



# Native Women's Association of Canada

September 4, 2015

Dear Friends and Supporters,

The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) is pleased to announce the 10<sup>th</sup> annual October 4<sup>th</sup> 2015 Sisters-In-Spirit (SIS) Vigil.

Each year, family members, Aboriginal community members, and concerned citizens gather for a vigil on October 4<sup>th</sup> on Parliament Hill to honour the memory of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls. Vigils take place in many communities across Canada as well as internationally. These gatherings serve to raise awareness and to provide support to families who have lost a loved one.

The SIS vigils are one way to educate the public on the issue of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls, to rally support, and compel the government to respond. NWAC is very grateful for the immense community support and participation given each year.

For those thinking about hosting a SIS vigil for the first time, or perhaps are thinking about hosting a different type of event this year, please be assured that any event that moves this issue forward is a success and is of great value to everyone!

NWAC encourages all types of events on and around October 4<sup>th</sup>. A moment of silence or a candlelight vigil, for example, can be more solemn and peaceful events that may focus on honouring a particular loved one, or lost sisters as a whole. A rally and/or march can be very powerful, especially if you wish to address legislative changes or challenge the status quo. Some October 4<sup>th</sup> organizers have combined all types of events. Two groups, for example, may host two different events of different times in the same city. Often times these events serve to complement one another as community members have a dual opportunity to participate: first in a rally and a march, where the goal is to raise public awareness and promote social change, and second by a peaceful traditional candlelight vigil that is more focused on healing and on families.

NWAC's goal throughout this movement is to promote inclusiveness and reach as many Canadians as possible. Last year, we had over 120 vigils take place nationally and internationally. NWAC is hoping to surpass this number in 2015.

***YOU CAN HELP MAKE THIS HAPPEN!***

We invite you, your organization and your community to join with us in solidarity on October 4<sup>th</sup> 2015.

*When you register your SIS vigil with NWAC, you become part of a movement for social change!*

SIS Vigil Registration Forms are available at: <http://www.nwac.ca/policy-areas/violence-prevention-and-safety/sisters-in-spirit/october-4th-vigils/>

Please fill out the online form or return them to Tania Dube by fax at 613.722.7687. If you have any questions Tania can also be reached by telephone at 1.800.461.4043 ext. 252.

We look forward to your involvement and participation!

NWAC Board and Staff