



FEMMES AUTOCHTONES DU QUÉBEC INC.
QUEBEC NATIVE WOMEN INC.



**Press release
For immediate release**

Vigil for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people

Kahnawake, February 10, 2022 — Quebec Native Women (QNW), the Native Women's Shelter of Montreal (NWSM) and the Iskweu Project announce their partnership in holding an awareness vigil dedicated to missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls (MMIWG) and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. This walk will be held on February 14 at 6:00 pm. It will start at Cabot Square and end at The Bay on Sainte-Catherine.

These organizations dedicated to the well-being of Indigenous women in Quebec wish to put an end to this unjustified double discrimination, as both a woman and an Indigenous person. In order to do so, they have been committed to supporting the families of MMIWGs for years and to taking the necessary measures so that the needs of families and survivors are heard and taken into consideration.

In 2015, it was shown that Indigenous women and girls in Canada are at a much higher risk of experiencing violence than non-Indigenous women. Colonialism, historical and structural violence, systemic racism and discrimination are factors that continue to perpetuate violence against Indigenous women. All of these factors contribute to the murder and disappearance of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

"The main objective of the event is to raise awareness among all citizens, whether they are already informed or still wondering about MMIWGT2S. This awareness vigil will allow several speakers to share their expertise on the issue. This event is intended to bring together the general public in order to increase the sense of solidarity with the MMIWG cause in Quebec," affirms Nakuset, Executive Director of NWSM.

"It is by uniting our voices with other organizations that seek to put an end to violence against Indigenous women and girls, who have the right to respect, safety, life and integrity, that our demands will have a far-reaching impact. It is in this spirit that we must act and stand together to protect them," states Marjolaine Étienne, President of QNW.

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