



OKÏSIKOW (ANGEL) WAY

What is Okisikow Way?

The national initiative began in 2007 when Elisapee Sheutlapik, Mayor of Iqaluit, and the Iqaluit City Council, voted to name a road where the Qimaavik Women's Shelter is located – Angel Street. Edmonton was one of the first major cities in Canada to show support for Iqaluit's initiative, by naming a street, Okisikow (Angel) Way. Originally taken up by City Councillor, Karen Leibovici, along with Karen MacKenzie, an Indigenous business woman and member of Aboriginal Professional Women's Association; Kate Quinn, the Centre to End all Sexual Exploitation (CEASE); April Eve Wiberg, Stolen Sisters and Brothers Action Movement, and Gloria Neapetung, Indigenous artist, and sister. Edmonton's Okisikow Way was unveiled on June 14, 2011, with a blessing by Mini Freeman, Inuk Elder and author.

*Co-hosted by Centre to End All Sexual Exploitation (CEASE)
and Stolen Sisters & Brothers Action Movement (SSBAM)*

For more information, email okisikowangelway@gmail.com.

Who is it for?

Okisikow Way honours All Women and Gender Diverse People who have experienced violence and those who continue to suffer along with their families. Gender-based violence continues to impact the lives of women, gender diverse, and children from all walks of life and from all communities.

Where are we going?

Together, we will work to create a place where victims of gender-based violence and their families can find support and shelter. Everyone can play a role in Okisikow Way.

Edmonton



Gloria Neapetung

Artist, Street Survivor & Social Activist
1970 - 2016

Gloria Neapetung was born in 1970 in Porcupine Plains, Saskatchewan. She was a member of the Treaty 4 Yellow Quill First Nation, and was raised in the area of Wynyard, Saskatchewan. Gloria learned to survive on her own from the young age of 13 years old. Gloria is survived by six children, all of whom she loved very much.

Gloria served three and a half years in a federal women's prison. While incarcerated she discovered she was a talented artist, creating murals, sketches, paintings, beadings, as well as working in leather and sculpting. After leaving the institution, Gloria became actively involved in several social justice movements, such as Amnesty International, the Edmonton Sisters in Spirit Vigils and the Edmonton Stolen Sisters and Brothers Awareness Walks. Ms. Neapetung's artwork has been widely used by such organizations as Amnesty International, the Canadian Federal Penitentiaries, and the Edmonton Institute for Women.

One of her best known local works is the sign blade she designed in 2011 for Edmonton's Okisikow (Angel) Way, located on 101A Avenue between 96 and 97 Street. This was a collaborative violence awareness and prevention project with The City of Edmonton/ City of Edmonton naming committee, the Aboriginal Women's Professional Association (AWPA), the Centre to End All Sexual Exploitation (CEASE) and Stolen Sisters & Brothers Awareness Movement (SSBAM).

Very dear to Gloria's heart, Edmonton's Okisikow (Angel) Way is one of five in Canada honouring all women and gender diverse people who have experienced violence. The City of Edmonton has declared June 14th as Okisikow Way Day.