



**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



Media Advisory – For Immediate Release

4th Annual Sisters In Spirit Vigils to be held Nationwide October 4th

Ottawa, ON (October 1st, 2009) – This weekend Sisters In Spirit vigils will take place across Canada. October 4th is a day where we honour the lives of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls. After four years, we are pleased to announce that the number of vigils has grown from 11 in 2006 to an incredible 72 in 69 communities for 2009. From coast to coast to coast, in all ten provinces and two territories, and internationally in Nicaragua, thousands will gather to publicly highlight the issue of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls.

There is no complete accounting of the number of Aboriginal women and girls who have been murdered or gone missing. The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) has documented 520 Aboriginal women and girls who have been murdered or who have gone missing, mostly in the last three decades. There may be many more cases that have not yet come to light. Each one of these women is loved and missed terribly by their family, friends and community. Sisters In Spirit vigils are a time to draw greater attention to the issue of violence against women and to demand action.

A national vigil will be held in Ottawa, ON, hosted by NWAC, Amnesty International Canada, KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives, the National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) and the Canadian Federation of Students. Together, these organizations will read a Joint Statement (see attached). Additional organizations are invited to add their support to the Joint Statement as well as stand in solidarity with the families of missing and murdered women and girls at Parliament Hill. Detailed information on the SIS Vigil in Ottawa as well as other cities is available on the NWAC website: www.nwac-hq.org.

The communities hosting Sisters In Spirit vigils this year include:

Akewesasne Mohawk Territory
Brandon, MB
Chilliwack, BC
Dryden, ON
Fort Erie, ON
Fort St. John, BC
Halifax, NS
Hamilton, ON
Kelowna, BC
La Ronge, SK
London, ON
Membertou, NS
Muscowpetung FN, SK
New Westminster, BC

Athabasca, AB
Calgary, AB
Coquitlam, BC
Edmonton, AB
Fort Smith, NWT
Georgina Island FN, ON
Happy Valley-Goose Bay, NL
High Level, AB
Kenora, ON
Lennox Island, PEI
Makkovik, NL
Montréal, QC
Nanaimo, BC
Nicaragua

Beaver FN, AB
Chibougamau, QC
Corner Brook, NL
Elsipogtog FN, NB
Fort St. James, BC
Grande Prairie, AB
Haileybury, ON
High Prairie, AB
Kingston, ON
Lethbridge, AB
Marathon, ON
Moricetown, BC
Newmarket, ON
Onion Lake FN, SK

Ottawa, ON
Penticton, BC
Prince George, BC
Saskatoon, SK
Slave Lake, AB
Thunder Bay, ON
Truro, NS
Victoria, BC
Whitehorse, YK

Pasqua FN, SK
Portage la Prairie, MB
Prince Rupert, BC
Sault Ste. Marie, ON
Standing Buffalo FN, SK
Tobique FN, NB
Vancouver, BC
Wagmatcook, NS
Winnipeg, MB
Yorkton, SK

Peace River, AB
Prince Albert, SK
Regina, SK
Sioux Lookout, ON
St. John's, NL
Toronto, ON
Vanderhoof, BC
Waywayseecappo FN, MB
Yellowknife, NWT

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