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# Liberal MP tours homeless shelters

Winnipeg's Anita Neville on national fact-finding mission on missing women

By CAM FORTEMS  
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Northern B.C.'s Highway of Tears has become the national symbol for missing women in Canada, a Liberal party critic said Monday.

Liberal MP Anita Neville was in Kamloops at the invitation of the local party. She was taken for a morning tour of homeless shelters and city streets.

"I didn't grasp the extent of the homelessness issues (in Kamloops)," Neville told reporters after spending the morning with party representatives.

The group toured some downtown and North Shore locations



KEITH ANDERSON/THE DAILY NEWS  
ASK WELLENESSE Centre SHOP co-ordinator Heidi Start, left, talks with Winnipeg Liberal MP Anita Neville, centre, Monday and SHOP outreach worker Carmen Carr after visiting Emerald House, an emergency shelter for homeless women and children.

later in the day. Neville is the party's critic for the Status of Women. Together with Liberal MP Todd Russell, the Opposition critic for Aborig-

inal Affairs, Neville has called for a task force to look at an estimated 520 aboriginal women considered missing.

"It's a huge number unaccount-

ed for," she said in an interview. "We're calling on government to do a national campaign asking why are women missing? What are the factors?"

Since 1990, nine women who lived along the highway between Prince George and Prince Rupert have disappeared or been murdered.

"The Highway of Tears has in many ways become symbolic of missing women," Neville said. "There seems to be a firm focus on B.C., in part because of the Highway of Tears."

But the problem is much larger than one remote highway in British Columbia.

The Winnipeg Centre South MP said an estimated 30 aboriginal women are missing from Manitoba alone.

"If you had a plane and 500 people went down and there was no resolution there would be an inquiry," she said. "The same is true of these people."

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