

TAKE BACK THE NIGHT

presented by PEI Rape & Sexual Assault Centre
as part of

peirsac.org/saaw

SEXUAL
ASSAULT
AWARENESS
WEEK
2025

September 18
6pm - 9pm
The Guild

dance

eat

create

march



TAKE BACK
THE NIGHT



KEEPING EACH OTHER
SAFE & BUILDING A
WORLD FREE FROM VIOLENCE



What is Take Back the Night?

The "Take Back the Night" movement began in the 1970s as a response to public outrage over violence against women, evolving into a global initiative aimed at ending sexual violence and reclaiming public spaces.

PEI Rape & Sexual Assault Centre holds a Take Back the Night event each year as part of Sexual Assault Awareness Week. The event aims to be simultaneously an act of healing and of resistance, especially for survivors. The event aims to bring awareness to and reduce violence in our communities, especially those most impacted by gender-based violence including women, gender-diverse people, Black, Indigenous, racialized, disabled, and 2SLGBTQIA+ communities.

PEIRSAC's 2025 Take Back the Night will be a survivor-centered evening of solidarity, healing, and collective care. This year's theme, "We Keep Each Other Safe: Building a World Free from Violence," encourages us to join together to support survivors, raise awareness, foster connections, strengthen our support networks, and commit to the creation of a world rooted in love, healing, justice, and liberation. In this shared space, we hold each other with love and care, affirming that healing and justice are collective acts.



What's on the agenda?

The event will begin with a grounding prayer and the honouring of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People, which will carry throughout the evening. This will be followed by a survivor-led rally with poetry, songs, and speeches. We'll then take to the streets to make a visible commitment to a world free from violence. Upon returning, we will share a community meal with music, art making, and discussion. The evening will close with the learning and participation of two traditional indigenous dances, the Palestinian Dabke and Mi'kmaq Round Dance, acts of resistance and hope. Throughout the evening, there will be spaces for support, reflection, and connection.

Feel free to drop in at any of the times listed below!

6pm | Welcome & Solidarity Rally (opening prayer, rally, speeches, performances)

7pm | Take Back the Night March (see next page for route)

7:30pm | Roots of Resilience (join us for a bowl of soup, art making, and meaningful community conversation)

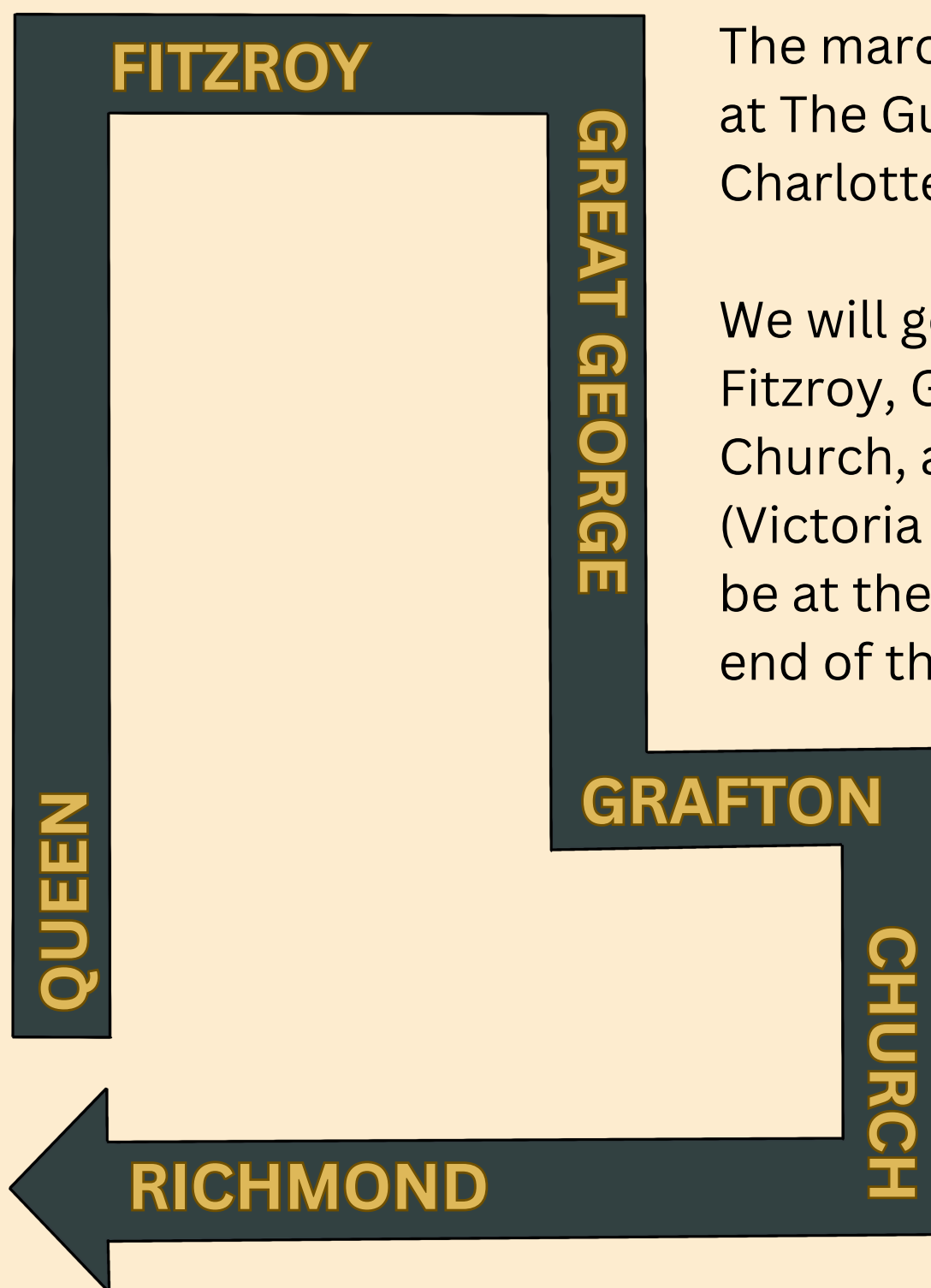
8:10pm | Sacred Movements (learn and participate in the Palestinian Dabke and Mi'kmaq Round Dance)

Note: We invite folks to move through the evening in a way that honors their own capacity and care needs, using the drop-in times listed. The flow of the evening will be shaped by those present, which means that, depending on the pace set by the group, things may run ahead of the posted schedule.

Who can attend?

Everyone, regardless of their gender, is invited to join us in solidarity, support, and healing for those affected, directly or indirectly, by violence. Allies are welcome and encouraged to attend!

What is the march route?



The march will begin and end at The Guild (111 Queen St., Charlottetown).

We will go down Queen, Fitzroy, Great George, Grafton, Church, and then Richmond (Victoria Row). Marshalls will be at the start, middle, and end of the march.

The route is 1.2 kilometers long, and we aim to complete the march in 20-30 minutes.

How will this space prioritize survivor safety while practicing collective care and accountability?

This event is rooted in collective care, harm reduction, justice, and accountability. We will be taking steps to prioritize safety and centring the needs of those most impacted by violence, while recognizing that no space can be entirely free of harm.

If an individual who has perpetrated violence is identified to the coordinator or PEIRSAC staff and the identification happens with the survivor's explicit consent and within a process that prioritizes the survivor's autonomy and well-being, that individual will be informed that they've been named and asked to share their intentions in attending the event.

How things proceed will be addressed on a case-by-case basis, always centering the needs and autonomy of the survivor. This may involve initiating a conversation or engaging in other community-based responses as needed.

We ask all attendees to reflect on what it means to show up in ways that align with accountability and care for the collective. If you are aware that you have committed violence we ask that you carefully consider the impact of your presence and whether it aligns with the purpose of the event. If you are a perpetrator who is committed to learning and accountability, we encourage you to connect with PEIRSAC staff for available educational resources.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact the coordinator at takebackthenight@gmail.com.

How will the event prioritize accessibility?

- The Guild has a wheelchair-accessible entrance, elevator, and washrooms, as well as gender-neutral washrooms.
- The agenda includes suggested drop-in times, allowing you to choose how you'd like to participate in the evening.
- Various levels of engagement are welcomed, and the framework for the portions of the event that welcome conversation will be clearly communicated in advance.
- Emotional support, including therapy and peer support, will be available throughout the event, with a private space dedicated to those seeking assistance.
- A light meal and refreshments will be provided, all of which will be vegan and gluten-free. If you have any allergies or additional dietary restrictions, please let us know. You're also welcome to bring your own food or drinks into the space.
- Masks will be available, modeled, and strongly encouraged.
- HEPA air filters will be used in the space.
- A designated quiet, low-stimulation space will be available.
- Earplugs, fidgets, and art-making resources will be available for creative expression throughout the event.
- Translation services may be available. Please reach out to us in advance if this would be helpful to you.
- March chants will be printed and shared.

Our team is available if you have any other access needs, concerns, or ideas. We encourage you to reach out via email to takebackthenightpei@gmail.com or rachel@peirsac.org.

Are there more ways for me to get involved?

Yes!

If you applied to be a volunteer, Nouhad will be in touch shortly with details on a pre-event meet-up.

We will also be holding a drop-in sign-making event that is open to the public:

Drop-In Sign Making

Tuesday, September 16

6pm - 7:30pm

PEITN (5th floor of the BDC building, 119 Kent St., Suite 510)

