REFERENCE: AA/follow-up/42/CAN/48

10 February 2011

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the concluding observations to the sixth and seventh combined report adopted at the 42nd session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), held in October 2008 (CEDAW/C/CAN/CO/7). The Committee requested Canada to provide, within one year, written information on steps undertaken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 14 and 32 of the concluding observations. The State party provided information on 9 February (CEDAW/C/CAN/CO/7/Add.1) which was examined by the Committee at its 46th session held in July 2010 in New York. The Committee decided to continue the follow-up on the implementation of para 32 of the concluding observations with respect to missing Aboriginal women and sent to the State party a letter dated 25 August 2010 requesting further follow-up by 10 October 2010. The Committee received with delay the follow-up response from the State party dated 8 December 2010 (CEDAW/C/CAN/CO/7/Add.2).

Based on its review of the follow-up report during its 48th session, the Committee notes that its serious concern on the disappearance and murder of Aboriginal women/girls is now acknowledged as a shared concern in the State party's follow-up report. The Committee further notes that several initiatives have been undertaken by the State party since receipt of the August 2010 correspondence and that funding has been ear-marked in support of several initiatives in the areas of law enforcement, the justice system, legislative reform, services for victims, research and analyses and related policy formulation. The Committee is also encouraged by the fact that the provincial government in British Columbia has established a Missing Women Commission of Inquiry which has clearly stated terms of reference and is expected to submit a final report to the Attorney General by or before 31 December 2011.

.../...

H. E. Mr. Marius GRINIUS
Permanent Representative of Canada
to the United Nations
Avenue de l'Ariana 5
1202 Geneva

Fax: 022 919 92 27

Although C\$500 000.00 has been made available to the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) under the aegis of the Canadian Parliament's House of Commons Standing Committee on the Status of Women to conduct a study on violence against Aboriginal women, the Committee is concerned about information that the funding to NGOs, among others Sisters in Spirit (SIS), might have decreased despite the NGOs' extensive experience in establishing and analyzing an extensive national database on missing/murdered aboriginal women.

The Committee is also concerned that funding provided to the above-mentioned State party's initiatives is not always exclusively directed to the situation of violence against Aboriginal women and as a result outcomes may not be sufficient for the development of a comprehensive and integrated approach to solve the problem.

As a continuation of the follow-up, the Committee requests that:

- additional information be provided on the full implementation of paragraph 32 of the concluding observations and on the Committee's concerns expressed in the letter of 25 August 2010;
- outcomes from the range of initiatives be provided by 10 January 2012, and more specifically:
 - o the report of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry of British Columbia,
 - o the forthcoming report and recommendations of the Canadian Parliament's House of Commons Standing Committee on the status of women, based on its study on violence against Aboriginal women that is expected in Spring 2011, and response of the Government of Canada on those recommendations;
 - o a report on the impact of the Community safety plans to improve the safety of Aboriginal women within Aboriginal communities;
- the State party consider elaborating a national plan of action to address the problem of missing murdered Aboriginal women/girls.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing the constructive dialogue with the authorities of Canada and to receiving your report by 15 January 2012. A word electronic version of the response should be sent to the Secretariat of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women by email to cedaw@ohchr.org.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Dubravka Šimonović
Rapporteur on follow-up
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women