



BUFFALO TRAIL PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BTPS Honours Red Dress Day for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls - NEWS RELEASE – May 3, 2023

Red Dress Day is a day of remembrance and action to honour the missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and Two-Spirit People across Canada. The event takes place on May 5th every year and serves as a reminder of the ongoing violence against Indigenous women and girls and the urgent need to address this issue.

The red dress movement was inspired by Métis artist Jaime Black, who hung red dresses in public spaces to represent the pain and loss felt by loved ones and survivors. The red dress has become a symbol of the ongoing tragedy of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls in Canada and a call to action to address the root causes of this violence.

On Red Dress Day, people across Canada and beyond are encouraged to wear red or display a red dress to show their support for the cause. It is also a day to learn about the experiences and stories of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and to take action to address this issue. BTPS staff and students will bring awareness by wearing red on May 5th.

Superintendent Rhae-Ann Holoien states, "We recognize the significance of Red Dress Day and stand in solidarity with Indigenous communities in remembering and honoring missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. We believe in the importance of education, awareness, and action to address the root causes of violence against Indigenous women and girls and create a safer and more just society for all."

Here are three resources to learn more about Red Dress Day and the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls:

1. The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) is a national organization that advocates for the safety, health, and well-being of Indigenous women, girls, and gender-diverse people. NWAC provides resources and support to families of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.
2. The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls produced a final report in 2019, which includes recommendations for addressing the root causes of violence against Indigenous women and girls in Canada.
3. The REDress Project is an art installation by Jaime Black that features red dresses hung in public spaces to draw attention to the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

BTPS continues to work together to bring awareness to the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and create a safer and more just society for all. We encourage everyone to participate in Red Dress Day and to continue to learn and take action throughout the year.