



Ontario Native Women's Association

Media Release

October 24, 2011

Re: Ontario Native Women's Association Announces 3rd Annual Poetry Contest

For Immediate Release

Ontario – The Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA) launched its third annual Poetry Contest today to help raise awareness about violence against Aboriginal women and the impact it has on families. This contest is being sponsored by ONWA in support of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, which is November 25th, 2011.

The contest is open to all residents of Ontario and the deadline for submissions is 4:00 pm on Tuesday, November 23, 2011. Poetry submissions must be related to Aboriginal Women and Family Violence; must be less than 30 lines; and must not have been previously published.

The chosen poem will be read at the "ONWA Open Mic Night" held on November 25th, 2011 in Thunder Bay, Ontario. The winner will also receive a \$100 Gift Card to Chapters. All 2011 submissions will be compiled into a collection to be shared with participants, other organizations and the general public to continue to raise awareness of Violence against Aboriginal Women.

Participation in this contest has increased each year - last year ONWA received over 40 submissions. This year ONWA is hoping to see participation double and therefore, everyone is encouraged to enter. For more information or to obtain an entry form, please visit ONWA's website at www.onwa-tbay.ca.

Betty Kennedy, Executive Director of ONWA says, "The level of violence against Aboriginal women and girls is pervasive and is an issue that should no longer be tolerated by society. By continuing to raise awareness about this important issue, we can work to end the silence against violence and continue to work towards eliminating it."

The Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA) is a not for profit organization that empowers and supports Aboriginal women and their families in the province of Ontario.