

## Donations Needed:

>>**Duluth's 'They Are Remembered Forever' Reward Fund**, offering rewards for information leading to the resolution of unsolved cases of local missing or murdered indigenous people in our area.

<https://updateandnews.wixsite.com/gaagige-mikwendaag-1>

contact Rene Ann Richardson at Native Lives Matter Coalition, [nlmcoalition@gmail.com](mailto:nlmcoalition@gmail.com)

>>**Visit Garment Give & Take Box at 3205 Minnesota Ave**, on the porch, to leave extra red dresses and shirts, or to pick up some for your display on Park Point.

>>**Extra garments** will be donated to the local organization No More MMIWR advocating for families of MMIWR and raising awareness through displays. [www.nomoremmiwr.com](http://www.nomoremmiwr.com)

Thanks!

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About our art action on Park Point:

### **Park Point Red Dress Display in Solidarity with No More MMIWR**

by Lisa McKhann, presentation of project idea to PPCC, 3/18/25

Though I have no personal connection with Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives (MMIWR), I have felt the visceral impact of encountering just one red dress, day after day, where it hung from a gatepost. It's haunting. So, when I considered our unique geography here on Park Point, and our kind care for everyone in our greater community, this came to mind: The image of a river of red dresses, blowing in a spring breeze or taking on a May shower. Vehicles slowing to take them in, asking questions, and learning the troubling answers.

### **Background about MMIWR:**

The red dress or shirt is used in Canada and the U.S. as a symbol for Native American and First Nation lives lost to violence, often sexual violence. These garments represent the indigenous women, girls, and other relatives, who are missing or murdered at a vastly disproportionate rate to any other demographic. Minnesota, Wisconsin and Canada share this issue, geographically and culturally.

In 2022, a broad coalition created a local Award Fund to help move cases forward in the justice system. Alicia Kozlowski, now a Minnesota State Representative for Duluth's District 8B, then spoke for the City of Duluth.:

*"In Minnesota and Wisconsin, historical and contemporary forces intersect to make native women especially vulnerable to sexual violence. While native women are 1% of Minnesota's female population, they are 8% of all missing and murdered women in the*

state. On any given month in Minnesota, there are between 27 and 54 native people who are missing.”

Historically there have been issues of jurisdiction for prosecutions on and off tribal lands, for charging native and non-native assailants; prejudice against the victims in police work and media reporting; prevalence of domestic violence and sex trafficking.

Kozlowski went on to say,

**“This is a human issue, a community issue.**

**When one is dehumanized, we all are dehumanized.”**

Long-time advocate Rene Ann Goodrich works with Native Lives Matter Coalition and No More MMIWR, among others, bringing justice and healing to families.

“There’s a history of trafficking in Twin Ports, connected to the land base. We are bringing awareness, education and action to address the epidemic of missing women, girls, and two spirits.”

Rene Ann says *Visibility is key.*

**So come on Park Point. Let’s make good use of our unique geography and our caring concern. Help make our Five-Day Display.**

>> Learn more and get connected! Email Lisa, [lulu@cpinternet.com](mailto:lulu@cpinternet.com)

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**Learnings from the Minnesota Indian Women’s Sexual Assault Coalition Conference**  
essay by Pentti Hanlon, raised on 16<sup>th</sup> on Park Point

In light of the upcoming MMIWR awareness day and the initiative on Park Point, I want to take a minute to reflect on a conference that I attended where I was first exposed to MMIWR. The conference was hosted in 2022 by the Minnesota Indian Women’s Sexual Assault Coalition (MIWSAC), a statewide tribal coalition dedicated to ending sexual violence. Things hit home when all the conference-goers were gathered in a room and informed that the body of a young woman, Alexis Whitehawk Ruiz, who had disappeared from North Minneapolis late in 2022 had just been found in the Mississippi River.

In the following days, I learned about the disappearance of Neveah Kingbird who was last seen in Bemidji (where the conference was being held) in the fall of 2021. I met Neveah’s cousins at the skatepark in Red Lake, talked to her relatives in the audience at the conference, and I heard her mother, Teddi, speak at length about her longing for her daughter and her tireless organizing to bring Neveah home. I heard the mother of Jeremy Jourdain, who went missing from Bemidji as a teenager in 2016, express her rage that six years had passed and she still had no answers as to the whereabouts of her son.

Something switched in my thinking: this isn't just a trend that becomes apparent if you pay attention to data; it's something current, ongoing, and incredibly real in people's lives. The roots of this epidemic aren't easy to contend with: sexual and domestic violence, hamstrung tribal prosecutorial authority, a long history of Native people being devalued and disbelieved, to name a few. There are glaring similarities between the way that the wider culture responds to the loss of Native lives and the way it handles the loss of Black and brown lives. The reflex is to somehow blame the individual, their character, and the culture that they've emerged from for their own death or disappearance. A former colleague of mine, in fact, the person who brought me to the MIWSAC conference, said that Black people die, in part, because of hypervisibility while Native people die from invisibility. This upcoming day of awareness is a way to, however briefly, push back against that invisibility. I urge everyone as neighbors to join together in doing that.

The names of three indigenous people murdered or missing in this area:

**Peter Martin**, age 31, last seen on the Fond du Lac reservation one year ago this month.

**Chantel Moose**, murdered one year ago in Duluth, an open case with the City of Duluth.

**Sheila St. Clair**, missing since 2015.

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**Participating Organizations, Community Partners, Groups**- Supporting the Local Annual MMIW Events and Twin Ports Red Dress Campaign and Reward Fund (an ever-growing list)

City of Duluth, Duluth City Hall  
Duluth Indigenous Commission  
Native Lives Matter Coalition  
Twin Ports No More MMIWg2S Great Lakes  
Native Lives Matter Great Lakes  
Gaagige-Mikwendaagoziwag  
Justice For Chantel Moose  
Justice for Native People  
Safe Haven Shelter & Resources  
Building for Women  
Justice for Native Lives  
YMCA Duluth  
CASDA  
PAVSA  
Life House  
Rural Aids Action Network  
Duluth YWCA  
Rainbow House  
American Indian Community Housing  
Mending the Sacred Hoop  
Duluth Candy Shop  
We Health Duluth  
Building Unity Org

Women Against Military Madness  
WRAC - Women's Resource Action Center  
UWS- Indigenous Student  
UMD- Indigenous Student Organization  
Harm Reduction Sisters  
Duluth, Denfeld High School  
Duluth - Harbor City School