



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT
Day of Mourning Youth Organizing Committee



10TH ANNUAL DAY OF MOURNING - REMEMBERING VICTIMS OF THE SEX TRADE **Friday, August 14, 2009 at 6:30 pm, Pleasant Hill Park, 21st St. W. and Avenue U S., Saskatoon**

sum people question what your life was worth but
now that you're gone n you body has returned to the earth
2 u i contribute this verse
but at the end of every story all we have left is
another day of mourning.
—tribute 2 joy, Mike S.

It all started a decade ago, with a group of at-risk Saskatoon youth who were inspired by the tragic death of one victim—a 14-year old girl exploited through the sex trade and murdered in Calgary—to honour and remember all such victims, those lost on and to our streets.

Every year since, youth gather to organize the Day of Mourning to honour the children, women, and men who have lost their lives through involvement in the exploitation that is the sex trade in Saskatoon. Through the efforts of these committed young people, August 14th is officially recognized by the Government of Saskatchewan as the **Day of Mourning** to honour those who have lost their lives to murder, suicide, overdose, and disease related to the sex trade.

The 10th Annual Day of Mourning events begin on **Friday, August 14 at 6:30pm in Pleasant Hill Park**, at 21st Street and Avenue U South in Saskatoon. Please join us in marking this occasion with greetings, prayers, blessings by Elders, drumming, dancing, and singing, and a candlelight vigil and march down 20th and 21st Streets, through the area where the sex trade is most prolific. The ceremony features a haunting original Day of Mourning-inspired performance by two talented members of Youth Committee, Mike & Jessica (<http://www.myspace.com/dayofmourning2009>), and a solemn reading of the victims' names. Performances include the soulful drumming of the Sweetgrass Singers, the vocal stylings of Wanita Bird, enigmatic dancer Leslie Paul, and fiddling sensation Dallas Boyer. Member of Parliament Kelly Block, Minister of Social Services Donna Harpauer, Saskatoon Police Chief Clive Weighill, and City Councillor Charlie Clark will bring greetings, and the Youth Committee will read written commendations from Governor General Michaëlle Jean, Premier Brad Wall, Lieutenant Governor Gordon Barnhart, and Beverly Jacobs, President of the Native Women's Association of Canada. The evening culminates in a communal meal of Beth's homemade soup and Nora's famous bannock.

The 10th Annual Day of Mourning is made possible through the ongoing dedication of the volunteer Day of Mourning Youth Committee. We are youth who have all been touched by the people whose lives have been lost. For us, EGADZ is a home. Over the past ten years, we have shared our lives while organizing this event, dipping into each other's memories of pain and loss we have each experienced, helping one another make it through our days of pain, our days of mourning. We organize this event every year to remember the victims, to support the families left behind, and to give strength back into the community. The Day of Mourning also helps to educate people about the root causes of the sex trade, while educating other high-risk youth about the very real dangers involved.

The 10th Annual Day of Mourning is a **public event**, and we invite one and all to join us in honouring the victims on this very important occasion. Together, we can create a feeling of hope, dignity, and self-respect out of these tragedies by affirming our commitment and concern for the victims, making sure that they and their families know they are part of a caring community.

For more information, contact: **DAY OF MOURNING YOUTH ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**
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The 10th Annual Day of Mourning is proudly supported by:



**DAY OF MOURNING
VOLUNTEER YOUTH
ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**