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**Universal Periodic Review 16
New Zealand Statement on Canada
Delivered by Alana Messent, 26 April 2013**

Thank you Mr President

New Zealand thanks the Canadian delegation for their engagement in the UPR process today. Given the parallels in our history, Canada and New Zealand share many similar human rights challenges as well as successes, and we welcome the opportunity to explore some of these issues today.

New Zealand would like to note the progress that Canada has made regarding violence against indigenous women, a topic that was the subject of recommendations received during the first UPR cycle.

However, we note the continuing absence of a comprehensive national strategy to address on-going high levels of domestic violence and sexual violence that disproportionality affect indigenous women.

In this context, New Zealand **recommends** that Canada develop a comprehensive national strategy for addressing violence against indigenous women in a timely manner and in collaboration with relevant stakeholders such as indigenous women's organisations.

In 2008 Canada also accepted recommendations to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, noting on acceptance that it was conducting analysis of relevant domestic legislation. We would be interested to hear what steps Canada has taken since its first UPR to further ratification of the OPCAT, including the results of this analysis. New Zealand **recommends** that Canada ratify OPCAT and engage in a consultation process with all relevant actors, including civil society, concerning the establishment and structure of a national preventive mechanism.

Thank you