



Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc.

For immediate release
October 4, 2021

MKO Hosts Memorial Walk and Candlelight Vigil on October 4 to Remember and Honour Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

Treaty Five Territory, Thompson, MB – Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (MKO) Inc. is remembering and honouring the lives of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, and Asexual Plus (2SLGBTQQIA+) people, and survivors of gender-based violence on Monday, October 4, 2021 by hosting a memorial walk and vigil in Thompson, Manitoba. This event will also be live streamed on the MKO Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) Liaison Unit Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MKOMMIWGLiaison>.

Members of the public are invited to gather this Monday, October 4 at the parking lot of MKO Inc., 55 Selkirk Avenue in Thompson at 4:00 pm. The memorial walk will start at 4:00 pm and will proceed to MacLean Park, 226 Mystery Lake Road in Thompson. Upon arrival at Maclean Park, there will be various speakers, entertainment, and a candlelight vigil.

“The alarming rates of violence experienced by Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people is a crisis in Canada and has been deemed genocide by the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls’ Final Report,” shared **Hilda Anderson-Pyrz**, Director for MKO’s MMIWG Liaison Unit. “As a country we must act collaboratively to end this genocide. Today is a day for all governments and Canadians to commit to sustainable action in ending all forms of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.”

“October 4th is a day to know you are not alone. For the families who have been impacted by the loss of a loved one through a homicide or have a loved one who is missing and survivors of gender-based violence, this is a day of remembrance and honouring. As an organization, we walk with you and honour the spirits of your loved ones,” shared **Grand Chief Garrison Settee**. “As the Grand Chief of MKO I have the political will to support the creation of mechanisms for Indigenous women and girls,

2SLGBTQQIA+ people, and survivors of gender-based violence to reclaim their power and place. This requires collaboration from all levels of government and organizations and must be led by impacted family members, survivors of gender-based violence, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.”

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For more information:

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