

Saskatoon Police Service

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Race Against Racism



The Race Against Racism (RAR) got its start in 2011 with one goal; to provide a positive environment for people of all backgrounds to gather and promote an active, healthy lifestyle while encouraging positive police community relations. Runners, walkers and rollers have the choice to participate in the 2.5km, 5km, 10km or half marathon.

Members from five settlement agencies (Saskatoon Open Door Society, The Global Gathering Place, International Women of Saskatoon, Newcomer Information Centre and Saskatchewan Intercultural Association), are part of RAR's planning committee. Those agencies collect and divide the funds raised from the event to help continue local programming. A joint fundraiser called "Cram the Cruiser" is also tied to the Race. All entrants are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item to help fill a patrol car to donate to the Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre.

The City of Saskatoon's Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Committee along with the Running Room have been key partners from the beginning. The Running Room hosts the Race and online registration.

The Race includes an expo beyond the finish line called "Around the World - A Cultural Expo." It showcases ethnic displays from local groups to promote community engagement and to celebrate diversity.

The Annual Race Against Racism brings together individuals from all over Saskatoon from various communities, with unique backgrounds, religions, cultures, sexual orientations, ages and ethnicities. Everyone comes together to achieve a common goal; to provide a positive, safe environment to live in harmony and show that Saskatoon will not accept racism.



Exhibit: National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

Location/Phase: Part 2 Regina

Witness: Clive Weighill

Submitted by: Ashley Smith

Add'l info: P02P02P0301

Date: JUN 27 2018

Initials

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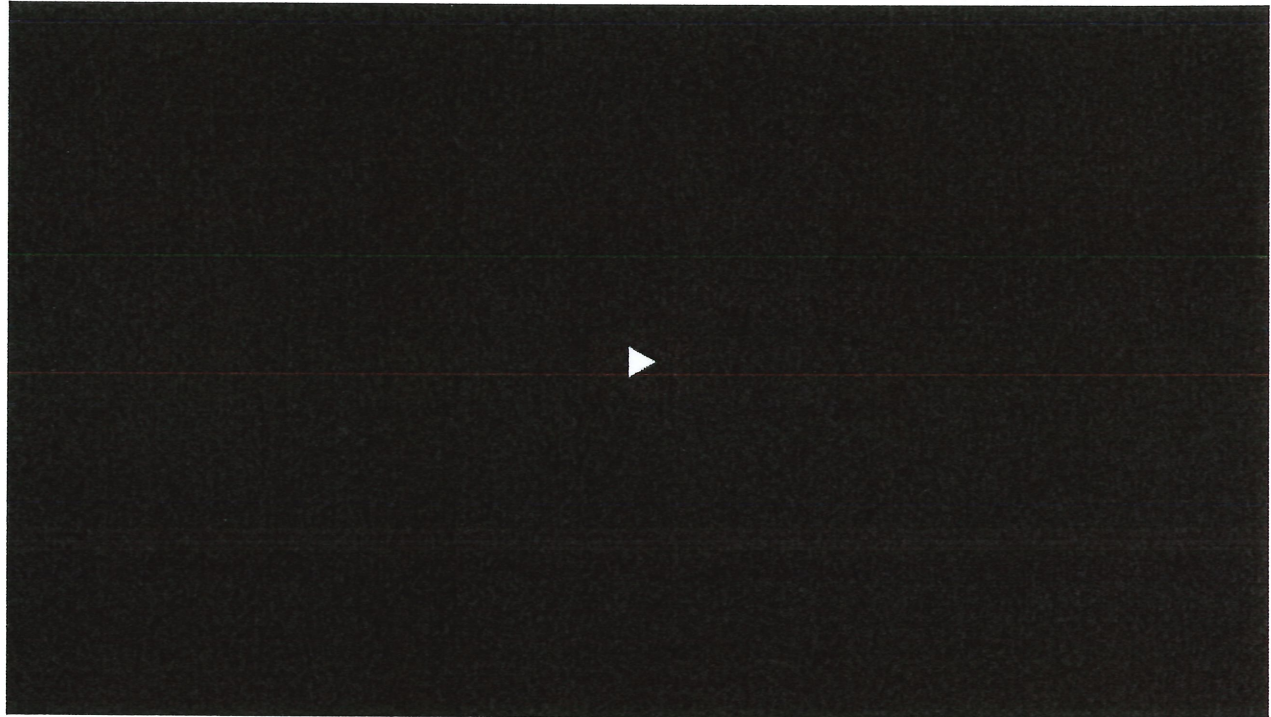
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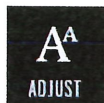
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Police walk a mile in red heels for MMIW

BETTY ANN ADAM, SASKATOON STARPHOENIX Updated: August 23, 2016



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COMMENT



PRINT

AHTAHKAKOOP CREE NATION — As Prince Albert's police Chief Troy Cooper walked two kilometres in red high heels, he reflected on the disadvantages some people face because of who they are.

"Among aboriginal cases, there's a far greater number of women who are killed by strangers. That's a fact. We know that if you're an aboriginal woman, you're more likely to be a victim of violence, more likely to be a victim of homicide, regardless of who the perpetrator is. We can't lose sight of that," Cooper said as he participated in the Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event to raise awareness of missing and murdered indigenous women.

"Colour, race or gender shouldn't be a risk factor. That's a very basic assumption that everyone should have and yet that's not the case," he said.

Cooper was one of about 35 men who squeezed their feet into the uncomfortable footwear and hobbled along a road on Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation, about 140 kilometres north of Saskatoon.

About 100 people made the trek to the Cree Nation Treatment Haven, whose staff organized the second annual awareness event and fundraiser.

RCMP officers from Prince Albert and the Blaine Lake area also participated, along with local residents, such as band councillor and treatment centre board member Raymond Williams, who said he walked to remember all the missing and murdered women and to honour his late wife, Annette Williams.

As Barry Sasakamoose waited for the event to begin, he admitted his feet were a bit uncomfortable but he was willing to endure a little discomfort for a good cause.

"I'm scared to take a step, but I feel tall," he said with a laugh.

His son, 10-year-old Jaden Sasakamoose, was beside him to offer moral and, if necessary, physical support.

Other participants included staff from agencies on the First Nation and even Derek McInnes, who delivers janitorial supplies to the centre.

The walkers stood in a big circle, blocking traffic on the reserve road, as five women in traditional regalia danced and a prayer was offered for the victims of violence.

The slow march under a cloudy sky was both cheerful and sombre.

Cooper acknowledged that the macho, militaristic culture within police forces has often put female members at a disadvantage, but he said that is changing as society demands it and as the benefits of diversity are recognized.

"In recruiting we know that gender diversity has value and cultural diversity has value ... If you have a diverse group of people you're more likely to come up with a solution to a complex problem," he said.

The walkers raised \$3,763 for the Prince Albert Safe Shelter for Women, which houses up to 26 women and children and which has a waiting list of 50 to 100 people at any given time, said executive director Carol Soles.

The walk was one element of the Treatment Haven's family day, which is an open house for the community, including the families of clients who come for in-patient addictions treatment and day programs.



WEATHER ALERT: Heat warning in effect [Read More](#)

Prince Albert commemorates missing and murdered Indigenous men and women

By Bryan Eneas

June 14, 2018 - 5:00pm



Troy Cooper, Prince Albert's former Chief of Police, was honoured for the contributions he made to the community of Prince Albert and the Indigenous community within the city during a brief ceremony before the Honouring our Brothers and Sisters walk.

📷 Bryan Eneas/paNOW Staff

The streets of Prince Albert were awash with neon pink shirts Thursday as hundreds walked through the city to memorialize those who are missing or murdered.

The 14th annual Honouring Our Brothers and Sisters walk took place June 14. Friends and family of missing and murdered people turned out in force to pay tribute to their loved ones. This year's walk, which was organized by the Prince Albert Grand Council Women's Commission, honoured the families of Sweetgrass Kennedy, Happy Charles, Barry Heimbecker, Jean Baptiste and Joseph Pat Tsannie, who have all been reported missing over the last 12 months.

"I could be a statistic," FSIN Vice Chief Kim Jonathan said. "I could be one of those sisters of yours. I could be the mother or the granddaughter that's missing."

Jonathan encouraged women to talk about abuse and trauma they have experienced including sexual assault and harassment.

"We have to continue to say 'we're not going to put up with it' as women," Jonathan said. "It can't be just in pretty speeches where we say we support and honour our missing and murdered women ... we have to really stand together where it counts to make a difference."

The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls was a hot topic during the speeches before the event. Recently, a six-month extension was granted to the commissioners by the federal government. Both FSIN Vice Chief Heather Bear and Prince Albert Grand Council Grand Chief Brian Hardlotte expressed disappointment in the length of the extension, saying they hoped to see a longer time frame to allow the commissioners to do their work without deadline pressures.

Prince Albert's Mayor Greg Dionne said he is personally urging Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to bring the inquiry to the Gateway to the North.

"They're obligated to be here. We have lots of families here ... and we want to be heard, and we will be heard," Dionne said. "If we work together I think we will be successful."

Former Prince Albert Police Chief Troy Cooper, who now holds the top position with the Saskatoon Police Service, was honoured at the event with a plaque and a star blanket from dignitaries with the Prince Albert Grand Council and the Woman's Commission. His years of service to both Prince Albert and the Indigenous community were recognized.

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