DRAFT: Media Release

For Immediate Release

First Annual Day of Healing

(Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation, November 17, 2021) - "The Power of Collaboration" is the theme of Victims and Survivors of Crime Week, taking place across Canada from November 14 to 20th, 2021. Victims and Survivors of Crime Week is held to raise awareness about issues facing victims and survivors of crime and the services, programs, and laws in place to help them and their families. The Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation’s Mental Health Team and Victim Services of Renfrew County Inc. are proud to be working in collaboration to host an event to commemorate the week in our community.

“The Victims and Survivors of Crime Week is an important event for our community because it provides an opportunity to raise awareness that crimes are committed against individuals in disproportionate numbers and the strength and resiliency of Survivors to overcome what has happened to them against their will”, said Lisa Oegema, Anti-Human Trafficking Program Manager, Victim Services of Renfrew County Inc. Community Justice Worker, Chrystal Toop further offers “It is important to recognize the historical and present day, compounded impacts of crime and violence for racialized community members, such as those who belong to Pikwakanagan First Nation and others living throughout Renfrew County.”

The Mental Health Team of the Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation and Victim Services of Renfrew County Inc. are working in collaboration this year to honour and commemorate Victims and Survivors of Crime Week with a first annual Day of Healing, to be held virtually on Wednesday, November 17th. This Day of Healing will bring together individual community members and feature both western and traditional holistic services to build and reinforce strength within the Victim/Survivor community. Using the Seven Grandfather Teachings, this collaborative event will build community and resilience by offering traditional knowledge while increasing awareness of support services. This will be a one-day virtual event. Registration is required. Registration forms can be found at algonquinsofpikwakanagan.com or victimservicesrenfrewcouty.ca and submitted to: justice.mhs@pikwakanagan.ca

The first 100 registrants will receive a complimentary swag bag and bundle for the Day of Healing Event.

This event was funded by the Victims Fund, a grants and contributions program administered by the Department of Justice Canada. Funds are available to provinces, territories and non-governmental organizations for programs and services that give victims and survivors of crime a more effective voice in the criminal justice system. For more information about the Victims Fund, please visit: <http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/cj-jp/victims-victimes/>

For more information on Victims and Survivors of Crime Week, visit: [www.victimsweek.gc.ca](http://www.victimsweek.gc.ca/).

-30-