

A statement from the Indigenous Health Program (IHP)

We express our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Westwind Evening who began her journey into the spirit world on Nov. 13, 2021.

Westwind touched many lives and their spirit as she shared her gifts of knowledge and kindness. She will be deeply missed but not forgotten. Her legacy will carry on.

Rest strong warrior woman!

Biography of Westwind Evening

In a little mud shack on Fishing Lake First Nation in Treaty 4 Territory (otherwise known as Saskatchewan), Westwind Evening was delivered into the arms of her beloved Auntie on the first day of spring in 1955.

She is a member of the Anishnaabe Nation, also known as Saukteaux People. She is a Bear Clan woman, the eldest of seven siblings, mother of two and grandmother of two. She is a second-generation survivor of an Indian Residential School located in the pastoral Saskatchewan Qu'Appelle Valley. She is also a survivor of the Canadian child welfare system otherwise known as the Sixties Scoop.

Westwind left the Great Plains of Turtle Island in the summer of 1982 to further her education, arriving in Ottawa to begin her studies in film theory and criticism at the School for Studies in Art and Culture (Carleton University). In the late 1980s, she joined the Indigenous women's movement as a policy analyst for the Native Women's Association of Canada. She has since dedicated 18 years of her professional life to the cause of justice for Indigenous women, working in the areas of legislation and policy, consultation and negotiation, organizational management, and operation and program development through her affiliation with advocacy groups including Mother of Red Nations Women's Council of Manitoba, Ontario Native Women's Association, Eagle Women's Society of Ottawa, Minwaashin Lodge Aboriginal Women's Support Centre and the Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto.

As a writer, Westwind is on a mission to promote awareness of issues around justice for Indigenous people through the art of storytelling. She is also a master artisan in Indigenous beadwork and creates collections around the common Indigenous experience. Last but not least, Westwind has been sharing and teaching women, youth, IRS Survivors, and others, Indigenous knowledge she gathered during a lifetime of working with Indigenous Elders and Medicine people.



In Honour and Celebration of Westwind Evening (Vivian Young)

(Born March 21, 1955 – passed November 13, 2021)

Saturday, November 27, 2021 – Toronto, Ontario:

Funeral and Passing Ceremony

Rosar-Morrison Funeral Home
467 Sherbourne Street
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

(Anishinaabe Passing Ceremony at
2:30 pm led by Elder Fred Kelly)

Celebration of Life Feast

Celebration venue to be
announced shortly.

5:00 pm to 8:00 pm

The feast will be a catered event.

Westwind cared about family and kinship above all else. She would have wanted to welcome the community at-large to her Passing Ceremony and Celebration of Life Feast.

From November 25 to 28, a Sacred Fire will be ignited for all to visit – site to be announced shortly.

****Please note public health regulations require proof of Covid-19 vaccination in order to attend all memorial events****

Family accepting donations via e-transfer: n.aaswaakshin@gmail.com