

# MISSING & MURDERED INDIGENOUS MEN AND BOYS

*A Community Education, Remembrance, and Action Handout*

## WHY MMIMB MUST BE NAMED

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Men and Boys (MMIMB) refers to the ongoing crisis in which Indigenous men and boys are disproportionately subjected to disappearance, homicide, and institutional neglect across Canada. While public attention has often focused on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, current national data show that Indigenous men and boys make up the larger share of Indigenous homicide victims in Canada. Naming MMIMB makes visible a pattern of violence that has too often been overlooked in media coverage, public policy, and justice responses.

## CANADA AT A GLANCE

In 2022, 225 of the 849 police-reported homicide victims in Canada whose Indigenous identity was known were identified as Indigenous, representing 27 percent of all such victims. Statistics Canada reported an Indigenous homicide rate of **10.98** per 100,000 in 2022, compared with **1.69** per 100,000 for non-Indigenous victims, showing a severe and persistent disparity. The same national data show that most Indigenous homicide victims were First Nations people, and that Indigenous men and boys outnumbered Indigenous women and girls among homicide victims in every Indigenous identity category reported.

**27%**

Of all Canadian police-reported homicide victims with known identity in 2022 were Indigenous.

**10.98 / 100k**

The homicide rate for Indigenous victims, compared to just 1.69 per 100,000 for non-Indigenous individuals.

## WHAT THE NATIONAL NUMBERS SHOW

National homicide reporting also indicates that violence against Indigenous men and boys is often connected to broader social conditions created by colonialism, displacement, poverty, racism, and uneven access to housing, health care, and community safety supports. For Indigenous homicide victims who were men and boys, the accused was most often an acquaintance rather than an intimate partner, which differs from patterns more commonly seen in cases involving women and girls. Statistics Canada also reported that 7 percent of Indigenous homicide victims in 2022 were considered missing persons at the time of their death, compared with 4 percent of non-Indigenous homicide victims.

## WHY THIS MATTERS

These statistics do not capture only isolated incidents; they reflect a broader pattern in which Indigenous men and boys can be exposed to violence while also facing weaker public attention, delayed investigations, and fewer dedicated policy responses. For many Nations, families, and advocates, MMIMB is not a separate issue from other forms of anti-Indigenous violence but part of the same colonial system that devalues Indigenous life and normalizes preventable harm.

## ONTARIO-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Ontario data have long shown that Indigenous men are represented in higher numbers than Indigenous women in missing and murdered case files reviewed by police. In a major Ontario Provincial Police review covering OPP jurisdiction, police reported 126 homicides of Indigenous men from 1978 to December 2014, compared with 54 homicides involving Indigenous women from 1964 to December 2014. The same reporting stated that OPP were still searching for 40 missing Indigenous men dating back to 1956, compared with 8 missing Indigenous women dating back to 1957. A later OPP review discussed in 2026 media coverage examined 65 investigations from 1956 to 2024, including 45 cases involving Indigenous men and boys and 14 involving Indigenous women and girls, indicating that the issue remains active rather than historical.

## PUBLICLY KNOWN CASES

### **Jonathan Styres (Six Nations of the Grand River)**

A 29-year-old Indigenous man shot and killed near Hamilton, Ontario, on February 4, 2016, after being confronted outside a home during an alleged attempted truck theft. The case moved through multiple trials and appeals, becoming a nationally watched legal landmark on self-defence and the value of Indigenous life. It concluded with a manslaughter conviction left in place after the Supreme Court of Canada declined to hear a further appeal in 2025, exposing how long and difficult the path to accountability can be.

### **Stacy DeBungee (Rainy River First Nations)**

Found dead in the McIntyre River in Thunder Bay in October 2015. Originally treated as non-criminal by local police, a civilian review later found the investigation fundamentally inadequate, ruling misconduct and neglect of duty due to systemic bias. In 2023, the leading officer was demoted and ordered to complete Indigenous cultural competency training, establishing clear negligence in how the death of an Indigenous man was handled.

### **Felix Bernard Chief (Winnipeg)**

A 28-year-old Indigenous man who died after a group assault in Winnipeg in November 2021. His tragic passing drew widespread regional attention and catalyzed growing public calls to explicitly recognize MMIMB as central to the national crisis of anti-Indigenous violence.

## COMMUNITY ACTIONS

Meaningful responses to MMIMB include demanding better data collection, improved missing persons investigations, timely police action, culturally safe victim services, and full implementation of the broader Calls for Justice related to anti-Indigenous violence in Canada. Community education, ceremony, memorial walks, and Indigenous-led advocacy remain essential because public visibility helps challenge the silence that has too often surrounded missing and murdered Indigenous men and boys.

## **SUPPORTS & CRISIS LINES**

- **Hope for Wellness Helpline:** Available 24/7 to all Indigenous people across Canada. Call 1-855-242-3310 or access online chat. Services available in English and French; telephone support available upon request in Cree, Ojibway (Anishinaabemowin), and Inuktitut.
- **Talk4Healing (Ontario-Based):** Provides culturally grounded help for Indigenous women and families across Ontario via phone, text, and chat at 1-855-554-HEAL (4325).

# MMIMB FLYER – SOURCE LINKS

## National Statistics and MMIMB Data

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### Indigenous victims of homicide in Canada, 2022 (infographic)

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-627-m/11-627-m2024015-eng.htm>

### Indigenous victims of homicide in Canada, 2022 (PDF infographic)

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-627-m/11-627-m2024015-eng.pdf>

## Ontario OPP Missing/Murdered Indigenous People

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### Numbers of missing, murdered indigenous people in Ontario | CBC News

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/sudbury/opp-report-missing-murdered-men-1.3369388>

## Jonathan Styres Case (Six Nations of the Grand River)

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### Supreme Court won't hear case of Ontario man who fatally shot Indigenous man | CTV News Toronto

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/toronto/article/supreme-court-wont-hear-case-of-ontario-man-who-fatally-shot-indigenous-man/>

### Supreme Court won't hear Peter Khill's case | Global News

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11313169/scoc-ont-manslaughter/>

### Ontario's top court dismisses Peter Khill's manslaughter appeal | CBC News Hamilton

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/khill-appeal-ruling-ontario-1.7469296>

## Stacy DeBungee Case (Rainy River First Nations / Thunder Bay)

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### Officer who led flawed investigation into Ojibway man's 2015 death in Thunder Bay demoted | CBC News

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/shawn-harrison-demoted-stacey-debungee-death-investigation-1.6736256>

### OPP open investigation into death of Rainy River First Nation man in 2015 | APTN News

<https://www.aptnnews.ca/national-news/ontarios-attorney-general-asks-opp-to-investigate-death-of-rainy-river-first-nation-man-in-thunder-bay-from-2015/>

## Felix Bernard Chief Case (Winnipeg)

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### Three charged following group assault that left man dead | CTV News Winnipeg

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/winnipeg/article/three-charged-following-group-assault-that-left-man-dead-winnipeg-police/>

### Winnipeg police identify victim of Sunday morning homicide | CBC News Manitoba

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/winnipeg-homicide-felix-chief-1.6241629>

## Support Services and Crisis Lines

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### Hope for Wellness Helpline - Indigenous Services Canada

<https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1576089519527/1576089566478>

### About Us – Hope for Wellness Helpline

<https://www.hopeforwellness.ca/about-us/>

### Talk4Healing help line for Indigenous women expanded across Ontario | CBC News Indigenous

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/indigenous/talk4healing-help-line-for-indigenous-women-expanded-across-ontario-1.4857527>