



## MEDIA ADVISORY/PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

### Community supports families affected by workplace tragedy

VANCOUVER, 30 March 2016 – John Petropoulos, a police officer, died as the result of a preventable fall during the investigation of a break and enter complaint at an unsafe workplace. On May 1, 2016, John’s widow Maryanne Pope will be part of Steps for Life – Walking for Families of Workplace Tragedy in Burnaby. Family and friends affected by workplace injury, illness, and death will walk along with injury prevention champions and labour and business leaders. Metro Vancouver will join 30 other communities across the country in this annual event. All proceeds from Steps for Life events will support families of workplace tragedy through Threads of Life Family Support programs and services.

Pope says, “Being the spokesperson for the Vancouver Steps for Life walk allows me to share my personal experience of losing a loved one as the result of an easily preventable workplace fatality. This day is to honour loved ones as well as raise awareness about the absolute necessity for safe workplaces – because everyone has the right to make it home safely after work.”

**WHAT?** 5K Steps for Life–Walking for Families of Workplace Tragedy fundraising event to help families of workplace tragedy and raise awareness about the national issue of workplace injuries, illnesses and deaths.

Raising pledges and awareness, local companies participate to demonstrate their commitment to health and safety and help support families of workplace tragedy. Visit [stepsforlife.ca/locations](http://stepsforlife.ca/locations) to see which Metro Vancouver business leaders are engaged in the Steps for Life Corporate Challenge.

**WHY?** Every working day, three Canadians die in a workplace fatality, or from a life-altering injury or occupational disease (average fatalities taken from National Work Injury, Disease and Fatality Statistics Publication, Association of Workers’ Compensation Boards of Canada (AWCBC), [www.awcbc.org](http://www.awcbc.org)).

The “ripple effect” of each workplace tragedy extends from the worker affected to their family, friends, co-workers, and the surrounding community.

**WHO?** Threads of Life Family Spokesperson Maryanne Pope.

Family members and friends who have been impacted by workplace tragedies will walk alongside employers, employees, students, representatives from injury prevention organizations and anyone who believes workplace injuries, illnesses and deaths are not an acceptable ‘cost of business’.

**WHEN?** Sunday, May 1, 2016, Registration opens at 9:00 AM; Walk kicks off at approx. 11:00 AM.

**WHERE?** Burnaby Lake Regional Park, West Complex Rugby Field

#### Media Contact

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#### *About Threads of Life*

The Association for Workplace Tragedy Family Support (known as Threads of Life) is currently supporting the healing journey of more than 2,300 family members across Canada who have suffered from a workplace fatality, traumatic life-altering injury, or occupational disease. Charitable organization business #87524 8908 RR0001. Website: [threadsoflife.ca](http://threadsoflife.ca)



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