



# OKÏSIKOW (ANGEL) WAY

## What is Okisikow (Angel) Way?

The national initiative began in 2007 when Elisapee Sheutiapik, 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 (Angel) Way was unveiled on June 14, 2011, with a blessing by Mini Freeman, Inuk Elder and author.

## 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 (Angel) Way.**

## Who is it for?

Okisikow (Angel) 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 people, and children from all walks of life and from all communities.

In March 2024, the City of Edmonton's Naming Committee unanimously approved the name change of 101A Avenue, between 96 Street and 97 Street, from the honorary name "Okisikow (Angel) Way" to "Okisikow Way NW", an official street name and civic address. This name reminds Edmontonians that victims of violence and their families need safe spaces that provide shelter, support, and services.

Co-hosted by CEASE – Centre to Empower All Survivors of Exploitation & Trafficking and Stolen Sisters and Brothers Action Movement (SSBAM) and Ociciwan Contemporary Art Centre.

For more information, email [okisikowangelway@gmail.com](mailto:okisikowangelway@gmail.com)

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), CEASE - Centre to Empower All Survivors of Exploitation & Trafficking and Stolen Sisters and Brothers Action Movement (SSBAM).

**Very dear to Gloria's heart, Edmonton's Okisikow (Angel) Way honours all women and gender diverse people who have experienced violence.**