

## ABORIGINAL WOMEN

Aboriginal women's unequal status in Canadian Society results in their increased vulnerability to exploitation and violence. Aboriginal women's vulnerability to violence and sexual assault within their communities is fuelled by social and economic marginalization and a history of colonialist government policies including residential schools, which have disrupted relations between Aboriginal men and women and eroded cultural identity. The loss of status of Indian women who married outside their communities and the removal of Aboriginal children to residential schools greatly contributed to the marginalization of Aboriginal women within both their community and Canadian Society. In the *Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples* (1996) a number of factors linked to violence in Aboriginal communities were identified, including: systemic discrimination; economic and social deprivation; racism; overcrowded and substandard housing; alcohol and substance abuse; and the intergenerational cycle of violence.

### SERVICES:

1. Mohawk Family Services
2. Red Cedars Women's Shelter

### For More Information on Abuse of Aboriginal Women, See:

Native Women's Association of Canada  
[www.NWAC-hq.gc.ca](http://www.NWAC-hq.gc.ca)

Aboriginal Women's Program  
[www.canadianheritage.gc.ca](http://www.canadianheritage.gc.ca)

Women: Aboriginal Canada Portal  
[www.aboriginalcanada.gc.ca](http://www.aboriginalcanada.gc.ca)