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STEPS FOR LIFE RAISES MORE THAN \$22,000
Hundreds walk to support victims of workplace tragedies

WINNIPEG – More than \$22,000 was raised in honour of victims of workplace tragedies on Saturday, May 14, at the 3rd Annual Steps for Life Walk.

Some 250 people turned out for the walk, which was postponed from Sunday, May 1, due to snowy weather and icy paths. They raised over \$12,000 in pledges and donations. All proceeds will go to Threads of Life – the national advocacy and support organization that aims to reduce the impact of workplace tragedy on its victims.

The Honourable Jennifer Howard, Minister of Labour and Immigration, announced a \$10,000 grant to support Threads of Life programming for Manitoba families.

“The Province is committed to supporting families who have lost a loved one in a senseless workplace tragedy,” said Howard. “While the government is taking action to prevent workplace tragedies from happening in the first place, it’s so important to have programs like Threads of Life in place to provide support when the unthinkable happens.”

“It’s great to see such passionate community support for safety on the job and for those affected when things go wrong,” says Judy Murphy, President and CEO of Safety Services Manitoba, one of the local event hosts. “Threads of Life does important work, helping victims of workplace tragedy and spreading the word about occupational safety in the community. The money raised today will make sure those efforts continue.”

Lynda Kolly, whose son Burton Reimer was killed on the job near Gimli in 1999, organized a team of walkers, as she has done every year for the walk. She is encouraged to see the growing support for Threads of Life in Manitoba.

“I didn’t have Threads of Life when Burton died. I know how much they could have helped me because I see how much they help others,” Kolly says. “I feel so strongly that we need to support Threads of Life and make sure it can keep growing and reaching out to families who have lost loved ones.”

Approximately three Canadians died every day as a result of workplace injuries and illness in 2009. Threads of Life funds many programs for victims’ families, including family support programs, peer support, links to community support services, advisory support for investigations and inquests, and injury prevention and awareness initiatives.

Steps for Life took place in 38 communities across Canada this year. In 2010, 28 communities raised more than \$260,000.

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