

Join us on **November 17, 2025**, at any place along the route to remember Indigenous women and girls who have gone missing or been murdered.

**4:00 PM**

Start at **Ottawa Police Services** to light the three trees that represent Inuit, First Nation and Métis people in Canada. We will open with the Elders.

**4:30 PM**

Walk up **Elgin Street** and stop at businesses/locations that have a red lit tree and leave a symbol of honouring and remembering Missing and Murdered Indigenous women and girls on the tree.

**5:00 PM**

Stop at **City Hall** to light the three trees being lit at City Hall.

**5:30 PM**

End at **Parliament Hill** with a Sacred Fire and the lighting of the three trees on Parliament Hill.

**10AM-1PM: Activities at Jean Pigott Hall at City Hall**

Creative activities and a workshop from 11-1 on Anti-Human Trafficking by Colin Graham from the Ontario Native Women's Association. Bring your lunch and learn more.

For more information  
scan here:



In partnership with:



**Connect  
With Us**

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# Tree of Hope Initiative

**SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY,  
SUPPORTING OUR SISTERS**



On **November 17**, the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition, with the Ottawa Police Services, are asking Ottawa to stop and think about what we can do to **make our communities 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.

“In Canada, there are reported numbers of **1,200** and as many as **5,000** Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The Tree of Hope shines for them.”  
- Chief Darcy Fluery, Thunder Bay

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 will be joining them.



This will be the first year that Ottawa has held this event and we are expanding its reach to ask the full Ottawa community to recognize that we all can support safety for Indigenous women in our community.

### Indigenous women are disproportionately represented when it comes to violence against women:

4x

#### VIOLENCE

They are 4x more likely to experience violence than non-Indigenous women. Nearly half of Indigenous women have experienced sexual violence.

6x

#### HOMICIDE & MISSING WOMEN

They are 6x more likely to experience homicide compared to non-Indigenous women. Indigenous women also make up 11% of missing women reported in Canada.



#### TRAFFICKING

Over 95% of all human trafficking victims are girls or women. Over half of those are Indigenous women.



#### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

1 in 6 Indigenous women have experienced at least one form of domestic violence.

According to the Native Women's Association of Canada, community-based research shows that the rates of **violence against Indigenous women are even higher** than government surveys indicate. Because government data relies on police reports, an **estimated 60% of violent crimes** against Indigenous women go unreported.

The above statistics have been collected by multiple Indigenous organizations and confirmed by RCMP Reports and Statistics Canada.

## WHAT WE CAN DO

### WE CAN EDUCATE

Engage yourself in local indigenous voices, storytelling, artwork, cultural events and other indigenous-created content.



### WE CAN BE AWARE

Notice what is going on around you and be proactive when you see something that's not right. Check out learning resources, such as the Ontario Native Women's Association: Human Trafficking, to understand what signs to look out for and how to safely help.



### WE CAN VOLUNTEER

Research the Indigenous organizations in your area, see how your skills align and how you can contribute to help maintain their success.



### WE CAN DONATE

Look at the indigenous leadership in your community and see where you are inspired. Donate directly to communities, funds or organizations.

### WE CAN BE A FRIEND

Be a friend and community member that acknowledges the deep pain that sits in the Indigenous community when Indigenous women and girls are not honoured and recognized as our sisters.

