

# **National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women**

**December 6, 2017**

*Steward Speaker Notes*

## **Slide #1**

- On Dec.6, 1989 a lone gunman entered L'ecole Polytechnique de Montreal and began a rampage that would last nearly 20 minutes
- .....and still resonates today

## **Slide #2**

- He separated the women from the men. He ordered the men to leave.
- Fourteen women died.

## **Slide #3**

- This act of gender-based violence shocked the nation.
- In 1991 the Government of Canada designated December 6th as Canada's annual **National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women.**
- It is an opportunity for Canadians to remember that women still frequently experience violence and to take concrete actions to eliminate all forms of violence against women and children.

#### Slide #4

- In the same year, the late Jack Layton co-founded the White Ribbon Campaign to protest against violence against women.
- Men wear a white ribbon as a symbol of their opposition to violence against women, and their personal pledge to never commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women and children.
- The White Ribbon Campaign has grown into a worldwide effort by men working to end violence against women, with over 60 countries leading campaigns.
- Today, campaign activities include wearing a white ribbon, and organizing events and activities that challenge everyone to speak out, educate young people and raise public awareness.

#### Slide #5

- Violence against women remains a serious problem in Canada, from acts of hatred, to culturally based offences, sexual harassment, and domestic abuse.
- Young women between the ages of 15 and 24 experience the highest rates of violence.
- Aboriginal women are three times more likely to report experiencing violence than non-Aboriginal women.

## Slide #6

- BCNU continues to focus on Violence Prevention strategies and programs. Here's what you can do:
  - Talk to your steward about violence prevention strategies at your worksite
  - Take the Violence Prevention Curriculum at your workplace. This is the mandated program that is created jointly by Health Care Unions and Health Care Employers. It is mandatory.
  - Report incidents and violence concerns to your supervisor and the provincial Workplace Health Call Center
  - Participate in a community events and campaigns. Be part of the international movement to change attitudes and behaviors that help end violence against women.
  - Learn more at any of the websites listed:
    - We Can End All Violence Against Women - [www.wecanbc.ca](http://www.wecanbc.ca)
    - White Ribbon – [www.WhiteRibbon.ca](http://www.WhiteRibbon.ca)
    - Rose Campaign – [ywccanada.ca/en/pages/rose/about](http://ywccanada.ca/en/pages/rose/about)
    - Shoe Memorial - [www.shoememorial.com](http://www.shoememorial.com)

## Slide #7

Thank you!

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Additional Resources for follow-up to learn more about violence prevention initiatives:

- Ending Violence Association of BC [www.endingviolence.org](http://www.endingviolence.org)
- Native Women's Association of Canada <https://nwac.ca/policy-areas/violence-prevention-and-safety/prevention-and-safety/>
- YWCA Canada <http://ywccanada.ca/en/pages/advocacy/priorities/vaw>
- Status of Women in Canada <http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/index-en.html>