

Anglican Church Bells Draw Attention to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

It takes approximately one hour to toll a church bell 1,181 times.

Bells at many Anglican cathedrals and parish churches across Canada will toll to draw attention to the crisis of 1,181 missing and murdered Indigenous women. On three successive Wednesdays (June 3, 10 and 17), participating churches will begin tolling their bells at 2:00 pm local time. Taking account of Canada's five time zones, bells will ring for approximately five and one half hours, beginning in Newfoundland and ending in British Columbia.

"Historically, church bells were used to alert a community to an emergency," according to the Very Reverend Mike Sinclair of Regina's St. Paul's Cathedral. "Surely 1,181 missing and murdered women is an emergency."

The initiative is part of a 22 days of prayer and renewal marking the end of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission which addressed the troubled legacy of Indian Residential Schools. The 22 day period extends from the last day of the Commission on May 31, 2015 to National Aboriginal Day on June 21, 2015. Other initiatives include:

- listening to the stories of residential school survivors;
- praying for survivors and others affected by residential schools;
- sharing individual stories of learning and witness.

At St. Paul's, Charlottetown, the Carillon will ring at **2pm on June 3rd and June 17th**. **On Wednesday June 10th**, members of the public are invited to join with parishioners to ring hand bells outside the church, located at the corners of Church and Grafton Streets. Participants are invited to bring their own bells, or a bell will be provided.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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See also: 22days.ca