

# TAKING A PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO THE ISSUE OF “MURDERED AND MISSING INDIGENOUS WOMEN” IN THE UNITED STATES

Hannabah Blue, MSPH  
NIHB Tribal Public Health Summit  
Thursday, April 9, 2015



## WHO IS IN THE ROOM?

- Hannabah Blue (*Diné*)
  - Traditional Introduction
  - Professional Introduction
    - NDSU American Indian Public Health Resource Center
    - National Native American AIDS Prevention Center
  - Educational Introduction
    - Master of Science, Harvard School of Public Health
      - Women, Gender and Health; Maternal and Child Health
    - Graduate Certificate in Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology, University of Arizona
      - Specialization in Native American Women and Girls
    - Bachelor of Arts, New York University
      - Broadcast Journalism; Gender and Sexuality Studies
  - Poetic Introduction
    - This is Poetry...
    - Café Cultura
- You
  - What drew you to this presentation this morning?
- Also, remembering those who have been lost...



# WORKSHOP LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the workshop, participants will be able to:

- 1. Describe how a community-based social and online movements can increase readiness to address public health issues
- 2. Explain how the issue of “Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women” affects public health for Indigenous communities in the United States
- 3. Describe 3 ways human trafficking is contributing to the issue of “Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women”
- 4. Identify 5 activities public health practitioners can utilize to address the issue of “Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women”



# COMMUNITY-BASED SOCIAL AND ONLINE CAMPAIGNS AND MOVEMENTS

- The Rise of Generation Keyboard...
- Overall, technology use was exceptionally common among survey respondents, mirroring or exceeding national rates.
- Over 75% of AI/AN youth reported searching online for health information.
- But technology use amongst Natives is still behind that of the general population...

J Primary Prev  
DOI 10.1007/s10935-011-0242-z

ORIGINAL PAPER

## Use of Media Technologies by Native American Teens and Young Adults in the Pacific Northwest: Exploring Their Utility for Designing Culturally Appropriate Technology-Based Health Interventions

Stephanie Craig Rushing · David Stephens

© Springer Science+Business Media, LLC 2011

**Abstract** American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) youth are disproportionately burdened by many common adolescent health issues, including drug and alcohol use, injury and violence, sexually transmitted infections, and teen pregnancy. Media technologies, including the Internet, cell phones, and video games, offer new avenues for reaching adolescents on a wide range of sensitive health topics. While several studies have informed the development of technology-based interventions targeting mainstream youth, no such data have been reported for AI/AN youth. To fill this gap, this study quantified media technology use among 405 AI/AN youth (13–21 years old) living in tribes and urban communities in the Pacific Northwest, and identified patterns in their health information-seeking practices and preferences. Overall, technology use was exceptionally common among survey respondents, mirroring or

**Keywords** American Indian · Media technology · Internet · Intervention · Adolescent health

### Introduction

American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN or Native) youth disproportionately experience many common adolescent health issues. To address them, media technologies like the Internet, cell phones, and video games offer new avenues to communicate with teens and young adults about sensitive health topics in a manner that is convenient and familiar to them. Many approaches can be tailored to the maturity and interests of the individual, can be disseminated broadly regardless of the user's geographic location, and can be privately accessed when and where the individual is ready (Bennett and Glasgow 2009;



# COMMUNITY-BASED SOCIAL AND ONLINE CAMPAIGNS AND MOVEMENTS

- Readiness for Public Health
- Community Readiness Model- Tri-Ethnic Center at Colorado State University
  - [http://triethniccenter.colostate.edu/communityReadiness\\_home.htm](http://triethniccenter.colostate.edu/communityReadiness_home.htm)
  - Readiness Model for HIV, but can be applied to other areas
  - Take Home Message: Strategies of intervention must be appropriate for the community's stage of readiness!



# COMMUNITY-BASED SOCIAL AND ONLINE CAMPAIGNS AND MOVEMENTS

- Public Health Communication
  - What are effective methods of public health communication in Native communities?
  - Relatable
  - Understandable
  - Relevant to the community
  - Examples
  - Consequences, Effects and Changes
- Storytelling!



# WHAT COMMUNITY AND ONLINE AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS DO YOU KNOW ABOUT?



## CROSSING ONLINE AWARENESS INTO COMMUNITY-BASED ACTION

- Building upon the awareness that is created
- Combined with strategies to address readiness levels...
  - Protests
  - Teach-ins
  - Events
  - Speakers
  - Panel and roundtable discussions
  - Art, poetry, film and music
  - Traditional approaches and components
  - Policy changes



# OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN ONLINE SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

- Opportunities
  - Large reach
  - Reaches younger generations
  - Perceived as “cool”
  - Can give multi-faceted picture and information
  - More and more methods of reaching populations
- Challenges
  - Reaches only a certain segment of the population
  - Technology is imperfect
  - Can be perceived as “privileged”
  - Can give very one-dimensional or inaccurate picture or information
  - Language barriers



## IS THIS A PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE?

CANADIAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION October 19, 2014 12:10 pm Updated: October 19, 2014 12:41 pm

### CPHA calls for national inquiry into murdered and missing aboriginal women

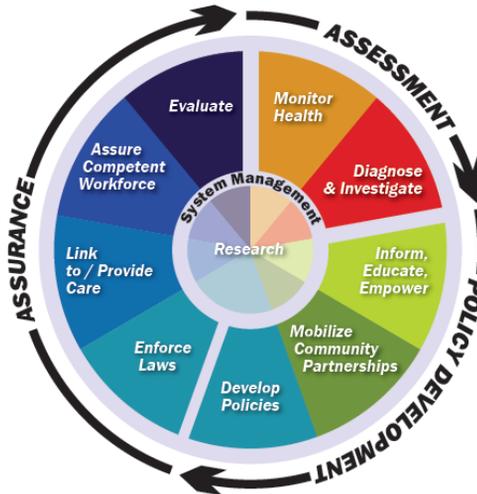
By Staff The Canadian Press

Comments 1 Facebook 915 Twitter 34 Email Print ...




# SO HOW DO WE ADDRESS IT FROM A PUBLIC HEALTH STANDPOINT?

- What do the 10 Essential Public Health Services tell us to do?
- Assess
  - Monitor health
  - Diagnose and Investigate
- Policy Development
  - Inform, Educate, Empower
  - Mobilize Community Partnerships
  - Develop Policies
- Assurance
  - Enforcement
  - Linkages
  - Evaluation



## ASSESSMENT

- Monitor Health
  - What is going on?
  - What does “Murdered” and “Missing” “Indigenous” “Women” tell us?
- Diagnose and Investigate
  - What public health issues drive Indigenous Women to be murdered and to go missing?

# MURDERED AND MISSING INDIGENOUS WOMEN PUBLIC HEALTH DISPARITIES

- Substance Abuse
- Mental Health
- Racism
- Classism
- Sexism
- Homophobia
- Sexual Assault
- Domestic Violence
- Rape
- Emotional Abuse
- Coercion
- Stereotypes
- Stigma
- Shame
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases
- Injection Drug Use
- Hepatitis C
- Infant Mortality
- Teen Pregnancy
- Suicide
- Human Trafficking
- Inadequate healthcare
- Lack of access to services
- Others?



## YOUR COMMUNITY?

- What is the readiness like?
- Is there awareness?
- Is it an issue in your community?
- What are opportunities you can tap into?
- What are challenges you see?



# MURDERED AND MISSING INDIGENOUS WOMEN PUBLIC HEALTH DISPARITIES

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- Suicide
- **Human Trafficking**
- Inadequate healthcare
- Lack of access to services
- Others?



# HUMAN TRAFFICKING PUSH AND PULL FACTORS

- Push
  - **Ignorance of the Issue**- Not knowing about trafficking in the first place certainly puts one at risk for being abused and exploited by traffickers.
  - **Poverty**- Traffickers target people who are financially insecure. Promises of a good job and steady income are very appealing for someone who is living in poverty.
  - **Runaways and Marginalized Youth**- For those who do not come from stable support systems, there is a higher chance that they will look to others for the love and acceptance that they do not find at home. This opens them up and makes them vulnerable to being trafficked.
- Pull
  - **Sex Industries**- The demands for workers in the sex industry is certainly a pull factor for human trafficking.
  - **Lack of Laws and the Legalization of Prostitution**- In places where prostitution is legal or places lacking laws against human trafficking, the occurrence of human trafficking is especially high.
  - **People**- The people who purchase and exploit others are the largest pull factor. Without the demand there would be no supply
- What others?

<http://www.a21.org/content/vulnerable-to-traffickers/gjdpjy?permcode=gjdpjy>



## SO WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

- Back to the 10 Essential Services...
- Policy Development
  - Inform, Educate, Empower
  - Mobilize Community Partnerships
  - Develop Policies
- Assurance
  - Enforcement
  - Linkages
  - Evaluation



## MURDERED AND MISSING INDIGENOUS WOMEN PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACHES

- |                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| ▪ Empowerment        | ▪ Mentorship     |
| ▪ Communication      | ▪ Gratitude      |
| ▪ Education          | ▪ Family         |
| ▪ Investing in Youth | ▪ Accessibility  |
| ▪ Culture            | ▪ Safety         |
| ▪ Spirituality       | ▪ Housing        |
| ▪ Unity              | ▪ Food           |
| ▪ Community          | ▪ Friendship     |
| ▪ Leadership         | ▪ Harm Reduction |
| ▪ Awareness          | ▪ Acceptance     |
| ▪ Love               | ▪ Understanding  |
| ▪ Compassion         | ▪ Others?        |

## THEN EVALUATE...

- Have these national campaigns been effective?
  - Idle No More
  - Occupy Wall Street
  - Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women
  - Am I Next?
  - Close the Gap
  - We R Native
  - Redskins campaign
  - VAWA
- How do we evaluate them?
  - Related public health disparities
  - Models from coalition building



## SING OUR RIVERS RED MISSION STATEMENT

- The *Sing Our Rivers Red* (SORR) events aim to bring awareness to the epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous women and colonial gender based violence in the United States and Canada. The events strive to **raise consciousness, unite ideas and demand action** for Indigenous women, girls, Two Spirit and LGBTQIA people who have been **murdered or gone missing, tortured, raped, trafficked, and assaulted, who have not had the proper attention or justice**. SORR also is being planned in **solidarity and with collaborative spirit**, meant to support the efforts built in Canada, as well as highlight the need for awareness and action in the United States.



# SING OUR RIVERS RED MISSION STATEMENT

- *Sing Our Rivers Red* events recognize that **each of us has a voice** to not only **speak out** about the injustices against our sisters, but also use the strength of those voices to **sing for our healing**. Water is the source of life and so are women. We need to Sing Our Rivers Red to remember the missing and murdered and those who are metaphorically drowning in injustices. **We are connecting our support through the land and waters across the border.**



# THE FOCUS ON MMIW THROUGH SORR

- Combating idea of Native and Indigenous women and people as expendable
- Going back to our cultural roots and traditions
- Coming together through unity and community
- Allowing everyone to bring in their gifts, talents, interests and contributions
- Bringing about awareness to issues that are not talked about, stigmatized, or difficult to address
- The source of our pain can be the source of our healing...





## AN ATTACK ON THE EARTH IS AN ATTACK AGAINST US

- Our lands are expendable, just like us
- Much of our traditions are tied to the land
  - Our teachings, our worldviews, our ceremonies
- Attacks on the land force us to flee, move, and relocate
  - And separates us
  - Can decrease our connections to our traditions, families, resources
- Push and Pull Factors of Human Trafficking
  - Multiple dimensions of human trafficking
  - Un-conflate with sex trade and survival sex



# SING OUR RIVERS RED VALUES HEAL US

- **Humility**
  - Appreciation and gratitude
  - Army of Bright, Shiny Souls
- **Empowerment**
  - Outside In, Inside Out
  - Raise Up
- **Accessibility**
  - Everybody is welcome (no one is turned away)
  - Spaces that discourage stigma, shame and discrimination
- **Love and Compassion**
  - Heartwork
  - Using your gifts to support the movement
- **Unity**
  - Community Share-ship
  - Ability to make the events and their spaces your own
  - Our Community/Our Voices
- **Support and Mentorship**
  - Many Hearts, One Beat
  - Many Passions, One Fire
  - Many Revolutions, One Movement



## THE HISTORY

- Since 1980, over 1,181 Native women and girls in Canada have been reported missing or have been murdered.
- For over 20 years, there have been marches and events each year throughout Canada on Valentine's Day to bring awareness to this issue:
  - [Women's Memorial March](#)
  - [#ItStartsWithUs](#)
  - [Stolen Sisters](#)
  - [Sisters in Spirit](#)
  - Families of Sisters in Spirit
  - [#ItEndsHere](#)
  - [Walking With Our Sisters](#) exhibit
  - [Highway of Tears](#)
  - [#MMIW](#)



# THE (LACK OF) NUMBERS

- No comprehensive estimate
- Many factors that contribute to the disproportionate number of Indigenous women who are missing and murdered in the United States:
  - Violence against Native Women
  - Fear, stigma, racism, sexism, homophobia
  - Convoluted tribal jurisdiction
  - Perpetuation of Native women as sexual objects in the mainstream media
  - Mental health, depression, suicide
  - Poverty, socioeconomic status
  - Poor health conditions, access to healthcare, resources



# THE ACTIONS

- Support the efforts built in Canada
- Highlight the need for awareness and action to address colonial gender violence in the United States
- The injustices against Indigenous women don't stop at the border; they affect us all.
- Because we are not murdered and we are not missing, we have a responsibility to speak out for those who cannot speak for themselves, because they were taken from our communities and families.
- The Red River runs from ND/MN up through Winnipeg, Canada where volunteers have led an effort to search for missing Indigenous women on its riverbed, an effort dubbed [Drag the Red](#)
- *Sing Our Rivers Red* events recognize that each of us has a voice to not only speak out about the injustices against our sisters, but also use the strength of those voices to sing for our healing. Water is the source of life and so are women. We need to Sing Our Rivers Red to remember the missing and murdered and those who are metaphorically drowning in injustices. We are connecting our support through the land and waters across the border.



# WEEKLONG SERIES OF EVENTS IN FARGO/MOORHEAD AREA

- SORR Exhibition
- SORR Concert
- Missing: The Documentary Film Screening with Producer Young Jibwe and Panel Discussion
- Arming Sisters Workshop
- Sing Our Rivers Red Honoring featuring Lisa Brunner
- Sing Our Rivers Red March and Rally

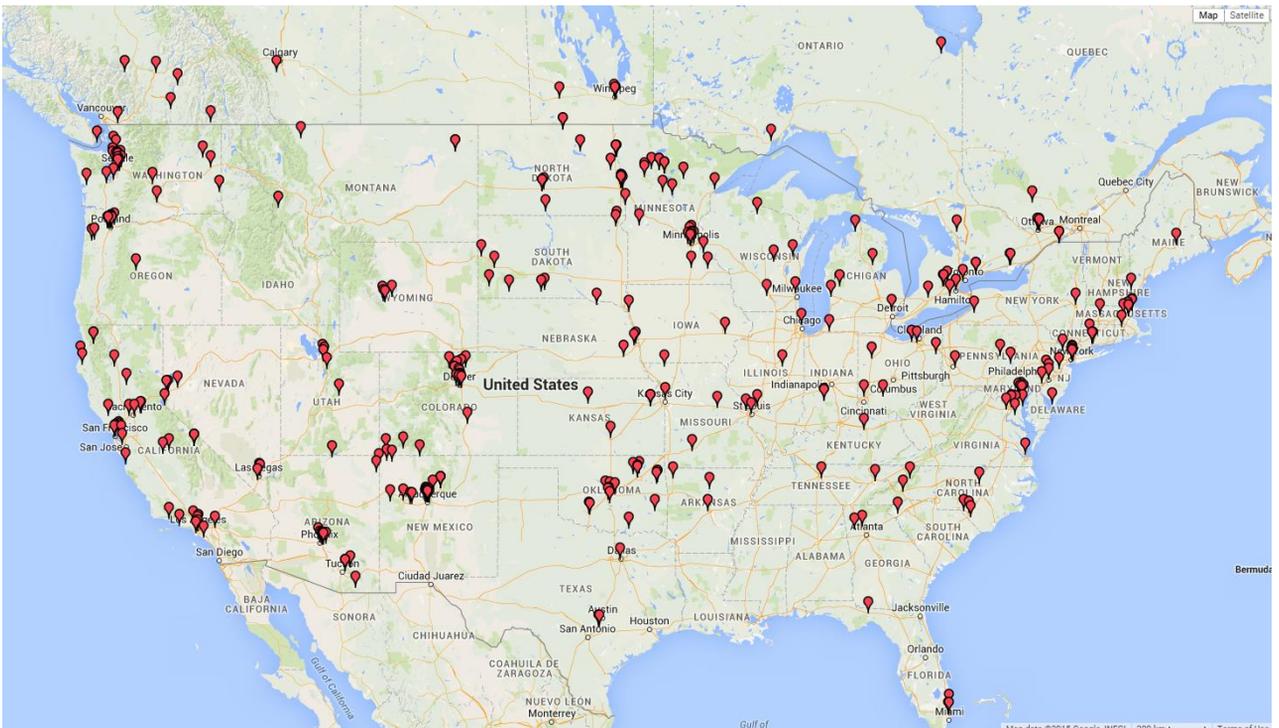


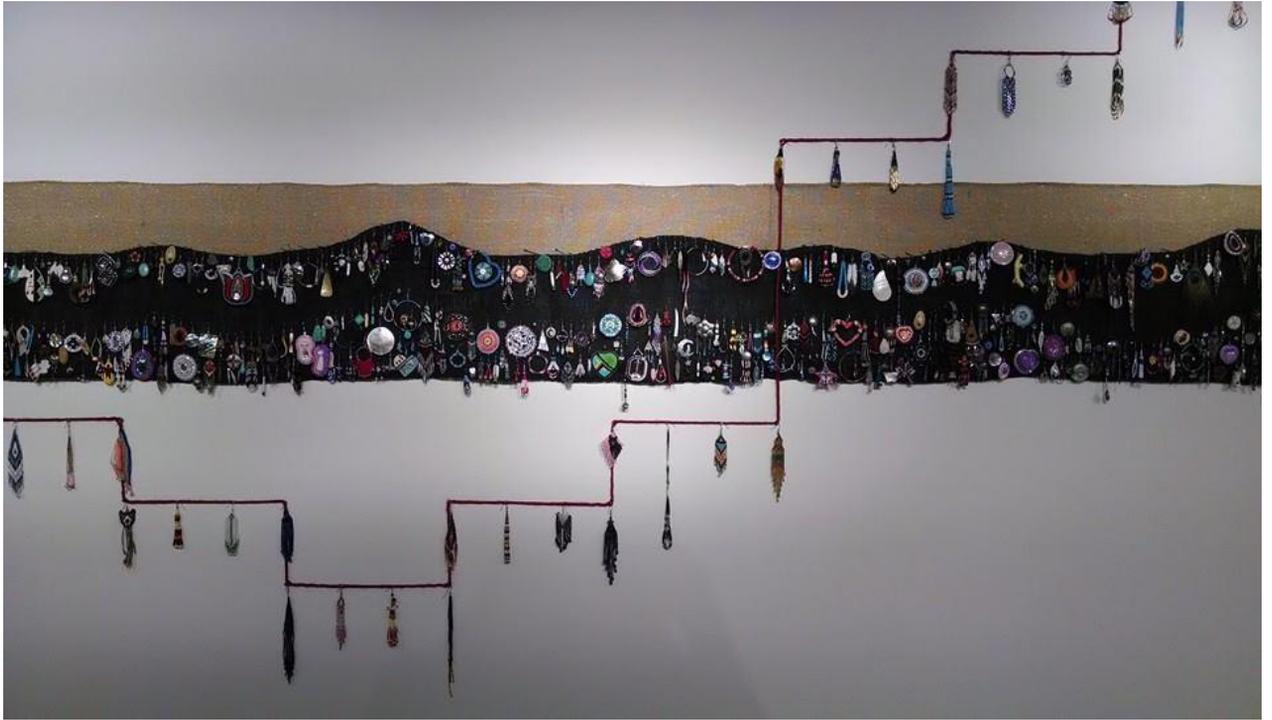
## SING OUR RIVERS RED EVENTS

### Monday, February 9th, 2015

- SORR Exhibition
- TIME: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
- DETAILS: This event will feature a traveling earring exhibit created with 1,181 single-sided earrings to symbolize the Indigenous women who were stolen, and original art by Navajo muralist/painter [Nani Chacon](#). The event will also include poetry, spoken word by Tanaya Winder and Hannabah Blue, and speakers including Lissa Yellow-bird-Chase who are working on issues involving trafficking, violence and missing women.
- LOCATION: NDSU Memorial Gallery, 1401 Administration Ave., Fargo, ND









## SING OUR RIVERS RED EVENTS

### Monday, February 9th, 2015

- SORR Concert
- **TIME:** Doors Open at 4:30p, Concert 5pm-7pm
- **DETAILS:** This event will be a Speak Out and Concert featuring hip hop artists [Frank Waln](#) (Sicangu Lakota) who was recently featured in MTV Rebel Music and [Mic Jordan](#) (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewas) a youth mentor and a self-described activist for Native American rights. Concert includes special guests: Diane Miller and Young Jibwe.
- **LOCATION:** NDSU Century Theatre, 1401 Administration Ave., Fargo, ND

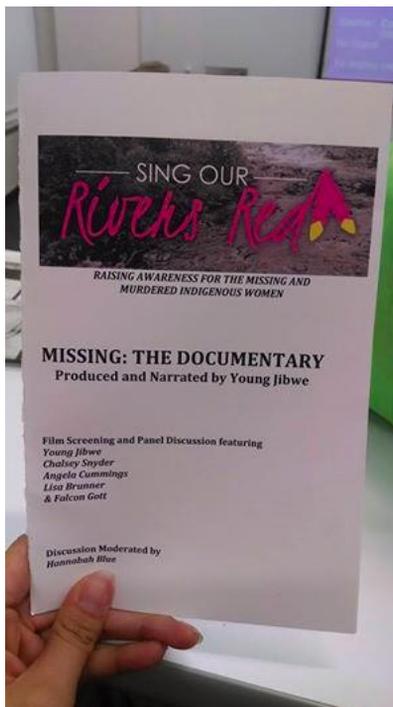




# SING OUR RIVERS RED EVENTS

**Tuesday, February 10th, 2015**

- Film Screening with Documentary Producer Young Jibwe
- **TIME:** 5:00 PM- 7:00 PM
- **DETAILS:** Will watch *Missing: The Documentary* followed by a panel discussion with the producer Young Jibwe, Chalsey Snyder, a law enforcement official, and others.
- **LOCATION:** MSUM Livingston Lord Library Rm 103, 1104 7th Avenue South, Moorhead, MN





## SING OUR RIVERS RED EVENTS

**Wednesday, February 11th, 2015**

- **Arming Sisters** Event
- **TIME:** 5:00 PM - 9:00PM
- **DETAILS:** Arming Sisters is a unique course utilizing women's self-defense to revive self; empowerment, love, and ownership of body. Dinner will be provided.
- **LOCATION:** MSUM Underground, Comstock Memorial Union 001, 615 14th Street South, Moorhead, MN





# SING OUR RIVERS RED EVENTS

**Friday, February 13th, 2015**

- Sing Our Rivers Red Honoring
- **TIME:** 6:00 PM-9:00 PM
- **DETAILS:** Lisa Brunner will give a talk on Violence Against Native Women, and the event will honor Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and people who have worked to address violence against women, human trafficking, sexual and reproductive health, LGBTQ2S, and in other fields, bringing awareness to this issue. Will include blessing/smudging by JT Shining OneSide, River's Edge Drum Group, community feed, presentation of gifts, as well as recognition of SORR speakers and sponsors. People can send in the names of murdered and missing Indigenous women to be prayed for at this event, as well as those who are working in fields to bring awareness to this issue. Please send messages and the names of people to honor at the event to Melanie Nadeau at [melanie.nadeau@ndsu.edu](mailto:melanie.nadeau@ndsu.edu).
- **LOCATION:** Concordia Barry Auditorium, c/o 12th Avenue S and 9th Street S, Moorhead, MN



**JOIN US!**  
*Sing Our Rivers Red*  
**HONORING EVENT**  
**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2015**  
 Concordia College Barry Auditorium · c/o 12 Avenue S & 8th Street · Moorhead, MN · 6P-9P

This event is a community gathering to honor and pray for the murdered and missing, their family and friends, people who work in fields related to this issue, SORR sponsors and speakers, and Mother Earth. Lisa Brunner from Sacred Spirits will give a talk.

**FEATURING**

- The Rivers' Edge Drum Group
- Silent Witnesses
- Prayer & Smudging
- Dinner Will Be Provided

Sponsored by: Concordia College Department of Sociology and Social Work  
 Concordia Office of Intercultural Affairs · Concordia Forum on Faith and Public Life  
 Concordia College Women's and Gender Studies · Concordia College Environmental Studies  
 Concordia College Global Studies · Fargo/Moorhead Native American Center  
 Sacred Spirits · NDSU American Indian Public Health Resource Center

**PLEASE SEND MESSAGES & NAMES TO HONOR AT EVENT TO:**  
 MELANIE NADEAU · [melanie.nadeau@ndsu.edu](mailto:melanie.nadeau@ndsu.edu)

*Sacred Spirits*  
 RAISING AWARENESS  
**MURDERED & MISSING**  
*Indigenous* WOMEN





## SING OUR RIVERS RED EVENTS

**Saturday, February 14th, 2015**

- Sing Our Rivers Red March and Rally
- **TIME:** 12:00 PM-3:00 PM
- **DETAILS:** Lisa Brunner will give a talk on Violence Against Native Women, and the event will honor Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and people who have worked to address violence against women, human trafficking, sexual and reproductive health, LGBTQ2S, and in other fields, bringing awareness to this issue. Will include blessing/smudging by JT Shining OneSide, River's Edge Drum Group, community feed, presentation of gifts, as well as recognition of SORR speakers and sponsors. People can send in the names of murdered and missing Indigenous women to be prayed for at this event, as well as those who are working in fields to bring awareness to this issue. Please send messages and the names of people to honor at the event to Melanie Nadeau at [melanie.nadeau@ndsu.edu](mailto:melanie.nadeau@ndsu.edu).
- **LOCATION:** Concordia Barry Auditorium, c/o 12th Avenue S and 9th Street S, Moorhead, MN





## SORR NEWS ARTICLES

- MSUM Advocate
- NDSU Spectrum
- The Forum
- High Plains Reader
- South Dakota Public Broadcasting
- Native News Online



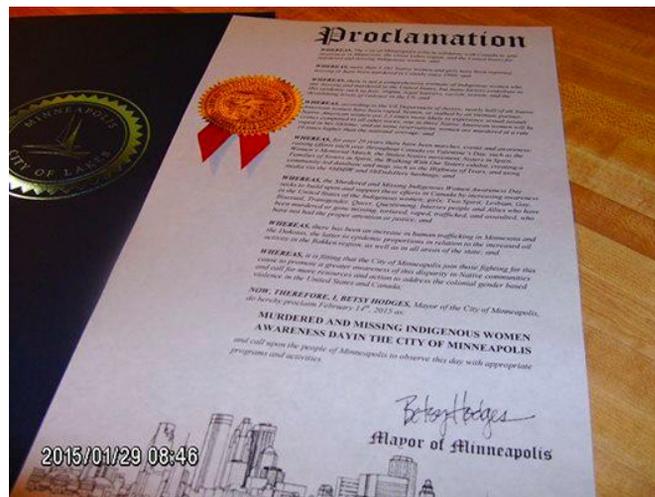
# SING OUR RIVERS RED PROCLAMATIONS

- Mayors from Fargo and West Fargo, ND and Moorhead and Dilworth, MN
- Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women's Awareness Day- Friday, February 14, 2015



# SING OUR RIVERS RED PROCLAMATIONS

- Betsy Hodges, Mayor of Minneapolis, MN
- Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women's Awareness Day- Friday, February 14, 2015



# SING OUR RIVERS RED PROCLAMATIONS

- Michael Hancock, Mayor of Denver, CO
- Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women Awareness Day- Friday, February 14, 2015



**WHEREAS**, more than 1,182 Native women and girls have been reported missing or have been murdered in Canada since 1982; and

**WHEREAS**, there is not a comprehensive estimate of Indigenous women who are missing or murdered in the United States, and there are many factors which contribute to this epidemic, including fear, stigma, legal barriers, racism and sexism; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the United States Department of Justice, Native American women are 2.5 times more likely to experience sexual assault crimes compared to all other races; 1 in 3 will be raped in their lifetime, and on some reservations, women are murdered at a rate 10 times higher than the national average; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States and Canada seek to build upon and support efforts to increase awareness of Native American women and girls, the Spirit, LIBERATION, people and allies who are faced with these atrocities and seek community justice; and

**WHEREAS**, the City and County of Denver joins the Denver American Indian Commission and other stakeholders in promoting greater awareness of this growing violence against women and girls crisis.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL R. HANCOCK, MAYOR of the City and County of Denver, Colorado, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby officially proclaim **FEBRUARY 14, 2015** to be known as:

**"MURDERED AND MISSING INDIGENOUS WOMEN AWARENESS DAY"**



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the City and County of Denver to be affixed this 14<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2015.

*[Signature]*  
MICHAEL R. HANCOCK  
MAYOR



# SING OUR RIVERS RED PROCLAMATIONS

- John Engen, Mayor
- Missoula, MT
- Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women's Awareness Day: March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Missoula joins with Canada to spur awareness in Montana, the Great Plains region, and the United States for murdered and missing Indigenous women; and

**WHEREAS**, there is not a comprehensive estimate of Indigenous women who are missing and murdered in the United States, but many factors contribute to this epidemic, such as fear, stigma, legal barriers, racism, sexism, and the devastating levels of violence in the U.S.; and

**WHEREAS**, nearly half of all Native American women in the United States have been raped, beaten, or stalked by an intimate partner; they are 2.5 times more likely to experience sexual assault; one in three will be raped in her lifetime; and on some reservations, women are murdered at a rate 10 times higher than the national average; and

**WHEREAS**, for more than 20 years there have been awareness-raising efforts in Canada on Valentine's Day, and the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women Awareness Day seeks to build support by increasing awareness in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, there has been an increase in human trafficking in Montana due to the increased oil activity in the Bakken region, as well as in all areas of the state.

NOW THEREFORE, I, John Engen, Mayor of Missoula, Montana do hereby proclaim March 13, 2015 as:

**MURDERED AND MISSING INDIGENOUS WOMEN AWARENESS DAY**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the great seal of the City of Missoula, in the State of Montana, to be affixed at Missoula, Montana, this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March, in the year two thousand fifteen.

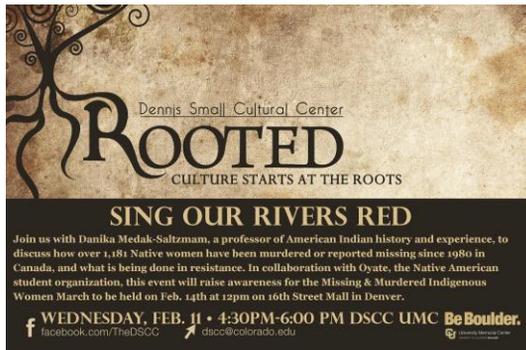


*[Signature]*  
John Engen  
Mayor



## SORRING WITH US

- SORR/MMIW Events Across the Country
  - Boulder, CO Talk: February 11<sup>th</sup>
  - Denver, CO March: February 14<sup>th</sup>
  - Minneapolis, MN March: February 14<sup>th</sup>
  - Albuquerque, NM March: March 5<sup>th</sup>



## WHERE DO WE SORR FROM HERE?

- <https://singourriversred.wordpress.com/ear-ring-exhibit/>
- Art Exhibit Locations
  - University of Colorado- Denver
  - Albuquerque, NM (tentative)
  - Boston, MA (tentative)
  - Southern Ute Reservation (tentative)
  - Cornell University- New York (tentative)
  - University of Utah (tentative)
  - University of Montana (tentative)
  - University of Nebraska (tentative)
  - Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition (tentative)
- Sewing Circles
  - Southern Ute (tentative)
  - Rosebud Reservation (tentative)
  - Indigenous Student Support Services, London ON



# WHERE DO WE SORR FROM HERE?

- **Soliciting Further Action**

- Annual SORR/MMIW Awareness events
- Create/join a coalition
- Volunteer at your local shelter/community organization
- Advocate for Statewide or National MMIW Awareness Day
- Discuss needs with local officials
- Hold community meetings & outreach
- Assess local resources available to local Indigenous women, girls, Two-Spirited and LGBTQIA People
- Other Suggestions?

- **Love Letters to the Lost**

- Send in letters to [singourriversred@gmail.com](mailto:singourriversred@gmail.com)

- **MMIW Community Toolkit**

- Artwork, stories, pictures, poems, songs, graphics, discussion questions, sample activities, proclamation template, program template, flyer template



## MMIW ARTICLES

**WOMEN AT THE CENTER**

About | Issues | Toolkit

Follow @

**Journey For Our Existence; A Movement For Justice and Protection of Native Women**

Posted February 19, 2015 by [Jade Begay](#) & filed under [Blog](#).

All over North America, Indigenous women are rising. Marching, organizing and coming up with incredibly brave and creative actions on behalf of the earth, our ancestors' legacy and on behalf of future generations.



**Indian Country**  
TODAY MEDIA NETWORK.com

A Love Letter to Jenna Lynne, One of the Missing and Murdered Women of Canada

**TESSA MCLEAN** | 2/13/15

**THE BLOG**

Featuring fresh takes and real-time analysis from HuffPost's signature lineup of contributors

**Craig and Marc Kielburger** ▾ Become a fan

Co-Founders, Free The Children

✉ | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#)

**Human Trafficking Is Part of the Story of Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women**

Posted: 02/19/2015 12:24 pm EST | Updated: 02/19/2015 12:59 pm EST



# SING OUR RIVERS RED CONNECTIONS

- Website: <https://singourriversred.wordpress.com/>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/singourriversred>
- Twitter: <https://www.twitter.com/singourrivers>
- Email: [singourriversred@gmail.com](mailto:singourriversred@gmail.com)



## SUMMARY OF STRATEGIES

- Online social and community campaign coupled with local activities
- Ability for people to contribute
- Utilizing various forms of media and outlets
- Including traditions, culture and spirituality
- Involving various segments of the population
- Bringing in various perspectives
- Focusing on services, policy, education and research
- What do you take away from this?



# QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? AHE'HEE!

Hannabah Blue, MSPH  
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American Indian Public Health Resource Center

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