

Calls for Justice

Highway of Tears Initiative

Where we've been
Where we're at
Where we're going



CARRIER SEKANI
FAMILY SERVICES

Creating wellness together.

Introductions



Who are we?



CARRIER SEKANI
FAMILY SERVICES

With the guidance of our Elders, we are committed to the well-being and empowerment of Carrier and Sekani Families by asserting authority over health, social, and legal services.

Mary Teegee

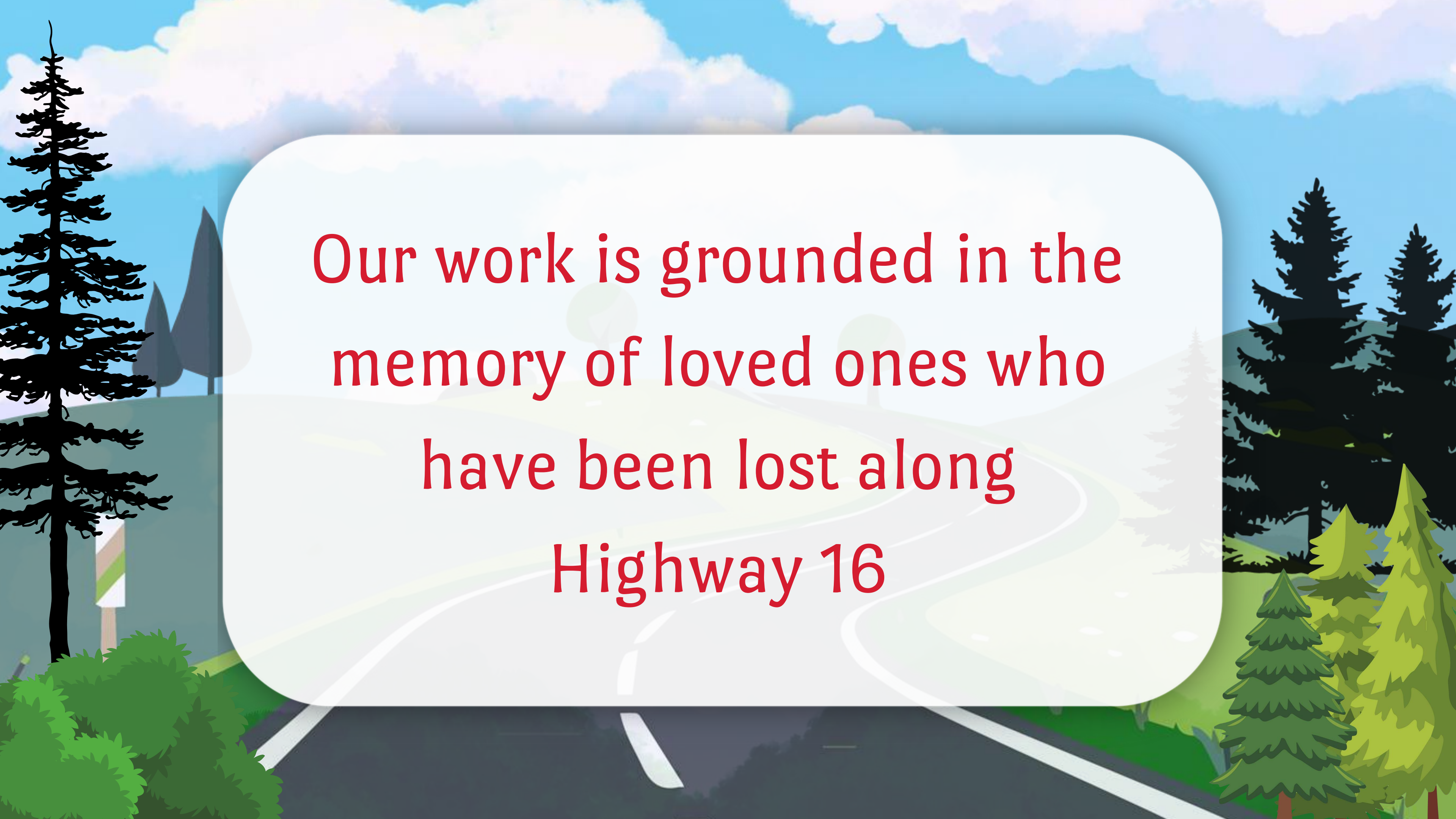
Chief Administrative Officer, Child & Family Policy & External Relations



Mary is a relentless advocate for human, Indigenous, and women's rights and has served on various provincial, national, and international committees.

She represents BC on the Board of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada and has acted as a Steering Committee member of the First Nation Early Childhood development Council.

She has been a member of the Provincial Ministers Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women, and works tirelessly to inform people about the Missing and Murdered Indigenous women in Canada.



Our work is grounded in the
memory of loved ones who
have been lost along
Highway 16



The Highway of Tears

Since 1969 Indigenous women and girls have gone missing and have been found murdered along the 724 km stretch of Highway 16 from Prince Rupert to Prince George, British Columbia, also known as the Highway of Tears.

They were daughters, sisters, aunties and friends.

Despite the decades that this has continued, there is still a fundamental need to raise awareness about the victims, as well as to prevent future violence against Indigenous women and girls.

The Highway of Tears Symposium

In March 2006 the Highway of Tears Symposium was held in Prince George to address countless issues regarding Safety and Transportation along Highway 16.

In June 2006 the Highway of Tears Symposium report was released which detailed 33 recommendations based on:

- Victim Prevention
- Emergency Planning and Team Readiness
- Victim Family Counselling and Support
- Community Development and Support Strategies

National Inquiry

In 2016, The Government of Canada launched a national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

The inquiry was directed to:

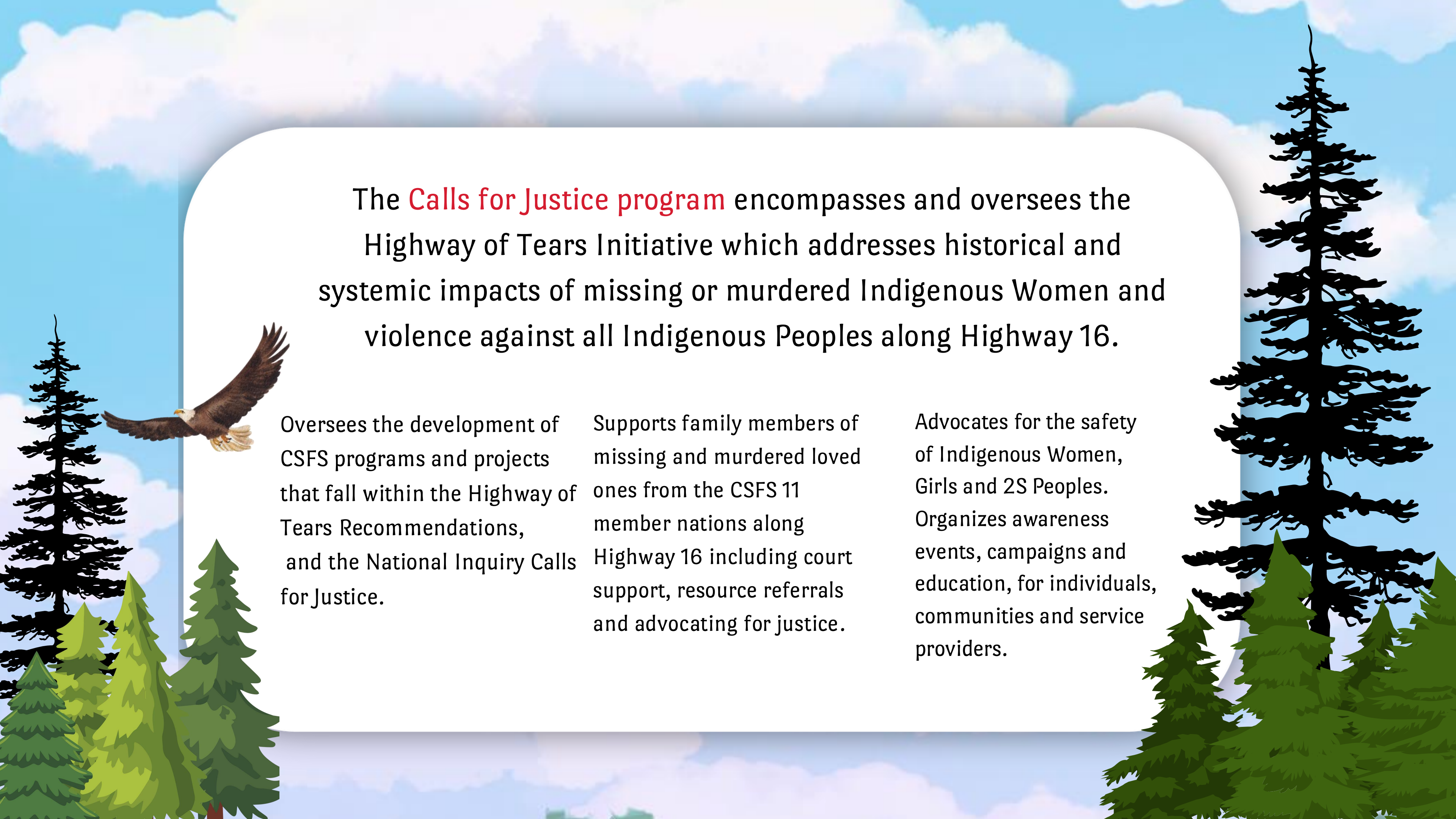
- Recommend concrete actions to remove systemic causes of violence and increase the safety of Indigenous women and girls in Canada
- Recommend ways to honor and commemorate missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls
- Have the experiences of families, loved ones and survivors play a critical role in informing policy change in a systemic level



231 Calls for Justice

The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women gave Canadians 231 “Calls for Justice” to end the genocide against Indigenous women and girls. These are legally mandated directives to stop the violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2 Spirited

We will find the truth by gathering many stories from many people. These truths will weave together to show us what violence really looks like for Indigenous women and girls in Canada



The **Calls for Justice program** encompasses and oversees the Highway of Tears Initiative which addresses historical and systemic impacts of missing or murdered Indigenous Women and violence against all Indigenous Peoples along Highway 16.

Oversees the development of CSFS programs and projects that fall within the Highway of Tears Recommendations, and the National Inquiry Calls for Justice.

Supports family members of missing and murdered loved ones from the CSFS 11 member nations along Highway 16 including court support, resource referrals and advocating for justice.

Advocates for the safety of Indigenous Women, Girls and 2S Peoples. Organizes awareness events, campaigns and education, for individuals, communities and service providers.

Partnerships

The Calls for Justice Advisory was established to build Carrier Sekani Family Services internal capacity to address the 231 Calls for Justice outlined in the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous women and girls.

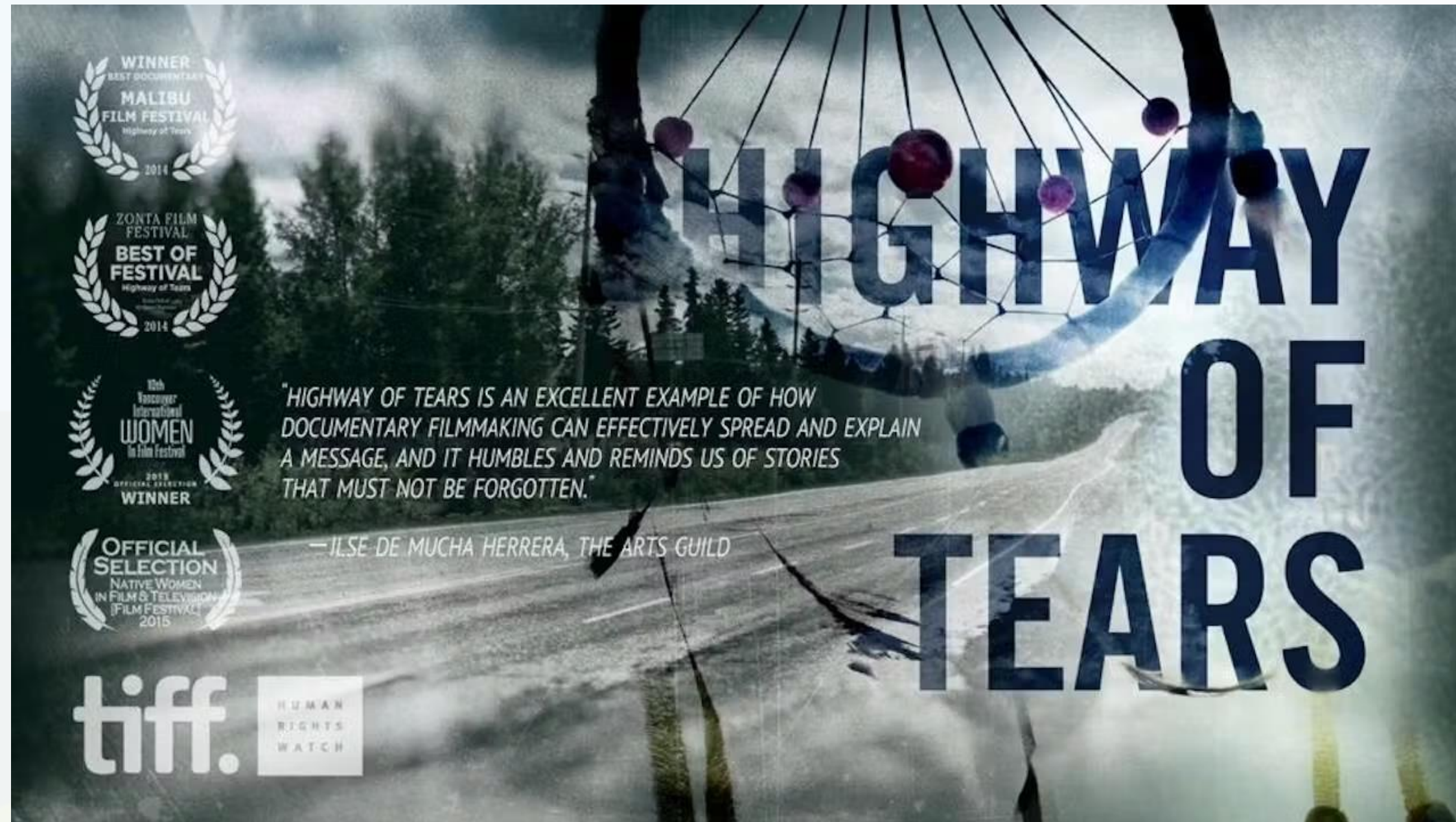
This advisory provides feedback, support and more to the Calls for Justice Program projects. In addition to this it will provide further guidance to Carrier Sekani Family Services on how to implement the Calls for Justice internally within programs, services and more

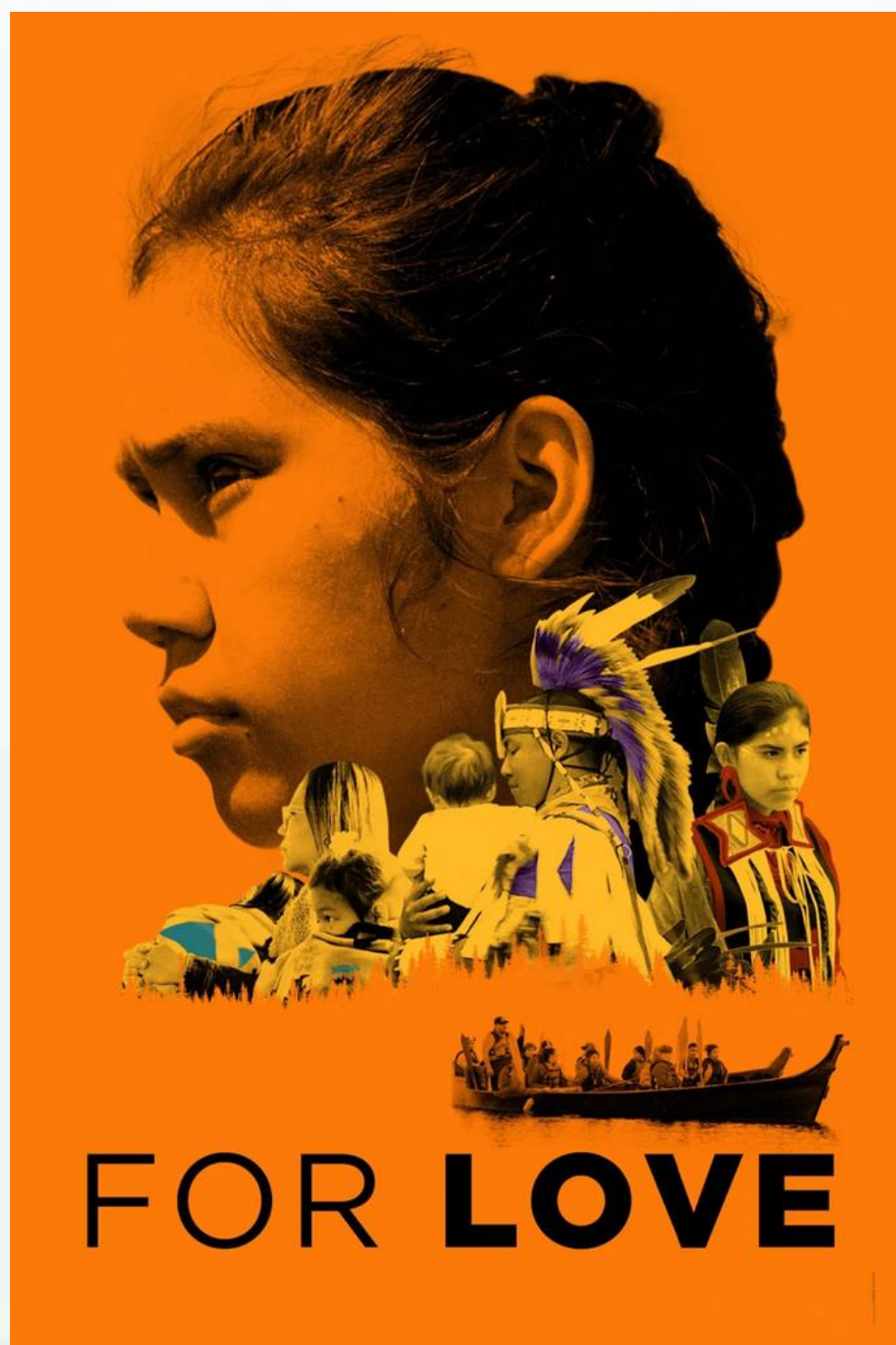


Calls for Justice Projects



Highway of Tears Documentary





For Love

Hope and Strength Vignettes

Addressing Negative Stereotypes and Stigmas

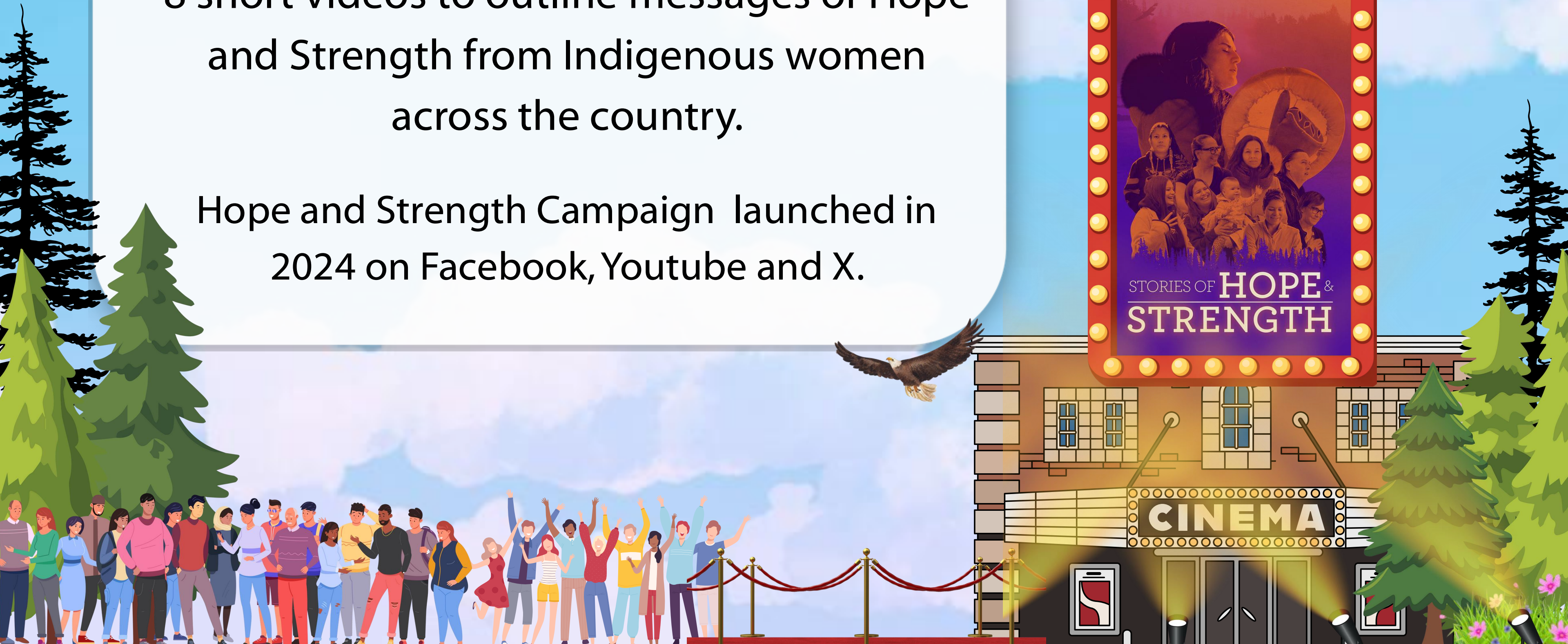
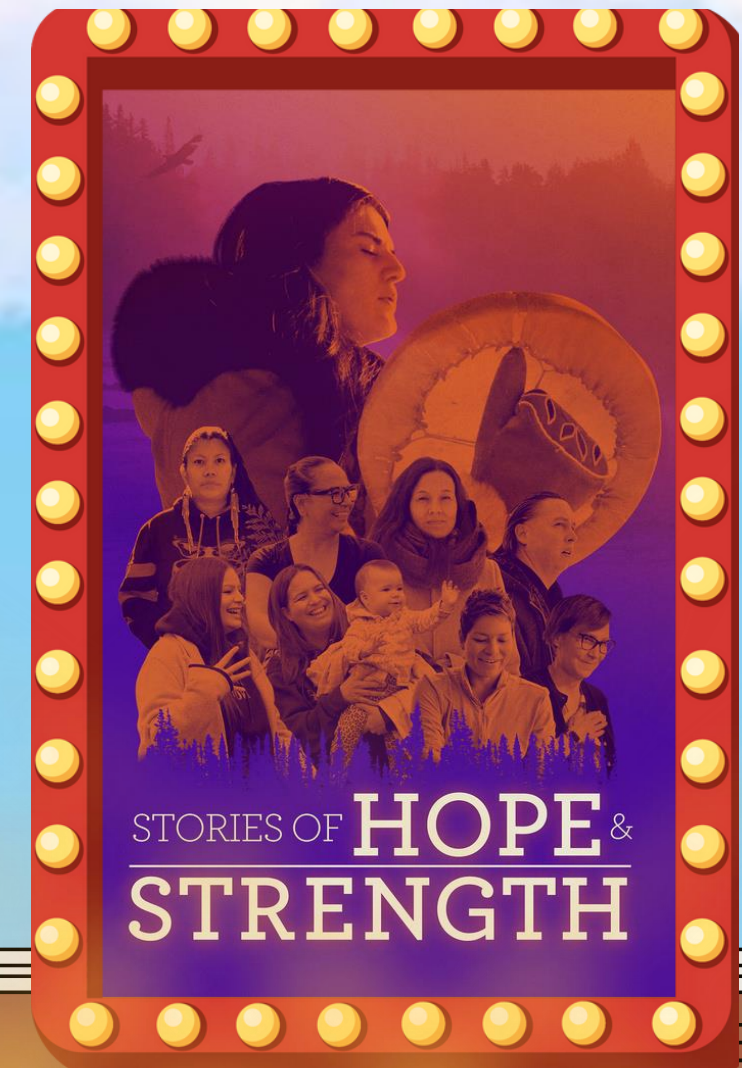
Calls for Justice : Calls for Media and Social Influencers 6.1

- ii .Support Indigenous people sharing their stories, from their perspectives, free of bias, discrimination, and false assumptions, and in a trauma-informed and culturally sensitive way.
- iv. Take proactive steps to break down the stereotypes that hypersexualize and demean Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people

Hope and Strength Vignettes

8 short videos to outline messages of Hope and Strength from Indigenous women across the country.

Hope and Strength Campaign launched in 2024 on Facebook, Youtube and X.



Awareness through signage

Recommendation # 9

That a number of billboards and many more posters be placed at strategic locations along the Highway 16 corridor between Prince George and Prince Rupert, British Columbia.

We aim to increase access to safety information, challenge stereotypes and stigmas and foster an environment of connection and support, through more signage exploring rest stop kiosks with MOTI, roadside banners, and more

Awareness through signage

We are currently working with 11 Member Nations to bring custom billboards to community.

**WE ARE HOPE.
WE ARE STRENGTH.**

KEEP HIGHWAY 16 SAFE.



**HIGHWAY
OF TEARS**
GOVERNING BODY



**NADLEH IS HOPE.
NADLEH IS STRENGTH!**

KEEP HIGHWAY 16 SAFE



**HIGHWAY
OF TEARS**
GOVERNING BODY

Our Spirit Website and National Toolkit

National toolkit will be a place where families, communities, organizations and more can connect and get access to information on how to:

Safety plan

What to do when a loved one goes missing

Connect for peer support

Find local support resources

And more...

Environmental Scan of MMIWG Intervention Programs

CSFS received funding to conduct a research scan of intervention programs across North America to increase safety of MMIWG and 2SLBTQQIA peoples.

This included conducting Focus Groups along Highway 16 to gather information and learn of existing practices and programs and gaps.

The report was launched in 2025

2026 Highway of Tears Symposium

Carrier Sekani Family Services has been at the forefront of advancing the interest of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

More than five hundred people were in attendance including service providers, First Nations community members and victims' family members, when the 33 Recommendations were created.

Although great work has been done, there is still so much more to do.

in 2026, we plan to come together again, and review

“Where we’ve been, Where we are, and Where were going”

What Can You Do?

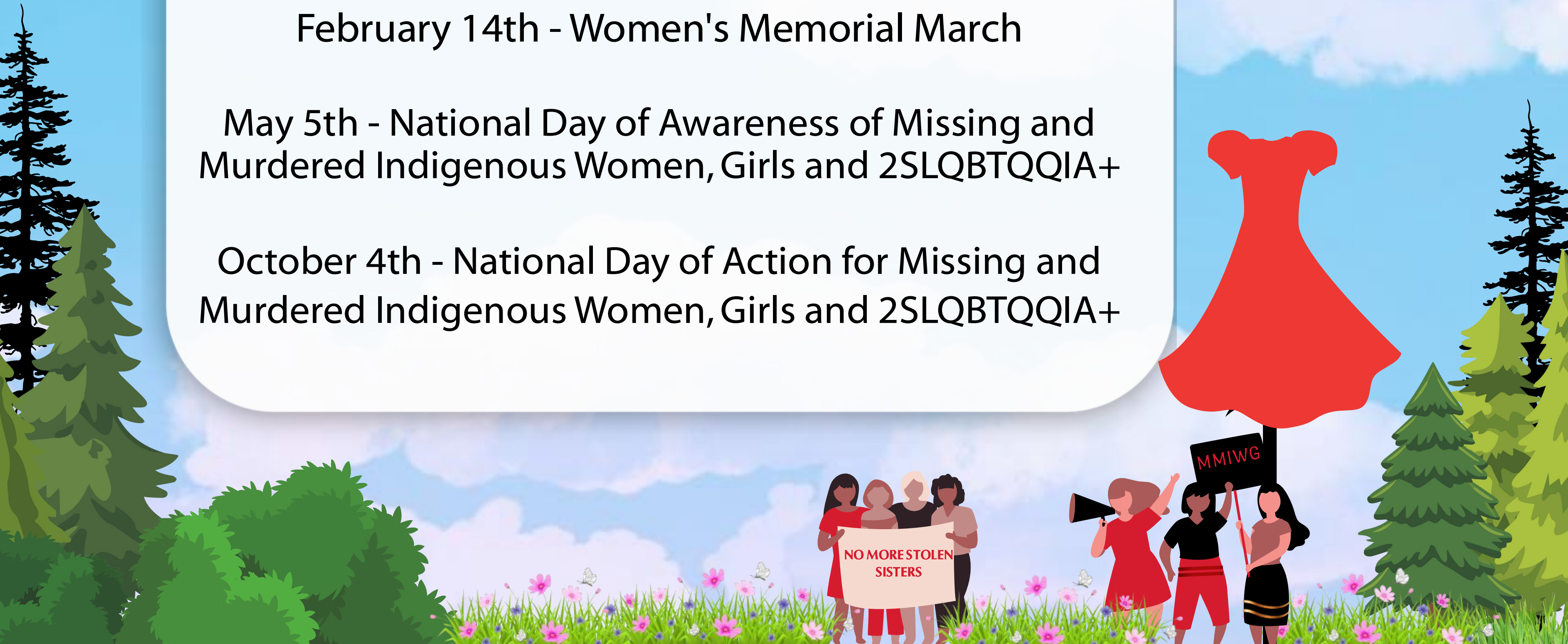
- Read and review the 231 Calls for Justice
 - look at specifically the 8 general calls for all Canadians, how can you respond?
- Filling in the gaps for support
 - data, volunteering and sharing fundraising needs
- Partnerships make for stronger impact
 - Stronger together
 - Sharing awareness through social media and more

Important Dates

February 14th - Women's Memorial March

May 5th - National Day of Awareness of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+

October 4th - National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+





Questions or Comments

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Mussi Cho
Thank you