



ONWA LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE IN SOLIDARITY WITH COMMUNITY DRIVEN INITIATIVES TO END VIOLENCE

Thunder Bay, ON – on February 14, 2018, Indigenous people and allies from across the country will be gathering in solidarity with vigils that began over 20 years on Vancouver's downtown East side to call attention to the ongoing violence experienced by Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit people.

Grassroots organizers are continuing to mobilize action in defense of the lives of Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit people, so that they may live in safety, free from systemic violence which continues to impede justice for Indigenous peoples.

Alongside this important community driven work, the Ontario Native Women's Association is launching www.mmiwontario.ca on February 14th, 2018. This website utilizes a strength based approach to end violence in our communities. The strength of Indigenous people lies in our rich history and customs, where Indigenous women play vital roles in their communities as politicians, leaders, healers and traders. ONWA is taking a proactive approach to educate and recreate these historical roles within our communities while also facing up to the realities in our communities.

ONWA created this website as a living document that will update and change over time just as the stories and duties we possess will always change over time. Violence of all types end with educating the people facing the violence and those committing it. This is a long term view towards how we transform our society, led by Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit people in our communities.

Dawn Lavell-Harvard, President of ONWA, states, "I encourage every community to look to these local leaders who have worked to gather in solidarity. This is exactly why ONWA created and launch the website www.mmiwontario.ca; to support Indigenous women, girls, Two-Spirit people and communities with resources and information that support their vision for safety and healing."

Initiatives like www.mmiwontario.ca are a part of ONWA's ongoing work to increase organizational transparency and empower Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit people.

-30-

For more information, please contact:

Courtney Skye, Communications Advisor
Tel: 226-388-7676 · Email: cskye@onwa.ca

www.onwa.ca

 @ONWA7  @_ONWA_  /onwa_official

Head Office: 786 Grand Point Road • P.O. Box 15-684 City Road, Fort William First Nation, ON P7J1K3 ·
Toll Free: 1-800-667-0816 · Phone: (807)577-1492 · Fax: (807)623-1104