

Memo # 3

Date: September 23, 2016

To: Executive/Members

From: Kent MacDonald, President

Re: **Sisters in Spirit National Day of Vigils; Closing the Gender Gap at Brescia**

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### **Sisters in Spirit National Day of Vigils to Remember Murdered and Missing Aboriginal Women - October 4th**

On October 4th across Canada, families of missing and murdered Aboriginal women are being joined by supporters from all walks of life to honour the lives of sisters, daughters, mothers and grandmothers tragically taken from us – and to demand action. Along with a wide range of Indigenous peoples' organizations, human rights groups, labour unions and faith communities continue to call for a comprehensive national action plan to stop violence against women. *Sisters in Spirit* vigils have become a movement for social change and a reminder that our sisters will not be forgotten. The Ontario Federation of Labour is proud to be part of this movement. The OFL is urging unions across Ontario to support their community Sister in Spirit Vigil. We are calling on our members to continue to take action by supporting or hosting a vigil in solidarity and collaboration with Aboriginal women in your community.

**Barrie – A gathering to honour our missing and murdered sisters, drumming, singing and candlelight vigil at the Barrie Native Friendship Centre on October 4th from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.**

**Toronto – Cedar tree planting, candlelight vigil, Moment of Silence & painted rocks assembly at Allen Gardens on October 4th from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.**

### **Closing the Gender Gap at Brescia**

Brescia is Canada's only women's university and 72 per cent of full-time faculty at Brescia are women, while the average salary is the second lowest of any university faculty in the province. This is a great opportunity for all of us to not only bring attention to bargaining at Brescia, but also to support the province-wide effort to eliminate the gender wage gap everywhere.

To put pressure on the employer to settle in upcoming conciliation, the Brescia Faculty Association is asking for your assistance in circulating the letter as broadly as possible. To sign the letter, individuals simply need to follow the link, enter their name, e-mail address and organization, and hit submit. The letter is available here:

<http://www.bresciafacultyassociation.ca/letter-campaign-show-your-support/>.

**If you have any concerns, please contact the Unit office at 705-733-9625 or 1 800 558 4815  
Thank you for sharing this information with OECTA members.**