

# Fundraiser Takes Centre Stage

## Innovative theatrical production will support Alberta charity

**Calgary, AB** – For ten years after her husband died, Maryanne Pope looked for the right words to share his story, to express the grief, pain, and, ultimately, the strength and inspiration she found in coping with his loss. Now, she hopes her award-winning script will be a saviour for the charity that bears his name.

*Saviour: A 'Tough' Love Story* - a play written by Pope, the widow of Calgary Police Service Const. John Petropoulos - is ready to hit the stage in performances in Calgary and Edmonton this fall. The theatrical production explores the compelling, true-life story of the circumstances that led to John's death and explores the impact on those left behind. Then, it delves deeper, providing a fictional account of what the police officer's own response would have been to such a preventable tragedy.



The John Petropoulos Memorial Fund (JPMF) – a charity committed to first responder safety – is producing the play, which will also serve as a fundraiser for the non-profit organization.

“We are currently seeking sponsors, donors and in-kind supporters for this project, which has been a labour of love for me and something I hope many other people can benefit from,” said Pope, who also authored the book, *A Widow's Awakening*, and serves as the JPMF's Board Chair.

Potential partners should contact JPMF Managing Director Ian Wilson regarding sponsorship benefits.

“Without funding for the project, we won't be able to stage it. That would be unfortunate because not only does it have immense artistic merit, it is also a powerful vehicle for raising public awareness about their role in helping ensure workplaces are safe for *everyone*, including first responders,” said Wilson.

*Saviour* has already received the support of the Calgary Police Association, the Alberta Centre for Injury Control & Research, the Alberta Playwrights Network and Alberta's Justice Minister.

“To be able to share the message of this story with the public as an engaging theatrical performance is a unique and exceptional opportunity. The effort of the JPMF is to be commended,” said Alberta Solicitor General Jonathan Denis. “It is hoped that support will be found for this project, which is an extension of 13 years of work devoted to raising awareness around the responsibilities we all have in creating safe work environments for all Albertans.”

For more info about the JPMF, go to [www.jpmpf.ca](http://www.jpmpf.ca). Media inquiries may be directed to:

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