

From: Darlene Okemaysim-Sicotte <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2019 4:01 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council
Attachments: ie_2_page_profile_2019.docx; darlene_bio_june_2019.docx



Submitted on Tuesday, July 23, 2019 - 16:00
Submitted by anonymous user: 174.2.164.108
Submitted values are:

Date: Tuesday, July 23, 2019
To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council
First Name: Darlene
Last Name: Okemaysim-Sicotte
Email: [REDACTED]
Address: [REDACTED] Galbraith Crescent
City: Saskatoon
Province: Saskatchewan
Postal Code: S7M [REDACTED]
Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): Iskwewuk Ewichiwitochik (Women Walking Together)
Subject: Calls for Justice - Motion by Mayor previous
Meeting (if known): July 29th, 2019
Comments:
a speaking opportunity for Calls for Justice (231 Recommendations) by National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

Iskwewuk (Party With Standing - Darlene the Non-Legal-Advocate for Iskwewuk)

Attachments:

ie_2_page_profile_2019.docx:

https://www.saskatoon.ca/sites/default/files/webform/ie_2_page_profile_2019.docx

darlene_bio_june_2019.docx:

https://www.saskatoon.ca/sites/default/files/webform/darlene_bio_june_2019.docx

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.saskatoon.ca/node/398/submission/327605>



Iskwewuk E-wichiwiwitochik (Women Walking Together)

Iskwewuk E-wichiwiwitochik (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-wichiwiwitochik* plans to continue to focus efforts on enhancing decision making safety skills of young women and communities thorough anti-violence education.

Iskwewuk E-wichiwiwitochik 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 4th
- International Human Rights Day December 10th

Presentations / participation throughout the years:

- Non-Legal-Advocate: Party With Standing, National Inquiry on MMIWG2S 2016-2019
- Social Justice Forum, Feb. 14th March, Alex Neve Mar. 10th, 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 2008-2018
- NWAC Sisters in Spirit Vigil, Ottawa 2013

- Families of Sisters in Spirit Vigil, Ottawa, 2013
- 1st 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 WalksAnd 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 Iskewuk Group & Part-Time Membership:

Myrna LaPlante, *Keeper of the Circle/Family*
 Darlene R. Okemaysim-Sicotte, *Keeper of the Circle/Family*
 Andrea Ledding, *IE Member*
 Helen Smith McIntyre, *IE Member*
 Mary Ann Assailly, *IE Member*
 Rachel Fiddler, *IE Member*
 Susan Gingell, *IE Member*
 Louise Clarke, *IE Member*
 Marlee Ritchee, *IE Member*
 Senator Lillian Dyck, *IE Friend*

Val Arnault-Pelletier, *IE Friend*
 Dorteia Swiftwolfe, *IE Friend*
 Carol Wolfe, *IE Family*
 Pauline Muskego, *IE Family*
 Gwenda Yuzicappi, *IE Family*
 Sheila Ledoux, *IE Family*
 Rita Bouvier, *IE Friend*
 Lorraine Pura, *IE Friend*
 Chris Sicotte, *IE Friend*
 Regina Poitras, *IE Friend*
 Patti Tait, *IE Friend*

Friends:

Women Walking Together would like to acknowledge past group members and current friends who have helped along the way: Kathie Pruden-Nansel, 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 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.

Darlene R. Okemaysim-Sicotte BIO

Darlene R. Okemaysim-Sicotte, is a Cree from Beardy's & Okemasis First Nation near the town of Duck Lake, Saskatchewan, and was educated at Rivier Academy in Prince Albert and the University of Saskatchewan. Darlene has been working with the Gordon Tootoosis Nikaniwin Theatre since 2013. Darlene's past experiences in the workplace include Executive Assistant at Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies, Departmental Secretary at U of S Native Studies, and One Earth Farms FN LP. Darlene is also a 14 year member of the Saskatoon concerned citizens group Iskwewuk Ewichiwitochik (Women Walking Together) whose focus is on missing and murdered indigenous women and girls. Darlene received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in January 2013 for this volunteerism and national finalist & national finalist and later a juror for Samara.com "Every Day Political Citizen - Project". Darlene has written published articles and engages in local, provincial, and national interviews media outlets on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. Darlene has been the Non-Legal Advocate for Iskwewuk who had Party With Standing status for National Inquiry to MMIWG2S. She currently lives in Saskatoon with her husband Chris Sicotte and mother to Christopher, Cory, Aren, Sunflower, and grandmother to Albert Jr., Dayshawn, and Joseph all of whom enjoy the local, provincial, and national arts scene.

