Healing Our Roots 2026

A TREE OF HOPE INITIATIVE



Join us on **November 16th, 2026,** at any place along the route to remember Indigenous people who have gone missing or been murdered.

3:00 PM Start at **Ottawa Police Service** with an Elder opening and lighting of three trees representing First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples, followed by a walk alongside OPS horses.

3:30 PM Walk along **Elgin Street**, stopping at red-lit trees to leave symbols honouring Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People.

3:45 PM Stop at **City Hall** for the red illumination of the Heritage Building, followed by tree decorating at the **Provincial Courthouse**. The **National Arts Centre (NAC)** will feature a lit tree and red dress installation.

5:00 PM End at **Parliament Hill** with a sacred fire, Big Drum, words from Elders and leaders, and the dressing of the final three trees.

On November 16th, there will be two workshops and art activities at the National Arts Centre from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Journey to Safe Spaces Anti-Human Trafficking Workshop with Colin Graham from ONWA. **A Beading Workshop** with Maggie May. And **OAC Healing and Grounding through Artwork** activities (Red Dress Making and Rock Painting).



On **November 16, 2026,** the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition, with our partners including the City of Ottawa, Ottawa Police Services, Parliamentary Protective Services and the Ontario Native Women's Association will take time to stop and think about what we can do to **make Ottawa safer for Indigenous women and girls**. Indigenous families, like all families, need to be safe. For Indigenous women and girls, **safety is, unfortunately, not assured**.

The **Tree of Hope Project** was initiated by now-retired Thunder Bay Police Service Constable Sharlene Bourdeau to **raise awareness of MMIWG2S+** and reassure their loved ones that **they are not forgotten.** The Tree of Hope project has expanded as dozens of Ontario police services have participated in the initiative.

This year, Ottawa has **expanded the initiative to include five days of actions from November 16-20th** and the focus will expand to include **all members of the Indigenous community that have gone missing and been murdered**.



Connect With Us

www.ottawaaboriginalcoalition.ca
info@ottawaaboriginalcoalition.ca
@OttawaAboriginalCoalition
@ott_abcoalition
@OTT_AbCoalition
@ottawa-aboriginal-coalition