

November 30, 2016

Media Release:

National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

The Summerside Service for the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women will take place Tuesday, December 6, 2016 at 12 NOON at the Summerside Presbyterian Church on Victoria Road. The guest speaker is the Hon. Tina M. Mundy, Minister of Family and Human Services and Minister Responsible for Seniors.

December 6 marks the anniversary of the murders in 1989 of 14 young women at l'Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal. They died because they were women.

Candles will be lit for the 14 women and the 10 women murdered on PEI by an acquaintance.

As well as commemorating the 14 young women whose lives ended as an act of gender – based violence that shocked the nation, this day 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. It is also a time that we can all consider concrete actions to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls.

What can you do?

Gender – based violence is not just a women's issue- it's everyone's issue and we all have an important role to play in addressing it. Together, our individual actions will help build a society that is respectful towards women, encourages victims to speak out and supports survivors as they heal.

- 1) **Stop blaming the victim** – women are 11 times more likely than men to be victims of sexual offences.
- 2) **Build safe communities**- women with disabilities are at four times a greater risk of experiencing sexual assault.
- 3) **Raise your son to respect women** – women are almost four times more likely than men to experience intimate partner violence.
- 4) **Teach your children about consent** – data suggests that ¼ of female students in college or university have experienced sexual assault or attempted assault and 90% of these students knew their attacker.
- 5) **Don't look the other way** – The RCMP reports that nearly 1,200 aboriginal women and girls have been murdered or gone missing in Canada.
- 6) **Teach your children about healthy relationships** – young women between ages 15-24 experience the highest rates of violence.

Please show your support by wearing purple. Purple ribbons are available at East Prince Women's Information Centre at 109 Water Street. For more information on this service contact: Andy Lou Somers, Tel: 902-436-9856 or email: epwic@eastlink.ca