Birchway NIAGARA

Allied against abuse.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NIAGARA COMMUNITIES TO RAISE WRAPPED IN COURAGE FLAGS ON NOVEMBER 25 TO BEGIN 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

SOUTH NIAGARA, ON, November 18, 2026 – Birchway Niagara and the Canadian Federation of University Women Welland and District invite residents and local media to join their communities on Wednesday, November 25, as Niagara Region and six South Niagara municipalities raise purple Wrapped in Courage flags. The ceremonies will take place throughout South Niagara to show people experiencing abuse that they are not alone.

The flag raisings mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and the start of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. This global campaign runs until December 10, Human Rights Day. In Niagara, residents can also visit red dress installations honouring missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and attend vigils hosted by local organizations.

Wednesday, November 25 | Wrapped in Courage flag raisings

9 a.m. Port Colborne – City Hall, 66 Charlotte St.

11 a.m. Niagara Region – Regional Headquarters, 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way

1 p.m. Niagara Falls – City Hall, 4310 Queen St.

1 p.m. Pelham – Meridian Community Centre, 100 Meridian Way, Fonthill

2 p.m. Wainfleet – Town Hall, 31940 Highway 3

2:30 p.m. Fort Erie – Town Hall, 1 Municipal Centre Dr.

2:30 p.m. Welland – City Hall, 60 East Main St.

Also on November 25, the **Pelham Arches** will glow purple to mark the start of the 16 Days. In **Welland**, Bridge 13 will glow orange beginning at dusk in recognition of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

November 25 to December 10 | Red dress installations

The Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) Welland and District will display red dresses in tribute to missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. Inspired by the work of Métis artist Jaime Black, the installations will be seen at

Wainfleet Library, Wainfleet Town Hall and the Meridian Community Centre in Fonthill, as well as outdoors in Ridgeville and Fenwick.

In a report released November 10, Statistics Canada found that the national rate of police-reported intimate partner violence in 2025 was the highest recorded since comparable data became available in 2009. Of the 133,256 people who experienced intimate partner violence reported to police, 78 per cent were women and girls. Many people face barriers to reporting abuse, so these figures capture only part of what survivors experience.

Birchway Niagara encourages local media to share these events to raise awareness and help people in South Niagara find support. Anyone experiencing abuse, or concerned about someone they know, can call or text Birchway Niagara's 24-hour support line at **905-356-5800**.

Any updates to events will be shared at birchway.ca/events/detail/woman-abuse-prevention-month.

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For media inquiries or additional information, please contact:

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About Birchway Niagara

Birchway Niagara provides safe shelter and support services to individuals experiencing abuse in South Niagara. Services include emergency shelter, a 24-hour support line, counselling, legal advocacy, housing support, child and youth services, outreach and after-care, Men's Support Services as well as prevention and public education programs. Birchway Niagara operates a 45-bed emergency shelter, with 15 of those beds funded entirely through community support. Birchway Niagara envisions a community without abuse and engages individuals and organizations to become allies against abuse to break the cycle of violence for all individuals regardless of race, gender, age, or economic status.

For more information, visit birchway.ca.