

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

'Walking With Our Sisters' Coming to Algoma U in May

Memorial for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women to Visit Campus May 5-18

(SAULT STE. MARIE, ON – April 14, 2013): The Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre (SRSC) and Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig (SKG) will be hosting "Walking With Our Sisters" (WWOS) at Algoma University from May 5th until May 18th.

"Walking With Our Sisters" is a travelling art exhibit for missing and murdered Indigenous women set to visit 31 different locations in North America over the next six years. The exhibit features 1,726 pairs of moccasin tops – or vamps – that have been created by 1,372 individuals to pay respect and honour the lives and existence of the missing and murdered Indigenous women in North America. Each pair of moccasins represents one missing or murdered woman. According to the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC), there are an over 600 Indigenous women and girls missing and murdered in Canada over the last 20 years.

"Our Centre is thrilled to be able to bring WWOS to Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma University as part of our programming. It's such an important and essential issue and this initiative is one of the most beautiful and meaningful memorial projects I've ever seen. Along with Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig, we are honoured to host this exhibit along with the many Residential Schools Survivors we work with daily," said the Director of the Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre, Jonathan Dewar.

"Walking With our Sisters", Sault Ste. Marie is made possible in part through the SRSC's Healing and Reconciliation through Education programming, generously funded by the Aboriginal Healing Foundation.

Prior to the opening of the event, the SRSC in partnership with the Art Gallery of Algoma (AGA), held the "Second Community Conversation" about the project on April 9 from 7-8:30pm at the AGA.

For more information on the exhibition or Upcoming Community Conversations, please contact SRSC staff at ShingwaukDG@algonau.ca.

All events are free and open to the public.

About Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre

The Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre is a cross-cultural research and educational development project of Algoma University, the Children of Shingwauk Alumni Association, and the National Residential School Survivor Society. Shortly after the closure in 1970 of the Shingwauk Indian Residential School, and in the early years of Algoma University College's relocation to the present site, Residential School Survivors connected to the Shingwauk School, their families and communities, and their allies were catalysts in the growing Healing Movement, culminating in the introduction of the original Shingwauk Project in 1979 and the 1981 Shingwauk Reunion. From these watershed events began the decades-long work of collecting, organizing and displaying photographs and other Residential School materials, conducting research, and educating the public that led to the establishment of the Children of Shingwauk Alumni Association and the Shingwauk Project, now known as the Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre, respectively. For more information, please visit www.shingwauk.org or contact Jonathan Dewar, or Krista McCracken, Research & Curator at 705-949-2301, Ext. 4623.

About Algoma University

Algoma University offers a wide variety of liberal arts and sciences degree options including programs in Psychology, Computer Science, Business Administration, Fine Arts, Community Economic & Social Development, and Biology in Sault Ste. Marie, St. Thomas, Brampton and Timmins. As a partner with Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig, Algoma U is committed to respecting Anishinaabe knowledge and culture. Algoma University has launched its Essential Elements Campaign to expand its campus and offer more scholarships and awards to students. To learn more about Algoma University, visit www.algonau.ca.

Media Contact

Meaghan Smith, M.A.

Communications Writer

Algoma University

705.949.2301, Ext. 4121

705-971-2227

meaghan.smith@algonau.ca