



# Red Dress Day

## Why May 5?



Source: Indigenous Foundation of the Arts, UBC

May 5 was designated as a day of awareness of the plight of Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirit People in Society who had gone missing, or whose disappearance had ceased to be investigated by authorities.

*The issue of Missing and Murdered Women affects society as a whole. The denigration of Women's Lives is felt in all sectors of the community.*

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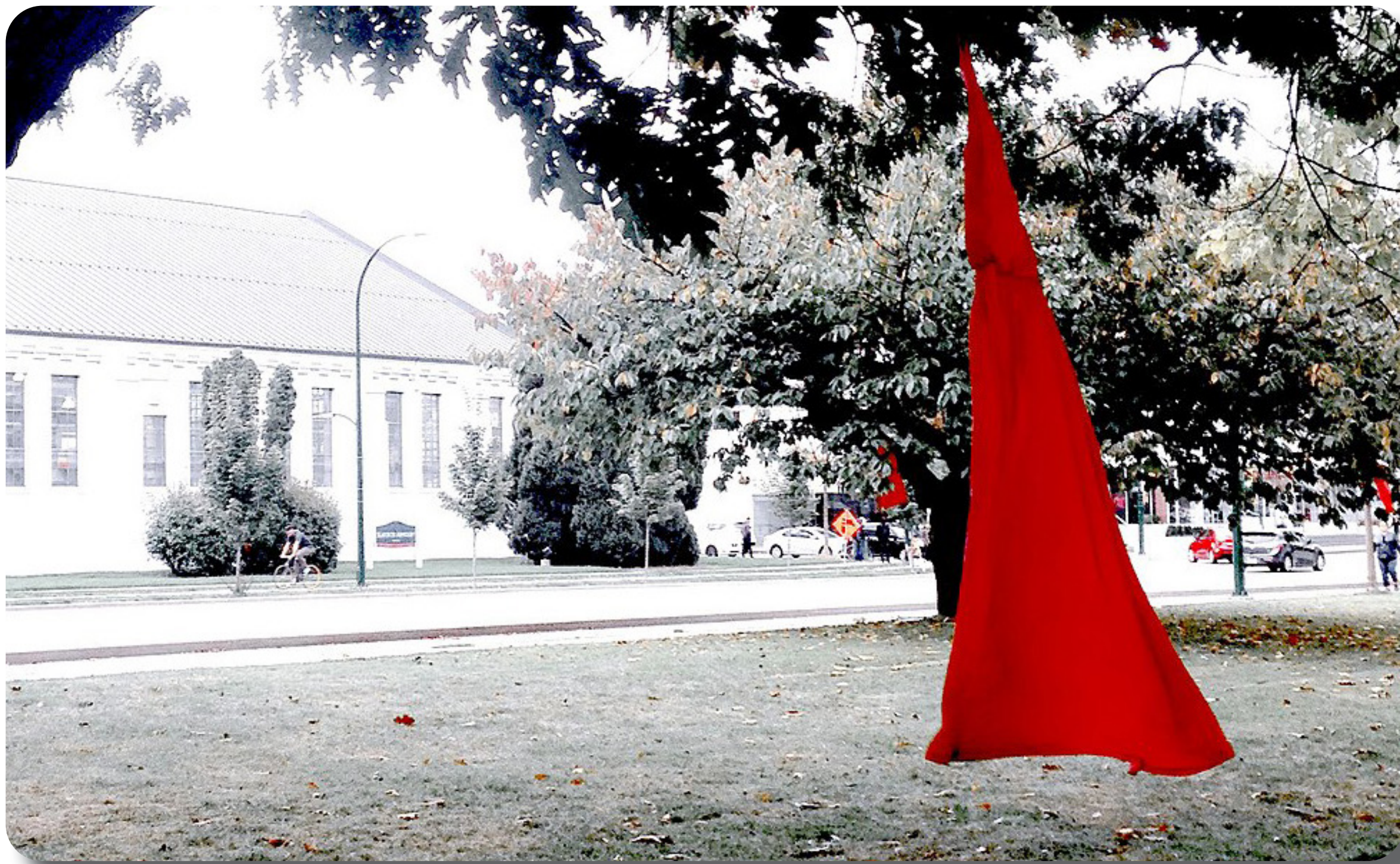
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## What is Red Dress Day?



Source: Indigenous Foundation of the Arts, UBC

Red Dress day is a day to commemorate and memorialize the lost lives of Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirit people who have been murdered, abused, violated, trafficked, discriminated against, disenfranchised, or gone missing from our society.

*Missing and Murdered Indigenous people are found in all socio-economic backgrounds, all age groups, all communities and circumstances. And they are systematically underreported.*

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Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) has created a database of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirit People:

- 67% are murder cases (homicide or negligence)
- 20% are cases of missing women or girls
- 4% are cases of suspicious death—deaths regarded as natural or accidental by police, but considered suspicious by family or community members
- 9% are cases where the nature of the case is unknown—it is unclear whether the woman was murdered, is missing or died in suspicious circumstances.

Source: Native Women's Association of Canada Fact Sheet

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## What can I do?



Source: Indigenous Foundation of the Arts, UBC

Every year Indigenous people go missing. Little is done to search for them or to investigate their demise.

In 2016, a National Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Women and Girls began. The Final report was presented on June 3, 2019. The report entitled “Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls” highlighted 231 Calls To Justice.

Government and policing responses continue to be slow.

*Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirit People statistics continue to rise. All aspects of our community are affected.*

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## Call to Action

Every year Indigenous people go missing. Little is done to search for them or to investigate their demise. Government and policing responses continue to be slow. You can help by:



Source: Awo Taan Healing Lodge Society

- ✎ Writing your MP or MLA
- ✎ Taking part in a Vigil
- ✎ Supporting your Indigenous Women's Agencies
- ✎ Educating yourself and talking about it in your Community or Church.

*When Women and Girls go missing or are murdered, communities are devastated, retraumatized and stigmatized. Their families lose more than a loved one, they are dehumanized all over again.*

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# Join our Right Relations Group

Share cultural experiences



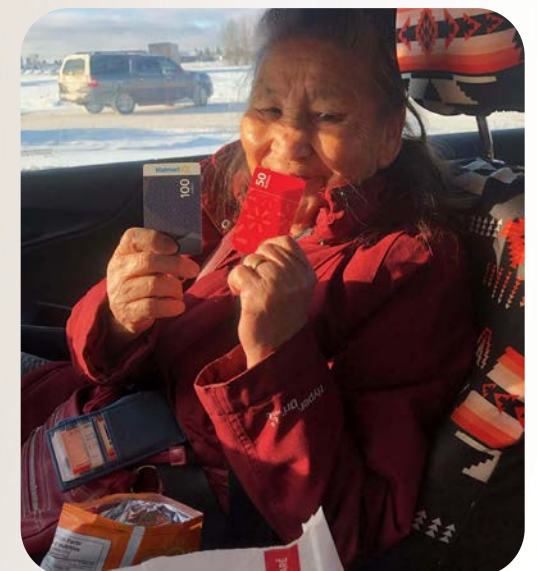
Be an ally and advocate for positive change for Indigenous people.



Make a difference by living out the TRC's Calls To Action.



Help out with a clothing or food drive.



Connect with others and form respectful and meaningful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

Learn about Indigenous culture and traditions while finding your place in reconciliation.

