

Walk a Mile in Her Shoes

Saturday, May 26

[AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY]

Good morning everyone. It is great to be here with you, to celebrate a wonderful initiative, Walk a Mile in Her Shoes.

I want to take a moment to recognize the organizers of the walk, Women in Crisis. Thank you to Women in Crisis for the great work you are doing in Sault Ste. Marie, and thank you to all of the volunteers who worked hard to ensure everyone here today has an enjoyable experience.

I also want to recognize the local firefighters, police officers and bikers rights organization members who are in taking part in today's walk. Your participation, and the participation of all attendees is sending a powerful message and supporting efforts to end violence against women and children.

Grave injustices committed toward women and children through acts of domestic and sexual violence in this community and its surrounding area occur far too often, and it is important for the community as a whole to speak out against these actions, and stand with the survivors.

Women in Crisis works tirelessly to provide support for the women and children of our community and local area as they flee domestic violence and work to start their lives fresh and violence free.

To Women in Crisis staff and volunteers in attendance here today: the importance of the time, the effort and the energy you have committed and continue to commit cannot be overstated. The work you do needs to be recognized, and I am glad this event provides an opportunity to do so.

I am also hopeful Walk a Mile in Her Shoes will advance the conversation around addressing and preventing violence against women and children.

Through engagement and discussion, we can create a community that stands in support of a violence free life for all women and children.

Working together for the betterment of our community is a responsibility we all share, and it's a duty not to be taken lightly.

I believe that the best way to effect change and to prevent violence is to work with others to change society. Together, we will make a difference.

Thank you.