



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 5th, 2020 Fredericton, NB- The New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council calls for immediate action and investigation to be taken regarding the death of a young Indigenous woman living in Edmundston.

On Thursday morning, June 4th, a 26-year-old woman identified as Chantal Moore was killed by a police officer responding to a call for help. Chantal was a member of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation on Vancouver Island. She had just moved to New Brunswick with her mother and her 5-year old daughter.

Just one year ago the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls was released. The National Inquiry called on policing agencies to review their policies, practices and procedures in order to build respectful “relationships with Indigenous Peoples by knowing, understanding, and respecting the people they are serving”. A year later and many are saying that little has changed in the relationship between mainstream policing and Indigenous peoples.

For the past four years, the New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council with other grassroots Aboriginal organizations from five provinces have visited Indigenous communities from Quebec to Newfoundland and Labrador to seek input on how to address individual and institutional acts of violence against Indigenous women and girls. We found that distrust of police is a major contributor to Indigenous peoples’ apprehension to call the police for help. The National Inquiry called upon all police services and justice system actors to acknowledge that the historical and current relationship between Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people and the justice system has been largely defined by colonialism, racism, bias, discrimination, and fundamental cultural and societal differences”.

While the agency responsible for the Edmundston police say there is an investigation into the shooting by “an independent agency” ... “to ensure police actions were appropriate and conform to policing standards,” the announcement does not inspire much confidence in a system that has been burdened with bias and racism.

In line with the recommendations of the National Inquiry, President & Chief Barry LaBillois of the New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council calls for Indigenous oversight into the investigation into the police actions that resulted in the tragic death of Chantal Moore.

“We are calling on policing services in New Brunswick to provide Indigenous oversight into police investigations involving Indigenous peoples including. Such oversight must include representation of Indigenous women. The family of Chantal Moore needs answers as to why she was killed during a health check by the police. Justice must not wait and every effort must be exerted to ensure that justice is served in an appropriate, immediate, and respectful way.”

The New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council is an Aboriginal Peoples Representative Organization dedicated to the improvement of the social and economic conditions of status and non-status Indigenous Peoples who live off reserve in New Brunswick.