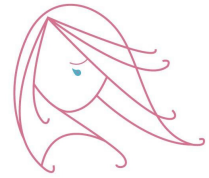


Missing Women: Decolonization, Third Wave Feminisms and Indigenous People of Canada and Mexico



International conference at Luther College to explore issue of missing Aboriginal women

According to the Native Women's Association of Canada's "Sisters in Spirit" initiative, there are more than 500 missing and murdered indigenous women in Canada. In Mexico, the situation is even more alarming, with thousands of incidences of missing and murdered women, including hundreds who have been killed since the early 1990s in the city of Juárez alone.

Prompted by this situation, family members of missing women, community leaders, students, and professors from Luther College at the University of Regina are organizing a conference that will examine and help address the issue. Entitled "Missing Women: Decolonization, Third Wave Feminisms, and Indigenous People of Canada and Mexico," the conference will take place at the University of Regina from August 14-17. It will provide a forum for academics, members of the public, activists, elders, policymakers, policing and government officials, and family members of missing women to examine the violation of human rights in Canada and Mexico and help map a path to justice.

"With the recent 'Walk for Missing Sisters' to Saskatoon and the Vancouver to Ottawa 'Walk 4 Justice' that just passed through Regina, the issue of Canada's missing indigenous women is in the public eye more than ever, both locally and nationally," says Brenda Anderson, a professor of Women's Studies at Luther College and chair of the upcoming conference. "But it is important to understand that with this increased public awareness comes an increased need to find solutions to a growing problem that extends across the country and even beyond our borders."

Anderson, who teaches two courses on missing Indigenous women at Luther College, believes the conference will do more than simply heighten public awareness about violence against indigenous women.

"At the conference, representatives from a wide spectrum of society will be meeting to discuss and initiate both the theoretical and the grassroots work that must take place in order to stop this violence," she says. "Our goals include helping develop support networks for family members of missing women, and presenting a nation-wide petition requesting a full investigation into this injustice."

Speakers at the conference will include Mexican journalist Isabel Arvide, Mexican-American film maker Lourdes Portillo, and Gwenda Yuzicappi, the mother of Amber Redman, a young woman from the Standing Buffalo First Nation who was murdered in 2005.

The conference is open to the public, with registration fees as follows:

- Non-profit or community organization members: \$125
- University of Regina students: \$25 (subsidized by sponsors)
- Other students: \$125
- Volunteers: \$25
- Family members of missing women: no charge for up to three members.
- Standard: \$175

Further registration information is available at www.missingwomenregina.com or by contacting Brittany Matthews at (306) 337-2563.