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**Like every day in Canada, another 150 children will be reported missing today**

May 25<sup>th</sup> marks Canada's 24<sup>th</sup> annual National Missing Children's Day

**CALGARY** – Each and every day, over 150 children go missing in Canada. Every child's disappearance leaves a gaping wound in their community, and devastates their family, friends and loved ones. Some children will make the headlines, but most will not. As the trail goes cold, the media and local police inevitably must move on, leaving the searching families to face their pain and anguish - seemingly alone. It is for these families that the [Missing Children Society of Canada](#) (MCSC) was established in 1986. This May 25<sup>th</sup>, National Missing Children's Day, MCSC is inviting all Canadians to join them in marking the day to remember our missing children and their searching families.

“It's frightening to even imagine what it would feel like for a child to be stolen from our lives. How would you manage to face each day, each moment not knowing where your child is?” expressed Amanda Pick, Executive Director with the MCSC and a mother of two. “Our searching families are faced with this difficult reality every single day. Their unimaginable pain drives us to keep the active, front-line search going, and to show them that all of Canada stands by their sides.”

Each May leading up to National Missing Children's Day, MCSC's annual '[Light the Way Home](#)' campaign shows searching families that we all stand with them in their hopeful search. This year, MCSC is inviting the public to **join the country in lighting a candle at 8:00 pm on the evening of May 25th, [National Missing Children's Day](#)**.

“This simple act is a touching way for you and your family to make a personal connection with the hope and commitment we share with searching families everywhere,” explained Pick. “But the exciting part of this year's campaign is the opportunities to also directly show support for our searching families.”

Through MCSC's Facebook page and its website, Canadians can make a personal pledge to light a candle on the evening of May 25<sup>th</sup>, and even **send a personal Message of Hope** to the organization's searching families. Throughout the month of May, MCSC will be collecting the Messages of Hope and tallying the pledges to light a candle with the aim of passing them along to the families of missing children.

“Your hopes, thoughts and prayers, your pledges to light a candle, they will all be gathered and presented to our searching families as a powerful and meaningful show of support,” explained Pick. “I want the families to know they are not alone, that we all stand with them in their search.”

To join the Light the Way Home campaign, go online to [www.mcsc.ca](http://www.mcsc.ca) or visit the Missing Children Society of Canada's page on Facebook.

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**Media Contact:**

Amanda Pick  
Executive Director, MCSC

Phone: 403.291.0705 ext. 222  
Cell: 403.510.6942

*Since 1986, the Missing Children Society of Canada has been reuniting missing children with their searching families through professional investigations, public awareness and family support programs. MCSC's team of former police detectives work closely with law enforcement while conducting frontline, hands-on investigative and search activities.*