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## For immediate release

### #PRESSFORPROGRESS International Women's Day Annual Community Gathering

**PETERBOROUGH, ON – Monday, Mar 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019** – Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre and the Kawartha World Issues Centre are once again cohosting a dynamic and interactive evening for International Women's Day. Taking place at Seeds of Change (in George Street United Church, 534 George St. N.) on Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The event doors open at 5:00pm for an evening of community potluck, music, speakers, solidarity, and celebration. This is a free, inclusive, family-friendly event to celebrate those who would like to be honoured as women.

This year's local International Women's Day event will explore:

- 1) What does "progress" look like for women today?
- 2) What opportunities and challenges do you see for women in 2019?
- 3) What actions do you believe need to occur to address women's issues and gender equity in 2019?

Peterborough is excited to welcome an incredible panel of women to speak on their experiences of progress and resilience:

- Alexandra Arraiz Matute is a Trent University professor in the fields of Sociocultural Theories of Human Development; Indigenous, Environmental, and Sustainability Education; and Aboriginal Studies
- Roshanak Jaberi is an Iranian-Canadian artist and activist based in Toronto who connects dance with political issues, such as gender and race injustices and is presenting in partnership with Public Energy
- Stacey Love-Jolicoeur is a 2-spirited trans-Aboriginal person, educator, and support worker for LGBTQ2S, especially for those incarcerated

Special guests include: Chief Laurie Carr of Hiawatha First Nation, Chief Phyllis Williams of Curve Lake First Nation, Member of Parliament Maryam Monsef, researcher, advocate, and Indigenous student Tonya Leah-Watts, published writer and associate professor Karleen Pendleton Jimenez, the Raging Grannies, and Artist Jeannine LaPlante.

*"Women are resilient and advocate for their rights and safety everyday in our community. We want to create a space to empower, inspire and welcome."* explains Lisa Clarke, Executive Director of the Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre.

*"This event is largely volunteer driven each year, and it amazes us how our community comes together with a delicious free meal, celebration of diversity, and deep discussion to celebrate women. Our organizations are so thankful to our volunteers, attendees, and sponsors!"* says Julie Cosgrove, Executive Director of the Kawartha World Issues Centre.

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Media friends are invited to join us! For more information, please contact Julie Cosgrove, Kawartha World Issues Centre: 705-748-1680 or julie@kwic.info.