



## Public Inquiry Respecting Innu Children in Care

**James J. Igloliorte**  
Commissioner

**Dr. Michael Devine**  
Commissioner

**Anastasia Qupee**  
Commissioner

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ST. JOHN'S (29/04/22)** – The Commissioners, Judge James Igloliorte, Anastasia Qupee and Dr. Mike Devine, of the Inquiry into the Treatment, Experiences and Outcomes of Innu in the Child Protection System are pleased the Inquiry has been launched.

The Commissioners will be meeting with Innu leadership and stakeholders, including provincial and federal government, to learn about how the Inquiry can best meet the needs of the families and Innu communities. In the coming months, the Commissioners will engage in further learning and planning its processes to reflect Innu culture, language and values, and guided by the principles of reconciliation.

Families and community members, service providers and others will be invited to participate in a number of ways. Further information about the Inquiry process, schedule and how to participate will be shared in the coming months. Up-to-date information will be posted on the Inquiry website, which is in development, through social media and on the radio in each community.

The Inquiry will review, research and analyze Innu involvement with the child protection system, including identifying gaps and barriers to avoiding involvement, understanding systemic and underlying causes, and exploring individual, community and cultural impacts. In addition, the Inquiry will investigate several individual cases of children and youth who lost their lives and were or had been involved in the system.

The Inquiry will integrate the Touchstones of Hope phases of reconciliation, being truth-telling, acknowledging, restoring and relating into its processes; and be guided by its principles of self-determination, culture and language, holistic approaches, structural interventions and non-discrimination. These practices and principles must be brought to life through Innu culture and language.

The Innu Nation and Innu communities have advocated for and been leaders in significant changes to reduce and prevent involvement with the child protection system, including expressing the intention to exercise inherent jurisdiction over child welfare. The Commissioners are eager to work with Innu leadership, Elders and communities to ensure the Inquiry is complementary to these processes, can provide crucial information to support self-determination for the Innu and create a culturally safe space for healing and reconciliation.

## Quotes

“We are pleased to see this Inquiry coming to life. We are focused on ensuring that Inquiry process reflects reconciliation principles and Innu values. This will take time, but we owe it to all those impacted to ensure we move forward in a good way, in a trauma-informed way, in a way that supports self-determination for the Innu.”

Judge James Igloliorte, Commission Chair

“Innu have long known the disproportionate impact and harm of the child protection system. We know the harm caused by dislocation from community, culture, language and land. This Inquiry is an important component of the Innu path to self-determination for our families and communities.”

Anastasia Qupee, Commissioner

“This Inquiry is a critically important step to understanding the challenges and complexities of the systemic issues in the child protection system as it relates to the Innu Nation. It is a time for optimism that recommendations from the Inquiry will provide direction for improving the lives of the children and for the Innu Nation as a whole.”

Dr. Mike Devine, Commissioner

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For more information, contact:

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