



REDress Project

Education & Awareness Initiative
600 Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women in Canada

Week of October 4 -7, 2011
Kamloops, BC

*Located on the traditional, unceded territory of the Secwepemc peoples
TRU campus & 5 Community Based Agency Site Installations*

What is the REDress Project?

The REDress Project is an artistic social justice initiative developed by Jamie Black, a Manitoba artist who worked with the University of Winnipeg to profile the issue of over 600 missing and murdered Aboriginal women in Canada. The REDress project provides an educational environment for students, staff, faculty, and community members to learn through engagement with art and provides opportunities for conversations about the serious impact of this gendered and racialized violence against Aboriginal women in Canada. The University of Winnipeg chose eight locations on the campus and five locations in community-based agencies to display (both indoors and outside) about 120 red dresses donated by people from many different cultures. The display was installed for one week, tours of the installation were provided, a panel of speakers and a video were shown. We would like to do the same in Kamloops in addition to hosting a Candle Light Vigil on October 4 on the Thompson Rivers University campus.

Cendrine Marrouat of the Canada Arts Review Examiner <http://www.examiner.com/art-reviews-in-canada/exhibition-review-redress-project-review> notes that "the color red also works beyond its obvious meanings – blood, sexual energy and violence – there is also the blatant reminder that Canada remains a white-centered, male-dominated society that constantly tries to dehumanize Aboriginal women, and break their inner strength. There are two types of art: art that entertains and art that brings about positive change. The REDress Project is in the second category. It is a spiritual experience rather than a simple exhibition".

Why is the REDress Project in Kamloops during the week of October 4 - 7, 2011?

October 4 marks the national day to remember over 600 missing and murdered Aboriginal women in Canada. In 2010 over 200 people and 4 drum groups came to the 1st Kamloops Candle Light Vigil to remember the missing and murdered women on Angel Street in Riverside Park. This year, the issue of missing and murdered Aboriginal women will be much more visible on the TRU campus and in community based agencies.

You can get involved in the Kamloops REDress Project in a number of ways

1. Donate a red dress to the REDress Project
2. Serve on an Advisory Committee to direct the Kamloops TRU REDress project
3. Identify your agency to be one of the 5 community based agencies to support a REDress installation
4. Donate or help to fundraise to support the REDress Project costs
5. Participate in the educational project, attend the panel, video or vigil, share this flyer

For more information, please contact: Shelly Johnson, Assistant Professor,
TRU School of Social Work and Human Service. Phone: 250-371-5995 or Email: sjohnson@tru.ca