

Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women- Petition to Premier of Manitoba

Police allege Mercedes Myran and Morgan Harris were killed by the same man last year. They believe the women's remains were transported to the Prairie Green landfill, in the rural municipality of Rosser northwest of Winnipeg. Jeremy Skibicki has been charged with a total of four counts of first-degree murder.

The Premier of Manitoba, Heather Stefanson said her government will not financially support a search of Prairie Green landfill for the remains of these women, despite calls from the family and the public to search the site and have the remains returned to the family for burial.

We have written a letter to the Premier asking for a search of the landfill:

You can email this letter to the Premier of Manitoba at: premier@leg.gov.mb.ca

OPEN LETTER CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF MANITOBA TO SEARCH THE PRAIRIE GREEN LANDFILL FOR MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN

July 18, 2023

Premier Heather Stefanson
204 Legislative Building
450 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

Dear Premier Stefanson,

In solidarity with the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC), Chief Kyra Wilson of Long Plain First Nation, and the families of the missing victims, I am [calling on the Manitoba Government to search the Prairie Green Landfill](#) for the remains of Morgan Harris, Mercedes Myran, and Mashkode Bizhiki'ikwe (Buffalo Woman).

You [recently announced](#) that the Government of Manitoba would not fund the search of the Prairie Green Landfill, stating that the search would be too dangerous for workers. However, the feasibility report on the landfill search [clearly states](#) that it can be completed successfully. The report outlines recommendations for on-site hazardous materials teams to monitor air quality, act as safety officers and perform decontamination of personnel who work closely with evacuated materials. [Multiple experts have re-asserted](#) that the risks can be mitigated.

Kris Dueck, the forensic consultant who co-chaired the technical feasibility study of a search at Prairie Green [stated publicly that](#), "it's pretty clear to most who have read the study that risks can be mitigated, and the search can be conducted safely. Any argument that would oppose those findings, in our opinion, aren't necessarily based in fact."

Experts have reiterated that landfills have been successfully searched before. In 2021, the body of a suspected murder victim was [found by authorities in a London, Ont. landfill](#), eight months after they were believed to have been brought there. Retired Deputy Chief Sean Spalding of the Sault Ste. Marie Police Service, also [attests to the effectiveness of such operations](#), having successfully conducted landfill searches.

Your ongoing refusal to search the landfill only perpetuates systemic gender-based, colonial violence against Indigenous women and girls. [Lack of institutional will](#) was identified as a key factor contributing to the ongoing MMIWG2s+ crisis in the [2019 MMIWG2s+ inquiry report](#). It is evidently clear that, in this case too, the primary barrier to searching the Prairie Green Landfill is [lack of political will](#). As the daughter and niece of Morgan Harris [have stated](#), your government's refusal to search for her remains feels like "a slap in the face" to her grieving relatives.

I urge you to not sustain the injustice suffered by Morgan Harris, Marcedes Myran, Mashkode Bizhiki'ikwe, and their families, and search the Prairie Green Landfill.

Sincerely,