

Elder Fred Johnson designed commitment stick to signify the sacred responsibility we have for Indigenous women and girls.

A Vision for BC First Nations



Esk'etemc vision is that we strive to stand with dignity before our Elders and children that will not allow another generation of our women and children fall victim to a cycle of violence and abuse.

— Chief Charlene Belleau,
Esk'etemc First Nation

Esk'etemc mobilizing local, regional and provincial organizations to stop violence against Aboriginal Women

- ✓ 2015 Esk'etemc men pledged to stop violence against Indigenous women and girls;
- ✓ 2015 Esk'etemc asked Hereditary Chiefs & Chiefs to pick up a commitment stick to live violent free and stop violence against Indigenous women and girls;

#VIOLENCESTOPSWITHME

COMMITMENT STICK INITIATIVE
TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

AN EVENT PROMOTION GUIDE FOR FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERS



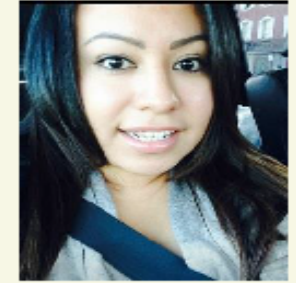
Murdered & Missing Indigenous Women & Girls is a Leadership and community responsibility.

- ✓ **There are many agreements between governments, organizations nationally, regionally and locally to live violent free and stop violence against Indigenous Women and Girls;**
- ✓ **There are annual vigils and marches for Murdered & Missing;**
- ✓ **The Murdered and Missing Commission of Inquiry will soon start;**
- ✓ **It is like nothing has changed, daily, weekly we are losing loved ones;**
- ✓ **Words or signatures alone will not protect or find our Indigenous women and girls, we must act;**
- ✓ **Esk'etemc want to share initiatives that are simple and practical, action!**
- ✓ **In 2016, we asked Leaders at Gathering Wisdom to pick up a commitment stick.**

Search for Caitlin Brandy Potts June 7, 2016 in Secwepemc Territory

RCMP File # 2016-3769

Grand Chief, Chiefs, and Leadership Community Search For CAITLIN POTTS



Tuesday, June 7, 2016

Schedule of Activities:

- 8:00 am Ceremony @ Splatsin Community Center,
Enderby, BC
- 9:00 am Press Conference
- Priscilla Potts - mother of CAITLIN POTTS
 - Kukpi7 Wayne Christian, Splatsin
 - Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, UBCIC
 - Grand Chief Doug Kelly, First Nations Health Council
- 10:00 am Search plan and schedule for CAITLIN POTTS
- 5:00 pm Debrief & Feast, Splatsin Community Centre, Enderby, BC.

For more information:
Chief Charlene Belleau

250-440-5611 (W) or 250-305-8784 (C), charleneb@esketemc.ca

OR

Irene Johnson - Mental Health Worker
250-440-5651 (W)



Everyone welcome to assist and support.

Meals for the day will be provided.

Caitlin is described as:

- approximately 5' 3"/ 160 cm
- 150 lb/68 kg
- brown eyes
- long black hair with blonde streaks

"Help us find Caitlin"

Please call the Vernon/North
Okanagan RCMP at

(250) 545-7171



Media Reports

- **FEBRUARY 22, 2016** was the last contact friends and family had with Caitlin Potts.
- Caitlin was reported missing to the Vernon/North Okanagan RCMP on March 1st, 2016.
- Caitlin is originally from Alberta but had moved to British Columbia in the fall of 2015.

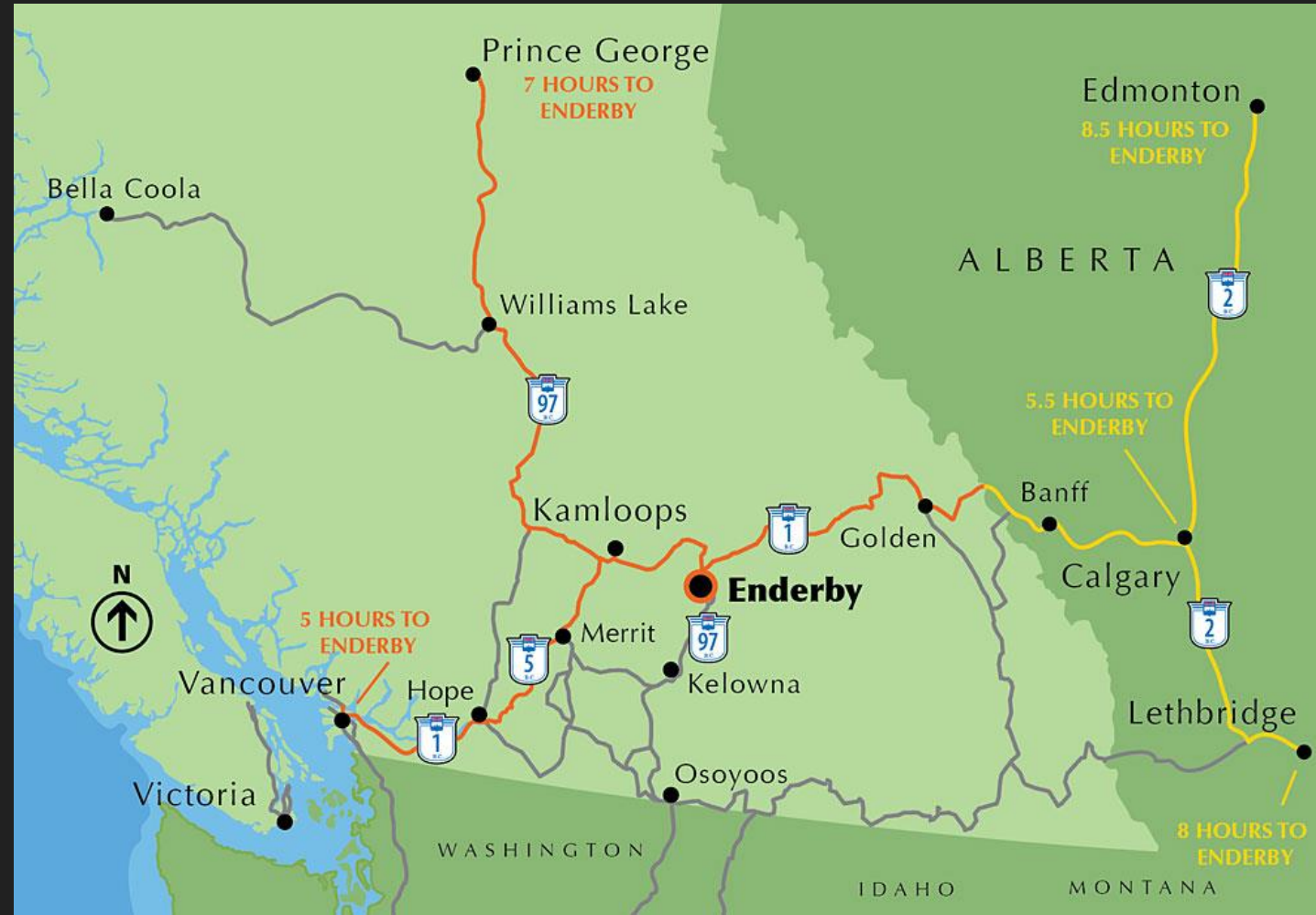


Caitlin with sisters Ashley and Codi.

Search for Caitlin Potts

Coordinated

- Outline search concept and plan searches on maps;
- Simplify Search & Rescue Training for regions;
- Establish simple volunteer research;
- Coordinate supplies required;
- Debrief every search.



Recent ceremony and searches locally



Esk'etemc organized search teams for Amy Char September 28, 2016 as well as facilitated a ceremony October 11, 2016 in conjunction with Xeni Gwet'in Chief Roger Williams for missing Jackie Bob from Esk'etemc.



CHAR is described as

- Aboriginal
- 160 cm
- 45 kgs
- Black Shoulder length hair
- Brown eyes

What we can do....

**SEPTEMBER 20, 2017
REGIONAL AND
PROVINCIAL
SEARCHES**

- ✓ Schedule September 20 every year where we search our local roads;
- ✓ Become familiar within our own regions who is missing or murdered, including men;
- ✓ Team up with local organizations to assist with the search, eg Search & Rescue, police;
- ✓ Coordinate regional health supports for families of missing persons;
- ✓ Encourage and support our own members to speak about what they know.

Regional Caucus Presentations

Establish

**September 20
as a Day of
Search**

8:00 – 5:00 pm

- **FRASER SALISH CAUCUS – MAY 10**
- **INTERIOR CAUCUS – MAY 16**
- **VANCOUVER COASTAL – JUNE 1**
- **VANCOUVER ISLAND – JUNE 14**

Blueberry River First Nation Director of Community Services Tammy Baskin explains the Commitment Stick ceremony to participants in a workshop on ending violence against women.

Youth Brenden Nosky and Elder May Apsassin cut a cake together after the Commitment Stick ceremony. - Aleisha Hendry Photos



Commitment Stick Pledge and commitment....

- We will respect and honour our sacred teachings of the unique role of Indigenous women and girls;
- We acknowledge that lateral, domestic or any form of violence is not acceptable;
- Stopping violence starts with me...I am strong, resilient and courageous...I will heal and lift my family and community up and be a strong Warrior;
- We acknowledge that if we do not stand up against violence we are condoning it through our silence and inactions; as such, ...we commit to standing up to end violence against Indigenous women and girls and call on all political, organizational and community leadership everywhere to join us.”