

January 30, 2019
D/BU #095/2018-2019



Strawberry Ceremony Vigil for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

To: Presidents and All Members

From: Lori Foote, Associate General Secretary – Professional Services

For Information

On February 14th, 2019, OSSTF/FEESO we are asking members to support the Strawberry Vigil for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, which was first held over 14 years ago in Ontario. The Strawberry Ceremony recognizes that February is out of season for a ceremony involving strawberries, but the violence women and girls are experiencing is also a disruption in Indigenous communities.

The February 14th ceremony is an opportunity to grieve the loss of beloved sisters and remember the women who are still missing. Ceremony organizers request that supporters respect the memorial ceremony and the leadership of those organizing it. While they are welcoming pictures of loved ones lost, it is very important to remember not to bring union banners, flags, or leaflets to the vigil. Participants are encouraged to make their own signs honouring their sisters.

A community database with information, memorial tributes and the documenting of murdered and missing women, girls, trans and two-spirited people is available at <http://itstartswithus-mmiw.com>.

Other February 14th events in your area can be found by visiting <http://www.chiefs-of-ontario.org/event/14th-annual-february-14th-strawberry-ceremony-for-mmiwg2s>.

Many local events are also posted on Facebook and Twitter.

Bargaining Unit Presidents are asked to share these links with members to encourage participation in events planned for February 14, 2019.

For more information, please contact Tracey Marshall tracey.marshall@osstf.ca at Provincial Office.

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