



## **Iskwewuk E-wichiwitochik (Women Walking Together)**

*Iskwewuk E-wichiwitochik* (Women Walking Together) is a network of concerned citizens – activists, academics, grass roots people and organizations from the province of Saskatchewan who came together in 2005, out of concern for the lack of attention given to cases of missing Aboriginal women in Saskatchewan and Canada.

The group focuses its efforts on raising awareness of systemic violence against women through education and political action. They remain committed to the broader goal of social justice and peace, by providing moral and direct support to families of missing Aboriginal women, collaboration with organizations in the prevention of violence against women and paying tribute to missing individuals. In the future, *Iskwewuk E-wichiwitochik* plans to continue to focus efforts on enhancing decision making safety skills of young women and communities through anti-violence education.

*Iskwewuk E-wichiwitochik* has maintained a visible presence in the community through organization of awareness walks, vigils and various activities that pertain to social justice and peace. The group operates via a collective leadership and numerous volunteer hours are contributed on a yearly basis to raise the awareness of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls and to bring honour and remembrance to these family members. The group, which was formed in October 2005, has no office and receives no government funding.

### **Core Events:**

- Annual “Sisters in Spirit” Oct 4<sup>th</sup>
- International Human Rights Day December 10<sup>th</sup>

### **Presentations / participation throughout the years:**

- Non-Legal-Advocate: Party With Standing, National Inquiry on MMIWG2S 2016-2019
- Social Justice Forum, Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> March, Alex Neve Mar.10<sup>th</sup>, Think Indigenous Conf U of S, Voices (VOS), so far 2015 more to come conferences, walks, publication
- WWOS Exhibit S’toon (18 actions), RedDress Project, Anglican Women Conf - all 2014
- FSIN Youth Conference (forthcoming November 2013)
- Sisters in Spirit & Families of Sisters in Spirit Vigils, Ottawa, 2013 (annual)
- North American Indigenous Studies Association conference 2013
- Knights of Columbus, Inner City Ministry
- Our Way Conference University of Saskatchewan
- Oskayak Grade 12 Classroom
- Amnesty International “Write for Rights” Chapter 33
- Awasis Conference
- Healing our Spirit Worldwide Conference, Hawaii, 2010
- International Conference on Missing Women, Regina, 2008
- And many more

### **Walks/Vigils:**

- Saskatoon Sisters in Spirit Vigils 2008-2019
- NWAC Sisters in Spirit Vigil, Ottawa 2013

- Families of Sisters in Spirit Vigil, Ottawa, 2013
- 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Honouring our Sisters Run/Walk at Wanuskewin Powwow 2014
- Tears for Justice, Saskatoon 2013
- Daleen Bosse-Muskego Memorial Runs
- Karina Bethann Wolfe Walks
- Walk for Justice, Saskatoon, 2008-2014
- Walk for Justice, Ottawa 2008
- PAGC Walks ....And many more

#### **Awards:**

- “Strength of Our Women Awards 2016” Leadership & Advocacy Award  
Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations, Saskatoon, SK September, 2016
  - *Darlene R. Okemaysim-Sicotte*
  - *Myrna LaPlante*
- “Lady Justice” Award from Elizabeth Fry Society, SK, May 2015
  - *Darlene R. Okemaysim-Sicotte*
- SAPA Newsmaker of the Year, Saskatoon, IE June 2015
- Every Day Political Citizen national finalist, Fall 2013, juror Fall 2015
  - *Darlene R. Okemaysim-Sicotte*
- Joanna Miller Peace Award, Saskatoon, IE September 2013
- Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medals, January 2013
  - *Myrna LaPlante and Darlene R. Okemaysim-Sicotte*
- Living in Harmony Award, Saskatoon, IE March 2008

#### **Core Iskwewuk Group & Part-Time Membership:**

Myrna LaPlante, *Keeper of the Circle/Family*  
Darlene R. Okemaysim-Sicotte, *Keeper of the Circle/Family*

Helen Smith McIntyre, *IE Member*

Lorraine Pura, *IE Member*

Rachel Fiddler, *IE Member*

Susan Gingell, *IE Member*

Louise Clarke, *IE Member*

Marlee Ritchee, *IE Member*

Kathie Pruden Nansel, *IE Member*

Val Arnault-Pelletier, *IE Friend*

Dorthea Swiftwolfe, *IE Friend*

Carol Wolfe, *IE Family*

Pauline Muskego, *IE Family*

Gwenda Yuzicappi, *IE Family*

Sheila Ledoux, *IE Family*

Rita Bouvier, *IE Friend*

Senator Lillian Dyck, *IE Friend*

Chris Sicotte, *IE Friend*

Regina Poitras, *IE Family*

Krista Fox, *IE Family*

#### **Friends:**

*Women Walking Together would like to acknowledge past group members and current friends who have helped along the way: Andrea Ledding, Colleen Thomas, Dr. Rose Roberts, Dr. Priscilla Settee, Sue Delanoy, Deb Lee, Glenda Abbott, Carol Thomas, Monica Goulet, Vice Chief Heather Bear, Robert Doucette, Shannon Loutitt, Leah Bitternose, SAWCC, SIMFC, Oskayak High School, late Christine Smillie, the late Dr. Patricia Monture, late Mary Ann Assailly and many more.*

#### **Facebook:**

*Iskwewuk E-wichiwitochik (Women Walking Together) has a group page; people are free to join and continue raising awareness and provide supports and encouragement to the families of the missing.*