

MISSING WOMEN COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

NORTHERN COMMUNITY FORUMS INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

The Missing Women Commission of Inquiry will be holding Community Forums in Northern British Columbia. The Commission recognizes that many members of the communities, particularly Aboriginal people, have been affected by the high incidence of missing and murdered women in this area and have an important contribution to make to the Commission's work.

The Missing Women Commission of Inquiry was established to inquire into the initiation and conduct of investigations of missing women and suspected multiple homicides. In order to carry out its mandate, the Commission is conducting the following activities:

- holding formal hearings into the investigation of women missing from the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver in 1997-2002;
- conducting research; and
- holding consultations, including community forums.

The Commission is precluded from holding formal hearings outside of Vancouver and in any case, cannot inquire into or make findings of fact with respect to any ongoing investigations of missing or murdered women.

The purpose of the Community Forums is to provide an informal venue in which interested members of the community can provide their input to Commissioner Wally Oppal on matters within his mandate. These submissions will help to provide the Commissioner with the information required to carry out his advisory and policy functions. In particular, submissions by local individuals and organizations will contribute to the quality of the Commission report and recommendations for the effective initiation and conduct of investigations of missing and murdered women. Your input will help the Commission to develop recommendations that are practical, workable and effective across the province and take into account the situation in your community.

Afternoon and evening sessions will be held in different communities between Prince Rupert and Prince George from September 12-22, 2011. Details about the dates, times and venues for the Northern Community Forums will be announced shortly. At the Forums, Commissioner Oppal will make a short presentation about the work of the Commission and individuals will be invited to make brief oral presentations (about 10 minutes). If you are interested in participating in one of the Community Forums, please contact the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry office by September 8, 2011.

For more information, please see the attached information sheets: **Questions and Issues for Discussion** and **Frequently Asked Questions**.