



## TUNGASUVVINGAT INUIT MOURNS THE LOSS OF MISSING INUK WOMAN MARY PAPATSIE

November 1, 2022

OTTAWA, ON - [Tungasuvvingat Inuit \(TI\)](#) mourns the loss of community member Mary Papatsie following 5 years of being listed as a missing person in Ottawa. [Ottawa Police Service](#) confirmed Sunday, October 30, 2022, that remains located in the Vanier area of Ottawa were that of Mary Papatsie. Mary was last seen April 27th of 2017.

TI extends deepest condolences to the Papatsie family, her friends and her loved ones.

This tragic event confirms the ongoing urgency for action with respect to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Executive Director (Acting) Judy Anilniliak stated, “Indigenous women and girls are overrepresented when it comes to violence against women. The [population of Indigenous women in Canada is 4%](#) but those same women [represent 10% of all missing women and roughly 16% of female homicide victims.](#)”

In the past year, TI has participated in the [National Inuit Action Plan](#) designed to create positive change so no Inuk woman, girl, or any Inuk identifying as 2SLGBTQQIA+ has to experience violence and threats to safety. Anilniliak added, “There is a lot of work to do to protect Inuk women and girls from violence and becoming victims of homicide. Mary’s story is tragic and we call upon the government to urgently act upon the [Calls For Justice](#) defined in the [National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls](#) released in 2020.”

In order for the genocide of urban Inuit women and all Indigenous women and girls to be eliminated, four pathways were identified that must be addressed as defined in the Inuit Calls For Justice that include:

- Historical, multigenerational, and intergenerational trauma.
- Social and economic marginalization.
- Maintaining the status quo and institutional lack of will.
- Ignoring the agency and expertise of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people.

The government must act on these so that our women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people can live healthy, fruitful lives without fear of their safety.

Mary Papatsie was only 39 years old when she went missing and in her short life she left a legacy as a caregiver, mother, auntie and respected and loved urban Inuit community member. We ask the government and police service to prioritize the safety of Indigenous women and girls so that they may enjoy rich lives in safe environments.

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*For more information contact, Joël Lamoureux, Manager, Communications 613 - 299 - 4684 - [jlamoureux@tontario.ca](mailto:jlamoureux@tontario.ca)*

*Tungasuvvingat Inuit (TI) is the only Inuit-specific service organization of its kind in urban Canada offering support through a person's entire life cycle. TI is a one-stop resource centre to meet the rapidly growing, complex, and evolving needs of Inuit in Ontario and is recognized as a leading advocate for urban Inuit and is prominent within the framework of national Inuit organizations*