

OCTOBER 04TH SISTERS IN SPIRIT



FIRST LIGHT

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WHAT IS SISTERS IN SPIRIT?

The Sisters in Spirit initiative began in 2004, led by the Native Women's Association of Canada. Through research, education & advocacy, the initiative revealed the **systemic violence facing Indigenous women, girls & 2SLGBTQQIA+ people**, documenting over 582 missing & murdered loved ones.

Since 2006, annual **October 4th Vigils** have been held across the country. These gatherings bring families, communities & allies together to honour loved ones, offer support & stand in solidarity.

MMIWG MOVEMENT

Red Dress Day

The REDress Project, created in 2010 by Métis artist Jaime Black, used empty red dresses as a striking symbol of absence. This artistic movement grew into Red Dress Day (May 5), a National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

Both Red Dress Day and Sisters in Spirit Vigils serve the same purpose: remembrance, awareness, and the pursuit of justice. One speaks through art, the other through gathering—together, they ensure stories are not forgotten.



VIGILS AT FIRST LIGHT

At First Light, we gather on October 4th to honour Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people who have been taken by violence. These vigils are spaces of remembrance, solidarity, and support for families who wish to speak about and remember their loved ones.

Too often, people believe these tragedies only happen “elsewhere.” But here in Newfoundland and Labrador, our communities also carry these losses. By hosting vigils, we affirm that our loved ones matter, our grief is shared, and our voices will not be silenced.



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