

# PPCMP Update

March  
2017

*A newsletter from Saskatchewan's Provincial Partnership Committee on  
Missing Persons [PPCMP]*

Issue  
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## Missing Persons Week 2017

Missing but Not Forgotten



The green and yellow ribbon has come to symbolize missing persons, and the work of the PPCMP.

The Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons (PPCMP) will once again be holding Missing Persons Week this year during the first week of May. The opening ceremony will be held at 9:30 a.m. at the TC Douglas Building located at 3475 Albert Street, Regina.

This year's theme is "Because you're not here." It is meant to draw attention to the impact of missing persons on those left behind. During the week, we are asking friends, families,

and anyone affected by the issue of missing persons to log on to Twitter and complete the sentence "Because you're not here..." Write your Tweet as though it is a message to a missing loved one. By using the hashtag #skmpw2017 when doing so, you will contribute to an online collection of impactful statements from real Saskatchewan people that will raise the profile of missing persons in this province. PPCMP member agencies will also be taking part in this

campaign throughout the week.

This year also marks ten years since the PPCMP was formed in response to growing concern about the issue of missing persons in Saskatchewan. The PPCMP pledges to continue bringing agencies and affected people to raise the profile of the issue of missing persons, aid prevention, and improve responses in all situations where someone goes missing.

Missing Persons Week 2017 runs April 30 – May 6.

### Event

Saskatchewan Aboriginal Women's Circle Corporation is holding ambiguous loss, grief, and trauma workshops for frontline workers (March 24) and families (March 25) in Saskatoon. For more information contact Judy Hughes at 306-783-1228 or email sawcc@hotmail.com.

## PPCMP Member Profile: Saskatchewan's Coroner Service

Offering families unique expertise, guidance and closure



The Office of the Chief Coroner (OCC) serves an important role for various clients, including government and police agencies, the public, and most importantly, the families of those who have died.

Acknowledging the growing concern around missing persons in Saskatchewan, the OCC got involved with the PPCMP in 2008. Over the years we have provided our support, unique expertise and experience to not only assist in raising awareness and educating the public to prevent such tragedies but also to provide guidance to families.

As part of the Community Safety and Well-Being Division within the Ministry of Justice, we ensure that every death in the province is open to examination and review. The

information collected is often used to satisfy the need for closure for next of kin, to facilitate the orderly administration of estates, to promote the health, wellbeing and security of citizens, and to support criminal prosecutions.

Our work also uncovers dangerous practices or conditions that may lead to death. This typically happens through the inquest process. An inquest is a public hearing where witnesses are called and evidence is heard before six jury members. On average, there are six inquests completed per year. In addition to establishing the circumstances of a death, the jury may make recommendations to prevent similar deaths in the future.

Approximately 1900 deaths are investigated annually by approximately 90 full-time and community coroners. To accomplish these investigations, the Coroner has the authority to secure the scene of death, conduct interviews, collect information, inspect and seize documents, specimens and objects, and take possession of the body.

Saskatchewan clearly leads the way when it comes to managing missing person's cases. Coroners support the ongoing efforts of policing agencies throughout the province who work to solve these ongoing mysteries. At the same time, we are committed to working with our other partner agencies in assisting and supporting those families who do not know the whereabouts of a loved one.

Finally, the OCC and PPCMP would like to thank outgoing Chief Coroner Kent Stewart for his direction and dedication over his nearly 13 years leading the coroner service. We wish him all the best in retirement.

*Submitted by the Office of the Chief Coroner*

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