



National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women –**Steward Speaker Notes**

December 6

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
 - White Ribbon – www.WhiteRibbon.ca
 - Rose Campaign – ywcacanada.ca/en/pages/rose/about

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Thank you!

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

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

