

The REDress Project

The City of Parksville was approached by the Parksville-Qualicum Canadian Federation of University Women's organization requesting support for The REDress Project. The City along with the other partners in the Parksville Civic and Technology Centre, agreed to participate in the project by hanging twelve red dresses in our building. The red dresses are intended to be a visual reminder of the more than 1,000 missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada, whose cases which remain unsolved.

The dresses will be on display in the Parksville Civic and Technology Centre from November 27 to December 10 and also in various other locations throughout Parksville and Qualicum Beach.

Organized by the Canadian Federation of University Women of Parksville-Qualicum, the displays are based on The REDress Project started by Winnipeg-based artist Jamie Black in 2011. Black designed the installations to be an aesthetic response to the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women across Canada. The artist's intent is to draw attention to the gendered and racialized nature of violent crimes against Aboriginal women.

Jamie Black also explains, "Red is a powerful colour in Indigenous communities. It's the colour of life and blood. It's what connects all of us to each other. It's a very sacred colour, and it also represents the violence that these women are facing."

The red dress display at the Parksville Civic and Technology will formally open with a blessing on Monday, November 27 at 1:30 pm. The public is welcome to attend.

For this year's red dress display, the members of CFUW PQ have chosen the UN's 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence: November 25 is the International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women through to December 10 which is Human Rights Day.

Additional information about this initiative is available from:

<http://cfuwpq.ca/>

<http://www.theredressproject.org/>

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action/16-days-of-activism>

<http://www.fcfd.org/whatwedo/advocacy/cfuwnationaladvocacypriorities/nationalinitiativeonviolenceagainstwomen.aspx>

<https://www.nwac.ca/policy-areas/violence-prevention-and-safety/sisters-in-spirit/october-4th-vigils/>

For more information:

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