

# THE Accent

Prince Edward Island Union of Public Sector Employees

## Canada's National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women - December 6, 2011

December 6 is the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women in Canada. Established in 1991 by the Parliament of Canada, this day marks the anniversary of the murders in 1989 of 14 young women at l'École Polytechnique de Montréal. They died because they were women.

As well as commemorating the 14 young women whose lives ended in an act of gender-based violence that shocked the nation, December 6 represents an opportunity for Canadians to reflect on the phenomenon of violence against women in our society. It is also an opportunity to consider the women and girls for whom violence is a daily reality, and to remember those who have died as a result of gender-based violence. And finally, it is a day on which communities can consider concrete actions to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls (*Status of Women Canada*).

## The Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence

The Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence was initiated by the Advisory Council on the Status of Women in 1991 to remember the 14 women who were murdered at L'École Polytechnique in Montreal on December 6, 1989, and to raise awareness about violence against women. This year, in 2011, the PEI Purple Ribbon Campaign looks at access to justice for family law.

The PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women, asks Islanders to wear purple ribbons in remembrance of the 14 women slain at l'École Polytechnique in Montreal and to raise awareness about violence against women and children here on PEI and throughout the world. Every year, hundreds of Island women and children are the victims of violence. The message of the Purple Ribbon Campaign is that this has got to stop. We must remember the 14 young women in Montreal who were murdered because they were women, and we must act to end violence against women and children (*PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women*).



*First Mourn, then  
work for change*

The Accent is an internal publication of the Prince Edward Island Union of Public Sector Employees. Comments, questions, concerns and suggestions should be sent to: Mark Barrett, PEI UPSE Communications and Campaigns Officer, at [mbarrett@peiupse.ca](mailto:mbarrett@peiupse.ca).

Note to members distributing The Accent:

Because the material contained in this publication is often of a time-sensitive nature, please post or distribute it as soon as possible.

*PEI UPSE is proud to represent over 5000 members in the public and private sectors.*

## The purpose of the Purple Ribbon Campaign is to:

- Remember the fourteen women who died in Montreal on December 6, 1989
- Remember all women who have died violently and the many thousands who continue to live with abuse
- Raise awareness about violence against women and children

*(PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women)*

### Why the Colour Purple?

***Purple has long been the colour of the women's movement, beginning with the suffragettes. It's a symbol of pain and suffering but also of power, spirituality, and transformation.***

*(PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women)*

### The Montreal Massacre

In 1989, not everyone was happy that women had greater equality and more opportunity. One man felt it was so unfair that women were allowed to go to engineering school when he had been refused, that he went on a murderous rampage at the school. He shot and killed 14 young women.

This incident became known as the Montreal Massacre and is commemorated each December 6 during the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

*(PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women)*

## Events -2011 Purple Ribbon Campaign

### Memorial Services for Victims of Violence

#### Charlottetown - December 6

Memorial Service & Candle-Lighting  
12 noon, Memorial Hall,  
Confederation Centre of the Arts

More info: 368-4510

En francais : Candle-Lighting for Victims of Violence

7:00 pm, Carrefour Community Centre,  
Charlottetown

More info: 368-1895, ext 221

#### Summerside - December 6

Memorial Service In English  
12:00 noon  
Trinity United Church, next to Memorial Square  
90 Spring Street, Summerside  
Refreshments served

More info: (902) 436-9856

#### O'Leary - December 6

Candle-lighting for Victims of Violence  
12 noon, O'Leary United Church

More info:  
(902) 859-8849



PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND  
Advisory Council on the Status of  
**WOMEN**

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