

MEDIA RELEASE

Calgary's 2nd Annual Valentine's Day Memorial March: A day of remembrance for murdered and missing women from Southern Alberta

For Immediate Release: January 2010



Calgary, AB – Local organizers are bringing the Second Annual Women's Memorial March to Calgary. The Memorial March, held annually in eight other Canadian cities on Valentine's Day (February 14th), honors the women who die due to violence and abuse.

The Memorial Day March is one of the longest running marches against violence against women. It began in Vancouver 19 years ago after the brutal murder of a Coast Salish woman that stirred the community to take action against ongoing violence against at-risk women. The march also takes place in Vancouver, Toronto, Victoria, Edmonton, Saskatoon and Winnipeg.

Organizers expect 200-300 people to come out for the march. Participant will carry placards with pictures of women who have been murdered. In addition each participant will be provided a Valentine's heart with the names of women who died at the hands of violence in Calgary and Southern Alberta. We ask that organizations wishing to support the Women leave their banners at home; this march is a Memorial for the lost Women.

Volunteers made visits to the downtown core to invite street workers to the march and are reaching out to First Nations communities to encourage their participation given the inordinate number of women from those communities who die and go missing each year. Members from local women's shelters will attend the march to bring light to the fact around one quarter of Calgary's homicides are related to domestic violence.

Participants will move together through the area while an offering of tobacco, prayers and a cleansing ceremony for healing will be performed at the end of the march.

The Women's Memorial March begins at 134 Scarboro Avenue SW at 2:00 p.m. and will end at 3 p.m. followed by a feast and speakers.

For more information please contact: Suzanne Dzus at (403) 700-5560
memorialmarchcalgary@live.ca.

Find us on Facebook at: Memorial March of Calgary and Southern Alberta

Media are welcome. High-resolution photos and DV video are available upon request.