

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Twenty-Seven Men Don Red High-Heeled Shoes To Raise \$4,850 For Howe Sound Women's Centre Society**

SQUAMISH, BC (September 25, 2017) Twenty-seven men marched through Cleveland Avenue in red high-heeled shoes on Saturday, September 23 as part of Howe Sound Women's Centre Society's (HSWC) 9<sup>th</sup> annual Walk a Mile in Her Shoes® event. The event engages men and boys as allies in violence prevention, providing an opportunity for them to step into this role in a visible and meaningful way. In addition, their collective efforts raised \$4,850 in support of the Squamish Drop-In Centre. Last year, the Squamish Women's Drop-In Centre drew 2,120 visits from women seeking emotional & practical support, referrals, access to resources, and community connection

"It is truly inspiring to have so many men come out to support the Walk a Mile In Her Shoes event year after year," says Megan Reynolds, executive director of Howe Sound Women's Centre Society. "It takes courage for so many of these men to wear high-heeled shoes in public, but they do it because they believe women and girls should be able to live free from violence and abuse. Through their actions, they are sending a powerful message to men, women and children everywhere. "

Mayor Patricia Heintzman provided fun coaching tips to the unsteady walkers with the help of HSWC Board Member Tony Horn. Squamish Firefighters, Squamish RCMP Cpl. Morneau, members of Squamish Savings, and Quest students were among those who braved cramped feet and sore calves to participate in the event. Sponsorship support was provided by Squamish Savings a division of Vancity, Coast Mountain Photography, Mountain FM, The Squamish Chief, Galileo Coffee Company, and Backcountry Brewing.

Next year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Walk a Mile In Her Shoes event in Squamish, and HSWC will be inviting more men to walk to show their support for safe and healthy communities, where women and girls are valued, supported, and live free from violence and abuse.

### **About The Howe Sound Women's Centre Society**

The Howe Sound Women's Centre Society is a purpose driven charitable organization that has been serving on the traditional territories of the Squamish and Lil'wat Nations in the Sea to Sky Corridor for 35 years. The Women's Centre is focused on supporting women, children and youth who are in need of emergency shelter, support, referrals and advocacy, and in particular, those who are experiencing high conflict, violence or abuse. The Women's Centre offers emergency housing through Pearl's Place Transition House and Pearl's Safe Home, children and youth focused programs such as Children Who Witness Abuse counselling, Working Through Separation and Divorce counselling, and Violence is Preventable education, multicultural outreach, and health and wellness

programs. We acknowledge and respect the unique needs of Indigenous women and their families given the history and ongoing impacts of colonization and oppression in Canada. The Squamish and Whistler Women's Centres receive over 3,675 visits annually. The Women's Centre also operates Pearl's Value & Vintage, a second hand thrift store selling gently used and vintage goods, with all proceeds from sales supporting Howe Sound Women's Centre Society programs. For more information, visit [www.hswc.ca](http://www.hswc.ca).

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