



SASKATCHEWAN
MISSING PERSONS
PARTNERSHIP

SMPP Newsletter 2022

"Caring for Families One Day at a Time"

Missing Persons Week 2022

The Saskatchewan Missing Persons Partnership (SMPP), formerly known as the Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons, works to help prevent people from going missing; coordinates policies, legislation and supports; and collaborates with partners who provide services for families of missing persons. This partnership was formed in 2005 and includes Indigenous, community, police and government representatives. SMPP partners provide public education about prevention, investigate missing persons cases, organize searches in communities, and offer support services to the families of missing persons.

The Government of Saskatchewan has dedicated a week to missing persons every year since 2013. This year, Missing Persons Week is May 1-7, 2022 with the theme, "Caring for Families One Day at a Time." Care can be shown to families as they face this difficult time in many ways. For example, attending an awareness walk, listening to the families, connecting families to helpful resources, hanging posters in the community, or simply wearing the missing persons yellow and teal ribbon. This is a time to raise awareness about prevention, response measures, and support services available. Most importantly, this is a time to care for the families that experience the traumatic loss of having their loved one go missing.

Most people who go missing are safely returned to their community, but some are not. According to the Saskatchewan Association of Chiefs of Police website, there are 133 long-term missing persons in Saskatchewan as of March 2022. While the investigation remains ongoing until the persons are found, the uncertainty about the situation can be traumatizing to the missing persons' loved ones. This year's theme, "Caring for Families One Day at a Time," highlights the ways families cope with the situation, the supports families need, and how the search for missing persons is ongoing in Saskatchewan.



Table of Contents

1. Missing Persons Week 2022
2. The SMPP installed a bench by the Missing Persons Oak Tree
3. HOME: Help Our Missing Emerge
4. "We Rise"
5. Families Coming Together
6. SMPP Partners



SASKATCHEWAN
MISSING PERSONS
PARTNERSHIP

Bench Installed by the Missing Persons Oak Tree

In September 2021, SMPP installed a bench near the oak tree dedicated to missing persons. The inscription on the bench, *"The Saskatchewan Missing Persons Partnership dedicates this Bench to All Missing Persons – Loved and Not Forgotten"*, reflects the importance missing persons hold in the community. The SMPP invites people to sit on the bench, remember missing persons and reflect on ways to care for their families. While families can access support from agencies, receiving support and acts of care from their peers is just as important. The first step to showing care is listening.



This year's MPW is dedicated to the voices of those who live without knowing their loved one's whereabouts. Each family's situation is unique. As such, their needs and ways to cope with the disappearance are diverse and should be respected. While some families find solace in sharing their stories, others prefer to cherish memories of their missing loved ones in private. The oak tree and missing persons bench located at Wascana Park in Regina were designed to give all families a place to remember their loved ones in their own way. For example, families can remember in silence, or write a note about their loved one to place at the root of the oak tree.

Submitted by:
Diana Ntibandetse
Practicum Student,
University of Regina Social Work Faculty



H_{elp} O_{ur} M_{issing} E_{merge}

HOME will **Help Our Missing Emerge**. This is a province-wide, multi-jurisdictional, digital billboard and social media Missing Person Awareness Campaign brought to you by the RCMP in partnership with municipal police services (Saskatoon Police Service, Regina Police Service, and Prince Albert Police Service). **HOME is supported and funded by the Saskatchewan Association of Chiefs of Police, the Civil Forfeiture Fund and the Department of Justice “Victims and Survivors of Crime Week — Victims Fund.** HOME is also forming partnerships with the Place of Reflection Committee and the RCMP Heritage Centre. In support of HOME, the RCMP Heritage Center has already provided two digital billboards to be used free of charge in Regina.

HOME will create increased, continued and sustained public awareness of all missing persons in Saskatchewan. HOME will engage communities and provide information that could lead to missing persons being located. HOME will also decrease the burden on families of missing persons by bringing awareness to their missing loved ones. This initiative is a renewed commitment to the MMIWG2S calls to Justice by improving communication between police and families.

“Let’s bring focus back to all our missing persons and bring them HOME”

HOME has acquired a total of 12 digital billboards in Regina, Saskatoon, Yorkton, Prince Albert and North Battleford. These digital billboards will display our missing persons across the province and will direct viewers to information on the Saskatchewan Association of Chiefs of Police website.

More specific contact information will be listed on sacp.ca under each and every missing person’s file. HOME is also working on a partnership with Crime Stoppers to ensure viewers can provide tips anonymously.

In addition to digital billboard displays, HOME will be showcased on several social media platforms through the RCMP and municipal police services communication units. This media saturation will bring awareness to Saskatchewan’s missing persons and will generate tips that may provide information on the whereabouts of Saskatchewan’s missing persons. HOME hopes to grow this provincial initiative into a national one. Let’s bring focus back to all our missing persons and bring them HOME.

Submitted by:

Cst. Brendan Sanford

RCMP Major Crimes - Historical Case Unit - “F” Div Missing Person Coordinator



SASKATCHEWAN
MISSING PERSONS
PARTNERSHIP



"It's about what the families need and just respecting what they're going through. We're never going to know what they're going through," Danielle Carrier.

WE RISE

On December 9, 2021 at the Remai Modern in Saskatoon, 45 people attended a private viewing of "We Rise", a commemoration film of the families of Missing and Murdered Women. The film was created by the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations in partnership with the Family Information Liaison Unit. Filming took place in the summer of 2021, and the focus is on healing and the families' journeys through their grief.

The event was designed to raise awareness about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG), to take action, and discuss the National Inquiry into MMIWG. At the event, families noted that the presence of the community and walking with the families on their journeys can be more helpful than words. During the film, the families highlighted their healing through drums, cultural practices, gatherings, and sharing circles. Getting back to their cultural roots and land-based practices was a prevalent theme.

On February 18, 2022, Krista Fox (who is a family friend of the Ashley Morin family) and Lindsey Bishop (who is Megan Gallagher's sister) left Victoria, British Columbia to begin their walk across Canada to raise awareness for all missing persons in Canada. They are currently in Saskatchewan, and we are honoured that Krista will deliver a message during Missing Persons Week on Red Dress Day (May 5) about their journey. To follow their walk, please see [Krista's Kilometers for MMIWG](#) and Meghan Gallagher's Facebook pages.

Submitted by:
Danielle Carrier
Family Information Liaison Unit
Integrated Justice Services



Families Coming Together

Families and survivors of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls & 2SLGBTQ+ were invited to join the Aboriginal Friendship Centres of Saskatchewan (AFCS) and our partners, Iskwewuk E-Wichiwitochik, as we honoured and paid tribute to lost loved ones and survivors. Our goal was to create a safe space for survivors and family members of MMIWG2S+ to come together and create their contribution to the Family Commemoration Blanket. This blanket resembles the hope and love for our lost loved ones, and the unity families have that makes them stronger, together.

Facilitating four different sessions in friendship centres throughout the province, we were able to come together to heal by sharing memories and healing through art. Over 30 squares were created with love and prayers for the blanket. During the sessions, Elders and mental health support systems were in place to ensure that if anyone needed some assistance, there was someone there for them, creating a safe and welcoming space. Families added their own touch to their square and made sure that the loved one they were commemorating was represented in their own way. It was shared that once the pandemic hit, there was little to support families and survivors of MMIWG2S+ and awareness of the Calls for Justice had been pushed to the side. Events such as this were needed to continue the healing journey and support network, and awareness is needed more than ever with gender-based violence, intimate partner violence, family violence, and more.



In addition to Families Coming Together, an awareness campaign is also coming together as AFCS works with Indigenous youth and women artists to make a commemorative colouring book for all ages that sheds light on the reality of safety and MMIWG2S+. This colouring book will be available through the Friendship Centre network in Saskatchewan.

Each square of the blanket will be sewn together by starblanket creators to make one commemorative legacy piece. This blanket will be available for use in walks, ceremonies and events where support and awareness are needed. Stay tuned for updates regarding the unveiling of the blanket and release of the colouring book.

Submitted by:

Linda Johnson (She/Her)

& Alicia Buckley (She/Her)

Aboriginal Friendship Centres of Saskatchewan



SASKATCHEWAN
MISSING PERSONS
PARTNERSHIP

CONNECT WITH SMPP ONLINE

Social Media:

Facebook: [@Sask missing persons partnership](https://www.facebook.com/SaskMissingPersonsPartnership)

Twitter: [@MissingSask](https://twitter.com/MissingSask)

Instagram: [@SKMissingPersonsPartnership](https://www.instagram.com/SKMissingPersonsPartnership)

YouTube: [Sask Missing Persons Partnership](https://www.youtube.com/SaskMissingPersonsPartnership)

MPW 2022 HASHTAGS: #SkMPW2022 and #skmissing

SMPP partners

The Saskatchewan Missing Persons Partnership is a team of organizations that are devoted to addressing issues related to missing persons. We support safety through education on prevention strategies and raising awareness. Agencies provide family-centered support services and continuously strive to improve response and supports. SMPP work would not be possible without the support of communities and individuals across Saskatchewan. We are grateful for

Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan

Caring Hearts

Crime Stoppers Saskatchewan

Family Information Liaison Unit

Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations

Métis Nation-Saskatchewan

Missing Persons Liaison, Victims Services Pamphlet

Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)

Regina Police Service

Regina Treaty/Status Indian Services (RTSIS)

Saskatchewan Association of Chiefs of Police

Saskatchewan Coroners Service

Saskatchewan Ministry of Education

Saskatchewan Ministry of Government Relations

Saskatchewan Ministry of Health

Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice and Attorney General

Saskatchewan Ministry of Social Services

Saskatoon Police Service

Search and Rescue Saskatchewan Association of Volunteers

STOPS to Violence

Victims Services

