

# Several testify to U.S. Congress regarding Missing and Murdered Indigenous People

Paul Begay, Anne Curley, Ella Mae Begay and Everett Charley are the names of only a handful of Navajo people missing that Navajo Nation Council Delegate Eugenia Charles-Newton shared as she addressed a congressional committee hearing on Missing and Murdered Indigenous People.

"These are a few of the names I wanted to read aloud, so they know they are not forgotten," Charles-Newton told the House Appropriations Committee oversight hearing on Investigating the Crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.

The victims are both men and women, but it is Native American women who disproportionately go missing and are murdered in cases that are rarely solved, if they're investigated at all. The Bureau of Indian Affairs estimates that there are approximately 4,200 missing and murdered Indigenous peoples cases that have gone unsolved.

She said that the total number of known people missing from the Navajo Nation is 75, and they do not know the number of Navajo people who have been murdered.

"It's unaccounted for because we lack the manpower to track those cases properly, and we also lack the infrastructure to record all cases," she said.

Charles-Newton was one of five Indigenous women who testified to the committee on Nov. 20, and each shared their experiences working and advocating for missing and murdered Indigenous people in both rural and urban settings. As part of the testimonies, each woman also provided recommendations on how federal agencies can better support MMIP efforts.

Many of the concerns highlighted in the hearing related to continued jurisdictional issues among federal, state, and tribal entities, the lack of readily available resources for investigations involving MMIP cases, the need for more comprehensive data collection regarding Indigenous peoples and accountability among federal agencies.

Over and over again, the women who testified spoke about the jurisdictional confusion that, many said, is ultimately used as a way to pass the buck and avoid doing the police work required to seek justice for the victims.

Cheryl Horn, a member of the Assiniboine Tribe of Fort Belknap who sits on the Montana Missing Indigenous Persons Task Force, spoke about the difficulty in getting any help from the tribal, county and federal law enforcement agencies when two of her nieces went missing.

"None of these jurisdictions want this case," said. "I don't want jurisdiction used as an excuse not to do it, which is what I'm seeing in Montana."

Likewise, Urban Indian Health Institute Director Abigail Echo-Hawk told the committee that the "maze of jurisdiction is just an excuse" that allows law enforcement "to not pay attention to those they don't care about — and those they don't care about look like me and the other women on this panel today."

Charles-Newton drove home exactly how jurisdictional confusion has failed Native victims, telling the committee about her own kidnapping and brutal repeated rapes when she was just 17 years old. She said she ac-

**"In 2023, over 5,800 American Indian and Alaska Native females were missing – and 74% were children. This is tragic and unacceptable."**

**Rep. Mike Simpson, R-Idaho**

cepted a Coca-Cola from a man she knew, only to wake up later, tied up in a shack and held for more than a week.

"He raped me repeatedly, he beat me, he broke my ribs, broke my cheekbones. He tried to carve his initials into my pubic area," she said.

And although Charles-Newton knew who her rapist was, and told police over and over, she said all they kept asking her about was where the shack was located, a question she couldn't answer. Because of that, jurisdiction was never settled, and her rapist was never prosecuted — and now she represents that man as a Navajo Nation delegate.

No one came to search for her, she said, because tribal police told her family that she'd just gotten tired of living in her tribal community and had left. That was an excuse, Charles-Newton said, but her family believed it because they have been conditioned to believe the police.

"Nobody wants to solve these cases. They just want to say that it's closed," she said. "I wish we had law enforcement where everybody took their jobs seriously."

The tendency to blame Indigenous women who are victimized — conditioned by decades of stereotypes that treat Native people, and especially Native women, as less than human — makes it that much more difficult to get non-tribal law enforcement to respond to the cases the same way they would if the victims were white women, Echo-Hawk said.

Maulian Bryant, a member of the Penobscot Nation in Maine and the incoming executive director of the Wabanaki Alliance, said the failure to recognize the crisis taking place on tribal lands and against Native Americans living in urban centers is only the latest trauma visited upon Indigenous people by the U.S. government.

Things like the American government stealing land from Native people and then forcing them into boarding schools, where they literally had their culture beaten out of them, have left Indigenous people "less than human" and "invisible."

"It's so much more than laws and jurisdiction, it's where we've been placed in society," she said. "We love this place and we need it to love us back."

Subcommittee Chairman Rep. Mike Simpson, R-Idaho, called the hearing as part of the House Interior and Environment Appropriations Subcommittee, which oversees funding for the Department of Interior.

More than 40% of American Indian and Alaska Native women are raped in their lifetime, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

For Indigenous women between the ages of 10 and 24, homicide is the No. 3 leading cause of death. For Indigenous women ages 25 to 24, it is the fifth leading cause of death.

"Forty percent of all victims of sex trafficking are identified as American Indian and Alaska Native women," Simpson said. "In 2023, over 5,800 American Indian and Alaska Native females were missing – and 74% were children. This is tragic and unacceptable."

Simpson said that, as part of the FY2025 House Interior appropriations bill, the Bureau of Indian Affairs' public safety and justice programs received a \$191 million increase, including an additional \$141 million for criminal investigation and police services.

Simpson said the bill also provided an additional \$13.5 million for a total of \$30 million for the missing and murdered Indigenous women's initiative, which focuses on helping address the MMIP crisis, including resources for criminal investigators, software platforms and evidence recovery equipment.

The goal of the hearing is not to point fingers, Simpson said, but to solve a problem.

Echo-Hawk spoke to the committee on behalf of the Indigenous people living in urban areas who continue to be impacted by the crisis yet still do not have access to resources promised through the Savanna's Act and Not Invisible Act.

"These people are suffering in the same ways the tribes are suffering," Echo-Hawk said of Indigenous people living in urban settings.

Echo-Hawk, who is a member of the Pawnee Nation and serves as the executive vice president of the Seattle Indian Health Board, touched on three major topics related to the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous peoples: the Department of Justice's failure to implement the Savanna's Act and the Not Invisible Act, the need for a national alert code for missing and endangered Indigenous people, and the importance of holding the military accountable for violence against Indigenous people.

Savanna's Act is an effort to improve the federal response to missing and murdered Indigenous peoples, including increasing coordination among federal, state, tribal and local law enforcement agencies.

The Not Invisible Act was signed into law in 2020, and it requires the U.S. Department of Justice and Department of Interior to establish the Not Invisible Act Commission, a cross-jurisdictional advisory committee that will develop recommendations to address the public safety challenges associated with missing and murdered Indigenous peoples.

The commission was formed in May 2022, and it held field meetings in June 2022, which helped it compile a recommendation report for the Departments of Justice, Interior, and Congress in November 2023.

Some of those recommendations included tracking and reporting MMIP and human trafficking cases, coordinating tribal-state-federal resources to combat MMIP and human trafficking, and identifying, reporting, and responding to instances of MMIP cases and human trafficking.

"For those of us serving in the urban setting, the promises of the Savanna's Act and Not Invisible Act have never come," Echo-Hawk said. She noted how she has often interacted with law enforcement agencies that acknowledge a crisis happening among Indigenous people, but they do not know how to adequately address it because they do not have the resources to do so.

Echo-Hawk pointed out that the commission for the Not Invisible Act took two years to be appointed, and the process for appointment and data collection was rushed. As a result, many Indigenous people within urban communities were unable to share their experiences with the commission.

"They need to do better," she said. "Our urban communities must be involved and we have to ensure that all of our people, regardless of where we live, have the opportunity to see justice."

To address violence against Indigenous women by the military, Echo-Hawk shared her personal experience of being victimized as a young woman by an active-duty military man.

Echo-Hawk called for accountability within the Department of Defense, stating that department leaders need to make current data readily available on human trafficking, sexual assault, domestic violence and homicide of both active-duty military who are affected and those who are perpetrators in the active-duty military.

U.S. Rep. Chellie Pingree, D-Maine, said that it is a complex crisis, and there has been growing awareness and focus on resolving unsolved cases as well as understanding and addressing other contributing factors, such as drug and human trafficking, domestic violence, poverty, housing issues and more.

"They're all equally important to confront the scale and severity of this issue," she said. "That is why it's imperative we pass a full-year interior appropriations bill and not have programs constrained by operating under a continuing resolution."

Pingree pointed out several initiatives that have been put in place to address the ongoing crisis, including the establishment of Operation Lady Justice in 2019 to pursue these unresolved cases; the creation of a missing and murdered unit within the BIA Office of Justice Services in 2021, which was established to provide leadership and direction for cross-department and interagency work; and the 2023 launch of the DOJ's missing and murdered Indigenous regional outreach program, which permanently placed 10 attorneys and coordinators in five designated regions across the United States to help respond to cases.

Appropriations Committee Chairman Tom Cole, R-Oklahoma, said that while the statistics are alarming, data collection on the issue is still lacking, and solving the MMIP crisis will require sufficient awareness and resources.

"Because of the extreme lack of resources, statutory roadblocks, and several other barriers, this crisis won't be solved without the work and partnership of leaders of the federal, state, tribal, and local law enforcement," he said.

## Legal

### Notice to creditors

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF ROLETTE COUNTY, STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA, In the Matter of the Estate of TOVE L.D. HENDERSON, deceased.  
PROBATE NO. 40-2024-PR-00033  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the said deceased are required to present their claims within three months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must either be presented to Espen Dalgleish, personal representative of the estate, at c/o Gibbens Law Office, P.O. Box 708, Cando, ND 58324, or filed with the Court.  
Dated this 20th day of November, 2024.

Espen Dalgleish  
Personal Representative  
PO Box 68  
Saries, ND 58372

J. Bruce Gibbens  
GIBBENS LAW OFFICE  
P.O. Box 708  
Cando, ND 58324  
Attorney for Estate  
First publication on the 25th day of November, 2024  
(November 25, December 2 and 9, 2024)

### Notice to creditors

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF ROLETTE COUNTY, STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA, In the Matter of the Estate of GORDON DOHLEN, deceased.  
PROBATE NO. 40-2024-PR-00031  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the above named decedent are required to present their claims within three months after the date of the first publication or mailing of this notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented to Chad Dohlen, personal representative of the estate, at c/o Gibbens Law Office, P.O. Box 708, Cando, ND 58324, or filed with the clerk of the district court.  
Dated this 7th day of November, 2024.

Chad Dohlen  
Personal Representative

Galen J. Mack  
Mack Law Offices, P.C.  
PO Box 196  
Rugby ND 58368  
701-776-5246  
Attorney for Personal Representative  
First publication on the 2nd day of December, 2024  
(December 2, 9 and 16, 2024)

## Church Directory

**Assembly of God – Rolette**  
Sunday School at 9 a.m.  
Sunday Worship at 10 a.m.  
Evening Service at 6:00 p.m.  
Pastor Gene Wilson 246-3250

**Ebenezer Lutheran Brethren – Rolette**  
9:00 a.m. Morning Worship  
and 10:15 a.m. Sunday School/Bible Class  
Pastor Gene Wilson  
246-3488

**Sacred Heart Catholic Church Rolette**  
1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays at 11 a.m.  
2nd and 4th Sundays at 9 a.m.  
Fr. Petro Ndunguru 246-3449

**Valle Lutheran Church – Rolette**  
Children/Adult Sunday School 10:45 a.m.  
Worship at 8 a.m. • 246-3574  
Mountain View Ministry

**Salem Mennonite Church**  
3 miles south of Mylo  
Sunday School at 10 a.m.  
Sunday Worship at 11 a.m.  
Sunday Evening at 7 p.m.  
Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 8 p.m.

**Harvest Church**  
Nondenominational  
4635 78th Street Woldford, ND 58385  
Sunday Fellowship Time 9:00 AM  
Sunday Service 10 AM with Children's Church  
Wednesday Evening Worship at 7 PM  
Senior Coffee twice a month on Fridays  
Pastor Jonathan Frohms 701-550-0577

**Turtle Mountain Baptist Church, Rolla**  
Sunday Worship at 11 a.m. & 5 p.m.  
Sunday School at 10 a.m.  
Wednesday Worship at 7 p.m.  
Pastor Frank Sheridan - 477-3213

**Presbyterian Church - Rolla**  
Sunday Worship at 11:00 a.m.  
ACT, Wednesdays at 6:30 pm  
477-5376

**Immanuel Lutheran Church Rolla - L.C.M.S.**  
Sunday Worship at 11 a.m.  
Sunday School at 10 a.m.  
Holy Communion:  
Observed 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month  
Rev. Scott Ramey - 477-5122

**Our Savior's Lutheran Rolla**  
Wednesday Youth Group at Presbyterian Church at 7:05 p.m.  
Sunday Worship May and August - 10 a.m.  
June, September and October - 12 noon  
July, November and December - 8 a.m.

**St. Joachim Catholic Church Rolla**  
Saturday Mass at 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday Mass Schedule at 8:30 a.m.  
Jan., March, May, July, Sept. Nov.  
Sunday Mass Schedule 10:30 a.m.  
Feb., April, June, Aug., Oct. Dec.  
Rev. Thai Arul 477-5277

**United Methodist Church – Rolla**  
Worship at 8:30 a.m.  
Rick Craig, Pastor • 968-3361  
www.rollalaumc.com

**Anishinabe Church of God – Dunseith**  
Sunday Worship at 11 a.m.  
Kidz Zone at 11 a.m.  
Prayer & Communion, Tuesday at 6 p.m.  
Pastor Daniel Bean 228-2056

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints – Rugby**  
Sunday services at 10 a.m.  
202 2nd St. West, Rugby  
President Val Christensen- 246-3579

**Dunseith Jesus Name Church of the Apostolic Faith**  
111 Main Street in Dunseith  
Sunday Worship at 11 a.m.  
Sunday School at 6 p.m.  
Wednesday School at 7:30 p.m.  
Pastor Todd Belgarde at 244-2230

**Peace Lutheran Church and United Methodist Church Joint Worship – Dunseith**  
Combined Sunday Worship at 12 noon  
Children/Adult Sunday School 10:00 a.m.  
244-5781  
Mountain View Ministry

**St. Michael The Archangel Catholic Church, Dunseith**  
Saturday Mass at 5 p.m.  
Sunday Mass at 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.  
Rev. Michael Slovak, S.O.L.T.  
244-5738

**St. Sylvan's Episcopal – Dunseith**  
10 a.m. on the First and Third Sundays  
Father Paul Zaharia  
701-720-2880

**Christian & Missionary Alliance – Turtle Mt. Alliance Church, Dunseith**  
Pastor Gary Dorn • Youth Pastor Joel Musser  
Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.  
Church Service at 11 a.m.  
Youth Group, Wednesday 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
244-0532

**All Nations Lutheran Church Rock Lake - L.C.M.S.**  
Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.  
Rev. Scott Ramey- 266-5361

**Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church - Rock Lake**  
Sunday Mass Schedule at 10:30 a.m.  
Jan., March, May, July, Sept. Nov.  
Sunday Mass Schedule 8:30 a.m.  
Feb., April, June, Aug., Oct. Dec.  
Rev. Thai Arul 477-5277

**United Methodist Church Rock Lake**  
Sunday Worship at 9:45 a.m.  
Rick Craig, Pastor • 968-3361

**Holy Rosary Catholic Church, Bisbee**  
1st Sunday at 9 a.m.  
2nd, 3rd, and 5th Sundays, Saturday at 5 p.m.  
4th Sunday at 11 a.m.  
Fr. Petro Ndunguru 246-3449

**St. Ann's Catholic Church – Belcourt**  
Saturday Mass at 5 p.m.  
Sunday Mass: 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m., 5 p.m.  
Confessions: Sat. 9:30 am & 4-6:30 pm, Sun. 8-11 a.m., 4:30-6 pm and before or after daily Masses  
Monday – Friday Morning Mass: 6:30 AM QOP  
Monday – Friday Evening Mass: 5 PM QOP  
Tuesday: 11th and 12th grade Youth Group 6:30 to 8 p.m.  
Wednesday: 6th-12th Youth Group 6:30 to 8 p.m.  
Thursday: 4th-5th Grade Open Youth Room 6:30-8 p.m.  
Friday: 6th-12th Open Youth Room 6:30 to 8 p.m.  
Saturday: No Youth Group  
Rev. Michael Slovak, S.O.L.T., Rev. Dave Brokke, S.O.L.T., Rev. Fred Alexander, S.O.L.T., Rev. Anthony Hession, Deacon Francis Davis • 477-5601 ext. 0

**St. Anthony's Catholic Church Belcourt**  
Sunday Mass at 11:30 a.m.  
Fr. Michael Slovak, S.O.L.T. • 477-5601 ext. 0

**St. John the Baptist Catholic Church – St. John**  
Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday Mass at 10:30 a.m.  
Confession Saturdays 4:15 to 5:15 p.m.  
Rev. Richard Fineo 477-3081

**Presbyterian Church, St. John**  
Sunday Worship at 9:00 a.m  
477-5376

**Emmanuel Chapel – PCG, St. John**  
Sunday School and Sunday Worship, 6:30 p.m.  
218 Grace Street, St. John  
Rev. Wayne Hanson - 477-8578

**St. Benedict's Catholic Church Rural Belcourt**  
Sunday Mass at 8:30 a.m.  
Confession: Sundays 8 to 8:30 a.m.  
Rev. Richard Fineo 477-3081

**Assembly of God - Belcourt Turtle Mountain Worship Center**  
Prayer Meeting Wednesdays at 6 p.m.  
Bible Study Wednesdays at 7 p.m.  
Sunday Worship at 11:00 a.m.  
Curtis Patnaude, pastor  
Phone 477-6017

**Notre Dame Catholic Church Willow City**  
1st and 4th Sundays, Saturday Evening at 5 pm;  
2nd Sunday at 11 am; 3rd and 5th Sundays at 9 am. Weekday Mass is Thursday at 9 am.  
Fr. Petro Ndunguru 246-3449

**Woldford Lutheran Church**  
Sunday Worship at 8:30 a.m.  
Coffee: 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.  
Rev. Barb Haugerud

**Church on a Mission Pentecostal Church of God**  
19th 1st St., 3rd Ave. SE, Dunseith  
(701) 244-0268  
Rev. Lloyd and Rae Flansburg

**Emmanuel Church - Dunseith**  
Sunday School and Sunday Worship, 10 a.m.  
3rd Avenue South - Dunseith  
Rev. Wayne Hanson - 477-8578

The church directory is presented by the following businesses and professional firms in our communities who encourage you to attend the church of your choice.

**ROLLA DRUG**  
Phone 477-3174

**DACOTAH BANK**  
Member FDIC  
First State Insurance of Rolla

**SMP ST KATERI HOSPITAL**  
Rolla • 477-3161

**JOHNSON OIL CO.**  
Tesoro Products  
Rolette - 246-3771

**ROLETTE STATE BANK**  
Member FDIC

**ROLETTE INSURANCE AGENCY**  
at Rolette State Bank - 246-3395

**HARLOW'S BUS SALES & SERVICE**  
Harlow Hageness, owner  
Rolette 246-3700

**LEEVERS FOODS**  
Rolla's Full Service Grocery

**MUNRO MOTOR COMPANY**  
Phone 477-3124 - Rolla

**ABBREVIATED NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT AND REPEAL ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**  
RELATING TO THE  
ADDITION OF ARTICLE 54-04.2 NURSING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; AND THE REPEAL OF 54-02-11 SHORT-TERM CLINICAL EDUCATION AND 54-04.1 NURSING EDUCATION LOAN TAKE NOTICE  
THAT THE  
**North Dakota Board of Nursing (NDBON)**  
will hold a public hearing to address proposed changes to the N.D. Administrative Code at 1:00 pm CT on Thursday, January 23, 2025, at the NDBON Board Room, 919 S 7th Street, Suite 504, Bismarck, ND 58504. Virtual Zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89405066628>  
Meeting ID: 894 0506 6628.

The proposed rules are available on the NDBON website: [www.ndbon.org](http://www.ndbon.org). Copies of the proposed rules may be obtained by writing the NDBON at 919 S 7th Street, Suite 504, Bismarck, ND 58504; calling 701-751-3000; or emailing request to [contactus@ndbon.org](mailto:contactus@ndbon.org). Written comments may be submitted to [contactus@ndbon.org](mailto:contactus@ndbon.org) or in writing to 919 S 7th Street, Suite 504, Bismarck ND, 58504 until February 7, 2025. If you plan to attend the public hearing and need special facilities or assistance relating to a disability, please contact NDBON at the above telephone number or address at least one week prior to the public hearing.

Dated this 22nd day of November 2024,  
Stacey Pfenning DNP APRN FNP  
Executive Director  
North Dakota Board of Nursing

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Rolla has received a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the State of North Dakota Division of Community Services (DSC). CDBG funds are intended to provide decent housing, suitable living environments and economic opportunities, principally for low/very low-income persons through rehabilitation and preservation, economic/job development and public facilities improvement.

The project and funding level considered was \$92,569.78 for CDBG Sirens and Alarm System.

It is estimated that approximately 53.8% of the funds benefited low/very low-income persons.

Displacement of neighborhood persons or businesses did not occur, and no housing units were demolished or converted as a result of the above-mentioned projects.

**A public hearing will be held at 10:00 a.m., January 7, 2025, at the City Hall at 14 1st St SE, Rolla, ND 58367** to obtain citizen views and to respond to proposals and questions related to the performance of The City of Rolla in carrying out its community development responsibilities. Written comments are also welcome and must be received at the address below by the close of the public hearing. Oral and written comments will be considered to enhance City of Rolla in carrying out its community development responsibilities. Project summary information is available by contacting the City of Rolla's Auditor's Office.

Information and records regarding The City of Rolla's proposed and past use of CDBG funds are available by contacting the South Central Dakota Regional Council at 429 2nd St SW, Jamestown, ND, 58401 during regular office hours. Advance notice is requested.

Individuals including non-English speaking individuals who require accommodations, including appropriated auxiliary aids, translated documents or interpreters to participate in the public hearing, should contact should contact Valerie McCloud, Auditor, 701-477-3610, [cityofrolla@utma.com](mailto:cityofrolla@utma.com), PO Box 1200, Rolla, ND 58367 to the public hearing or by calling TTY: 800-366-6888, Spanish TTY: 800-435-8590 or Relay ND Voice: 800-366-6889.