

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **CHIEFS OF ONTARIO FIRST NATIONS WOMEN'S CAUCUS ACKNOWLEDGES THE WORK ONTARIO HAS DONE IN ITS SHARED STRATEGY TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

**TORONTO (March 2, 2017)** --- Indigenous leaders and the Chiefs of Ontario First Nations Women's caucus acknowledge the work and progress that the province and its Indigenous partners have made in the overall strategy to end violence against women in Ontario.

Ontario released a statement Tuesday announcing progress in its commitment to end the cycle of violence against Indigenous women and girls together with Indigenous partners.

The report 'Walking Together: Ontario's Long-Term Strategy to End Violence Against Indigenous Women' released last year focused on raising awareness of and preventing violence against Indigenous women, providing more effective and culturally appropriate programs and services, improving socio-economic conditions that support healing, and keeping communities safer.

"We have worked hard with our women's groups, indigenous leaders and grassroots citizens to end the violence against Indigenous women and are glad to see movement from Ontario however, even more participation and direct involvement from our groups would be more beneficial to the progress of this endeavor," said Deputy Grand Chief Denise Stonefish, Chair of the Regional First Nations Women's Caucus for Ontario.

At the 2015 National Roundtable on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, Ontario's delegation tabled 10 pan-Canadian actions to address violence against Indigenous women and girls across Canada.

"We hope the province will continue to work with Indigenous partners including to make further progress in its strategy to end violence against Indigenous women and girls," said Anishinabek Nation Deputy Grand Council Chief Glen Hare.

"Continuing to support women, children and families to end violence and healing from these historical effects will remain a focus of First Nation leadership across the Ontario Region," said Ontario Regional Chief Isadore Day. "We acknowledge and commend the ongoing efforts of the Ontario government and lift up the women's activists and policy experts in all of our First Nation communities."

The fifth National Indigenous Women's Summit will be held in Toronto from March 6 to 8, 2017.

-30-

*The Chiefs of Ontario is an advocacy forum, and a secretariat for collective decision making, action, and advocacy for the 133 First Nation communities located within the boundaries of the province of Ontario, Canada.*

**For more info, please contact: Jamie Monastyrski, Communications: 807-630-7087**  
[Jamie.Monastyrski@coo.org](mailto:Jamie.Monastyrski@coo.org)