

# Attention CAW Members

## Annual Women's Memorial March, DTES Vancouver

Sunday, February 14, 2010 from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Carnegie Community Centre Theatre  
401 Main Street (corner of Hastings) Vancouver, BC

The memorial march takes place on Sunday, February 14 2010 and begins at 12pm at the Carnegie Community Centre Theatre, where family members speak in remembrance.

At 1 pm, the march takes to the streets and proceeds through the Downtown Eastside, with stops to commemorate where women were last seen or found; speeches by community activists at the police station; a healing circle at Oppenheimer Park around 3 pm; and finally a community feast at the Japanese Language Hall.

This is a memorial not a protest; it is a deeply emotional time for family members and women affected especially in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside (DTES).

In January 1991 a woman was murdered on Powell Street in Vancouver. Her name is not spoken today out of respect for the wishes of her family. This woman's murder in particular was the catalyst that moved women into action. Out of this sense of hopelessness came an annual march on Valentine's Day to express compassion, community, and caring for all women in the DTES.

Nineteen years later, the march continues to honour the lives of missing and murdered women. Increasing deaths of many vulnerable women from the DTES still leaves family, friends, loved ones, and community members with an overwhelming sense of grief and loss.

Over 3000 women are known to have gone missing or been murdered in Canada since the 1970s. Last year, the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women issued this statement: "Hundreds of cases involving aboriginal women who have gone missing or been murdered in the past two decades have neither been fully investigated nor attracted priority attention."

The February 14th Women's Memorial March is an opportunity for the community and those that support us to come together to grieve the loss of our beloved sisters and remember the women who are still missing. We gather each year to mourn and remember our sisters by listening to their family members, by taking over the streets, and through spiritual ceremonies.

Please respect the memorial march and the leadership of those organizing it. This event is organized and led by women in the DTES because women, especially, Indigenous women, face physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual violence on a daily basis. We ask that you please do not bring your banners, flags, or leaflets as the Women's Memorial March carries five banners only to honour the women. We also request that you please not wear face masks to this memorial.

In Solidarity,  
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