Tungasuvvingat Inuit

MEDIA RELEASE

TUNGASUVVINGAT INUIT HOLDS 2ND CANDLELIGHT VIGIL FOR MMIWG2S

May 3, 2024

OTTAWA, ON – On May 3, Tungasuvvingat Inuit (TI) held it's second annual Candlelight Vigil for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two Spirit (MMIWG2S). The vigil took place at Annie Pootoogook park in Ottawa, ON, and was open to all to join in and honour, remember, grieve and spread awareness for those we lost or are missing. The ceremony included a drum performance, a song and drum performance and a symbolic lighting of candles to remember those we've lost.

Mikka Komaksiutiksak, Acting Manager of the Family Well-being program at TI and co-coordinator of the event, said about the vigil, "We bring the voices of the missing and murdered Indigenous peoples into the light. We hold space for their families to grieve and we grieve with them."

Inuit and non-Inuit community members alike attended the vigil on May 3rd, from 11:30am to 1pm at Annie Pootoogook Park, located at 250 Somerset Street, Ottawa. The event was coordinated by the Family Well-being team at TI, which consisted of Mikka Komaksiutiksak, Angela Austria, Aly Schamerhorn and Meaghan Bannerman. The ceremony included a traditional Inuit drum performance by Timothy Erkloo and a song sung by Mikka with an accompanying drum played by Timothy. Everyone gathered after the performances for a symbolic lighting of flame-less candles and a moment of silence to honour those who we lost or are missing. Community was invited to do an art activity of drawing red hands and writing a message of solidarity. MMIWG2S shirts and pins were handed out to those who wanted them. The event closed in an uplifting way with a demonstration of Inuit games by Chris Church, who invited the community to join in.

About Tungasuvvingat Inuit
It is the Mission of Tungasuvvingat Inuit to broadly provide Inuitspecific programs that contribute to the health and well-being of Inuit and to encourage and support similar programs for Inuit across the country. TI offers 20+ highly integrated, front-line programs and services to urban Inuit in Ontario. Visit online at www.tiontario.ca or follow us on Facebook @TIottawa and Twitter @tiontario.

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For more information contact,
Eleanor Partridge, Manager, Communications
613.299.4684 - epartridge@tiontario.ca