

DRAWN TOWARD Truth: MMIWG2S+ report workshop - Opening comments



An intentional beginning. This workshop will be a beginning — a way for us to start if we decide later to take the larger journey of reading through the entire MMIWG report. The chosen selection from the Introduction and Chapter 1

introduce important concepts and gives us a framework for understanding the remainder of the report. In addition, this chapter highlights four Indigenous women who are remembered by their families.

Our job will be to:

Witness - We will bear witness. This will take our courage and strength.

Witnessing can feel like bearing the weight of Truth. Together we will share this weight.

Create - We will translate the stories we read into stick figure visual narratives (comics) to help us learn and then teach what we have read.

Love - We will lovingly care about those Women, Girls and Two Spirit+ folks whose stories we will hear today. Love is the only force of Nature I know that can “bear all things”. If you start to feel overwhelmed by the subject matter you are encourage to double down on *love* — especially extending self-love. Have compassion for yourself and attend to the pace you need. Please begin, pause, take a break, or leave, as YOU need to be well and take good care of yourself.

Closing circle: If you have time, you are invited to stay an extra 30 minutes for a closing circle during which we will share our reflections about the MMIWG2S+ report and this workshop process.

Trigger warning. The content in the MMIWG2S+ report at times describes graphic violence and the extreme effects of colonialism and racism. That said, the pages we will read today do not describe graphic forensic details of murders. If you feel strongly affected or triggered by the content, please reach out to me or others gathered here or seek help from the good folks in your community if you need support.

Optional: If you wish, you may donate the images you create today to be used in slides for a possible future presentation. If you wish me to acknowledge your work by name, please add a post-it with your name on the back of your image. All other donated images will be acknowledged as “Anonymous”.

"Your relationship with the stories included in this report ... is an encounter – a transformational moment of relationship – of the utmost importance in itself."
(MMIWG2S+ p. 86)

We will read and then visually translate:

Introduction (starting at page 71)

- Successes and challenges of the National Inquiry
- Response to the denial of a two-year extension
- Foundational concepts in understanding violence
- "She's not just a picture on a wall" Privileging the stories of lives lived.
- Sharing our findings from the Truth-Gathering process
- Conclusion- An invitation

Introduction to Section 1: Establishing a New Framework

Chapter 1

- Centring Relationships to End Violence
- Introduction: Building a Solid Foundation
- An Intersectional Approach to Encounters
- Families remember their loved ones:
- Deidre M.: "A beautiful person, inside and out."
- Jennifer H. and Julia H.: Sisters much missed
- Michelle S.: "The one I looked up to"
- Four Pathways That Maintain Colonial Violence
- Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA People as Rights Holders
- Promoting and Maintaining Healthy Encounters
- Conclusion: Bringing It All Together

Chapter 2

Sneak peek.... The story of *Sky Woman*

Definition and a verbal language suggestion

Define: 2SLGBTQQIA also includes gender non-binary, and gender fluid folks.

Written: MMIWG2S+

Spoken: Women, Girls, and Two Spirit Plus folks.