

20 WAYS YOU CAN HELP END VIOLENCE



1...LISTEN well: by your words and actions, let the people in your life know you are someone safe to talk to if they need help.

2...BELIEVE it when someone tells you they are experiencing bullying, abuse, fear, or violence.

3...SUPPORT the victims, not the bully or abuser, if you see someone being bullied, abused, or hurt.

4...TRUST yourself and your instincts if you sense that someone you care about isn't safe. If you see, hear, or suspect violence, get help. Don't put yourself in danger. Call: Children's Help Phone at 1-800-668-6868 or Anderson House Women's Shelter at 1-800-240-9894.

5...GET HELP that empowers you if you have been abused, or if you fear being abused. Talk to an adult you trust, like a parent or school counsellor.

6...TALK about violence with your friends, classmates, family, neighbours, teachers, and community.

7...RESPECT women and girls – their bodies, minds, and spirits – equally with men and boys. Treat others with respect and fairness.

8...FIND OUT about women's history and the situation of women in your community, your country, and around the world.

9...SPEAK OUT against negative media images that glorify violence and against jokes, insults, and stereotypes that demean and disrespect women, children, or others.

10...VOLUNTEER with organizations that are actively working to end violence; encourage organizations you already volunteer with to stand up against violence. Students Against Violence Everywhere (S.A.V.E.) has chapters in Montague, Souris, and Morell. To learn more visit their website at www.savepei.com.

11...BE the best "you" you can be – reject roles you are assigned as a "boy" or "girl" or "woman" or "man" that limit your choices and identities.

12...RECOGNIZE your role in prejudices - such as sexism, racism, classism, ableism, and heterosexism - and take responsibility for changing your own attitudes and actions.

13...LEARN to express your anger in non-violent ways.

14...STOP making excuses for your own violent or abusive actions or those of your classmates, families, or friends.

15...LOOK OUT for unhealthy dating behaviour (like blaming the other dating partner for all the problems, threatening to hurt yourself or your partner, acting extremely jealous, isolating a partner from their friends, trying to control the other person, pressuring for sex, or insulting, criticizing, and demeaning a dating partner).

16...TAKE A STAND against bullying behaviours (punching, shoving and other acts that hurt people physically; spreading bad rumours about people; keeping certain people out of a group; teasing people in a mean way; getting certain people to "gang up" on others).

17...REMEMBER that abuse, bullying, and violence don't happen because victims deserve it or because they are "asking" for it: don't blame victims.

18...ENCOURAGE someone who acts violently to get help -- but only if you are really sure you are safe to do so.

19...TREAT yourself and other people with respect and fairness.

20...HAVE PEACE as your goal.

BACKGROUND



2010 Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence

A project of the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women

What is the PEI Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence?

Twenty-one years ago, on December 6, 1989, 14 women were murdered at l'École Polytechnique in Montreal. They were murdered because they were women.

What is the history of the Purple Ribbon Campaign?

December 2009 marks the 18th year the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women has organized its Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence.

Isabelle Christian, Chairperson of 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. It has got to stop," says Christian. "We must never forget those 14 young women in Montreal who were murdered because they were women. We must remember them and work to ensure an end to violence against women and children."

On December 6, women across Canada often say,
"First mourn, then work for change."

Why is there a Purple Ribbon Campaign?

The purposes of the Purple Ribbon Campaign are 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

Who organizes the Purple Ribbon Campaign?

The Purple Ribbon Campaign is a project of the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women. Hundreds of people across the province volunteer their time to ensure a wide distribution of ribbons. The campaign is growing each year with ever increasing numbers of women, men, and youth wearing ribbons.

When did the Purple Ribbon Campaign begin?

The Purple Ribbon Campaign was initiated in 1991. It started out relatively small with the Advisory Council handing out about 500 ribbons. This year, the Advisory Council will distribute 25,000 bilingual information cards and ribbons.

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.

When do we wear the purple ribbon?

Wear the ribbon between November 25, the International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women and December 6, the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. The ribbons can also be worn during Family Violence Prevention Week every February.

Should men and boys wear a purple ribbon?

Yes. Wearing a purple ribbon is an opportunity for men and boys, as well as women and girls, to remember and acknowledge violence against women and to support the work against violence against women. In some parts of Canada, men wear a white ribbon instead. The White Ribbon Campaign is a campaign by and for men, originating in Toronto. The white ribbon is usually worn by men only. While the White Ribbon Campaign may have some distribution in PEI, we ask that men who choose to wear a white ribbon also wear a purple ribbon.

Timeline: 20 Years After the Montreal Massacre - The PEI Story

Prior to 1989, women and their allies across Canada and on Prince Edward Island were already working hard to prevent violence against women. They had already responded with grief and with action to earlier murders of women. They had fought for changes to laws and government services. They had worked together to set up supports such as an emergency women's shelter and a rape crisis centre for the Island.

The 1989 Montreal Massacre reminded women how much remained to be done to end violence against women. It brought people together to mourn and work for change with a new sense of urgency and purpose. In the last 20 years, the efforts of women and others in the community have led to improvements. But even while these improvements were taking place, seven women on the Island were murdered by men in their lives.

1989

A 27 year-old woman, is killed by her estranged husband in Summerside.

Victim Services (the PEI government's support system for victims of violence and crime) begins operating province-wide.

The Province of PEI establishes a Committee on Family Violence Prevention.

In Montreal, 14 women are murdered at l'École Polytechnique. PEI women's organizations hold vigils across the Island.

1990

The first anniversary of the Montreal Massacre brings together people from all across Prince Edward Island to express their continuing sadness and shock. Memorial services inspire people's commitment to work together to end violence against women.

1991

Response to the Massacre and to the local murders starts to take solid form. PEI sets up an inquiry, the McQuaid Inquiry, to explore how the police and the courts deal with intimate partner violence and violence within families.

The Province of PEI creates a position for a Provincial Family Violence Coordinator.

Community consultations on family violence take place across PEI.

A 36 year-old woman, is murdered by a neighbour and acquaintance in Charlottetown.

The PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women begins the Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence.

1992 -1993

Work continues. The RCMP sponsors training on family violence in 1993 to improve police responses.

1994

A conference reveals the results of Island-wide consultations about Family Violence. A Sex Offender Program gets set up for the province.

A 32 year-old woman, a victim of well-documented violence and abuse by her estranged common-law partner, goes missing on October 3 in the west end of PEI.

1995

The 32 year-old woman's body is found in May.

The Province of PEI creates a Family Violence Consultant staff position.

Shocked by two murders in two years, PEI's Premier, Catherine Callbeck, appoints a Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention (PAC) to come up with a five-year strategy against violence.

1996

The Premier's Action Committee directs new money to the Rape and Sexual Assault Crisis Centre and Transition House Association to increase services.

Island MLAs pass a new law, the PEI Victims of Family Violence Act, which includes among other things provisions for victims to apply for Emergency Protection Orders or Victim Assistance Orders to have the offender removed from the family home.

1997

Atlantic Canada provinces proclaim a designated week each February as Family Violence Prevention Week.

Turning Point Program (for abusive men) is offered for the first time in western and eastern PEI.

1998

A woman, age 77, is murdered by acquaintance and past-neighbour, a 20 year-old man, in Charlottetown.

1999

Women's groups present *Herstory: A Report on Woman Abuse and the PEI Legal System*. Women who experienced abuse tell their stories about what supports they needed to end the violence in their lives and receive justice. Some of these supports were available to them. Some were not.

Community members start the Justice Options for Women Who Are Victims of Violence project to recommend changes to the justice system.

2000

Victim impact statements are read in PEI courts for the first time.

The Province conducts a Family Violence survey across the Island and establishes a Victims' Roundtable on Criminal Justice.

A woman, age 45, is murdered by her estranged common-law partner, in Summerside.

A woman, age 30, is murdered by her common-law partner, in Cardigan.

2001

PEI develops and begins to use Woman Abuse Protocols (step-by-step guidelines for supporting and helping abused women) for hospital emergency rooms, income assistance and justice-related services.

A woman, age 46, is murdered by her ex common-law partner, in Stratford.

Concerned citizens hold weekly demonstrations for months at the Provincial Courthouse to protest the light sentencing (short jail times and other punishments) of those found guilty of murdering women.

The Premier's Action Committee holds community forums across the Island.

Premier Pat Binns renews the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention for another five years.

2002

A woman, age 23, is murdered by an acquaintance and left on the Confederation Trail in Charlottetown.

2003

A man is found guilty of the 2001 murder of the 46 year-old woman. The decision makes legal history in two ways. It is the first conviction in Canada of first degree murder on the grounds of stalking a victim. It is also the first conviction for first degree murder in Prince Edward Island. (No one had been convicted of first degree murder on PEI since the law was changed from the older crime of "capital murder" in the 1970s.)

2004

The union UPSE creates the first PEI "Silent Witness" silhouette. The "Silent Witness" symbol becomes an important part of public events remembering murdered women and raising awareness about violence.

2005

S.A.V.E. (Students Against Violence Everywhere) forms its first group on PEI in Montague.

A report on *Police Response to Domestic Violence: A Provincial Overview* is released with more recommendations of how to respond better to violence.

2006 - 2007

Women in the community create the first Circle of Safety and Support, (a circle of people such as violence prevention workers, friends, neighbours, police, school officials, and government workers) to help a woman in danger of violence to make plans to keep herself and her family safe.

Sisters in Spirit Vigils, to remember missing and murdered Aboriginal women, take place across Canada, including PEI. A national report highlights that more than 500 Aboriginal women are known to be missing or murdered across Canada.

2008

Chief Mary Bernard Memorial Women's Shelter opens on Lennox Island.

Violence prevention services from across PEI (Transition House Association, East Prince Family Violence Prevention Services, West Prince Family Violence Prevention and Eastern PEI Family Violence Prevention) merge into a provincial organization. The organization is renamed PEI Family Violence Prevention Services Inc.

2009

People from across Prince Edward Island look back over the 20 years since the Montreal Massacre and continue to work for changes to laws, services, and supports for women so that no more Island women and families live in violence - or die by it.

The Victims: 1989 - 2009

In Remembrance of Women Murdered on PEI , 1989-2009

Carrie Ellen McMurrer, 27, was killed in 1989 by estranged husband Kevin Kenneth McMurrer, Summerside.

Elaine Edith Myers, 36, was killed in 1991 by neighbour Roger Lee Burke, Charlottetown.

Shirley Ann Duguay, 32, was killed in 1994 by estranged partner Leo Douglas Beamish, North Enmore.

Della Waddell, 77, was killed in 1998 by ex neighbour Edmond John Aylward, Charlottetown.

Mary E. Waite, 45, was killed in 2000 by estranged partner John William Fennell, Summerside.

Kimberly Ann Byrne, 30, was killed in 2000 by partner Frederick Francis Sheppard, Cardigan.

Deborah Holmes, 46, was killed in 2001 by ex-partner James Barry Bradley, Stratford.

Chrystal Dawn Beairsto, 23, killed in 2002 by acquaintance John David Rayner,

In Remembrance of Victims of the Montreal Massacre, 1989

Geneviève Bergeron, 21, was a 2nd-year scholarship student in civil engineering.

Hélène Colgan, 23, was in her final year of mechanical engineering and planned to take her master's degree.

Nathalie Croteau, 23, was in her final year of mechanical engineering.

Barbara Daigneault, 22, was in her final year of mechanical engineering and held a teaching assistantship.

Anne-Marie Edward, 21, was a 1st-year student in chemical engineering.

Maud Haviernick, 29, was a 2nd-year student in engineering materials, a branch of metallurgy, and a graduate in environmental design.

Barbara Maria Klucznik, 31, was a 2nd-year engineering student specializing in engineering materials.

Maryse Laganière, 25, worked in the budget department of the Polytechnique.

Maryse Leclair, 23, was a 4th-year student in engineering materials.

Anne-Marie Lemay, 27, was a 4th-year student in mechanical engineering.

Sonia Pelletier, 28, was to graduate the next day in mechanical engineering. She was awarded a degree posthumously.

Michèle Richard, 21, was a 2nd-year student in engineering materials.

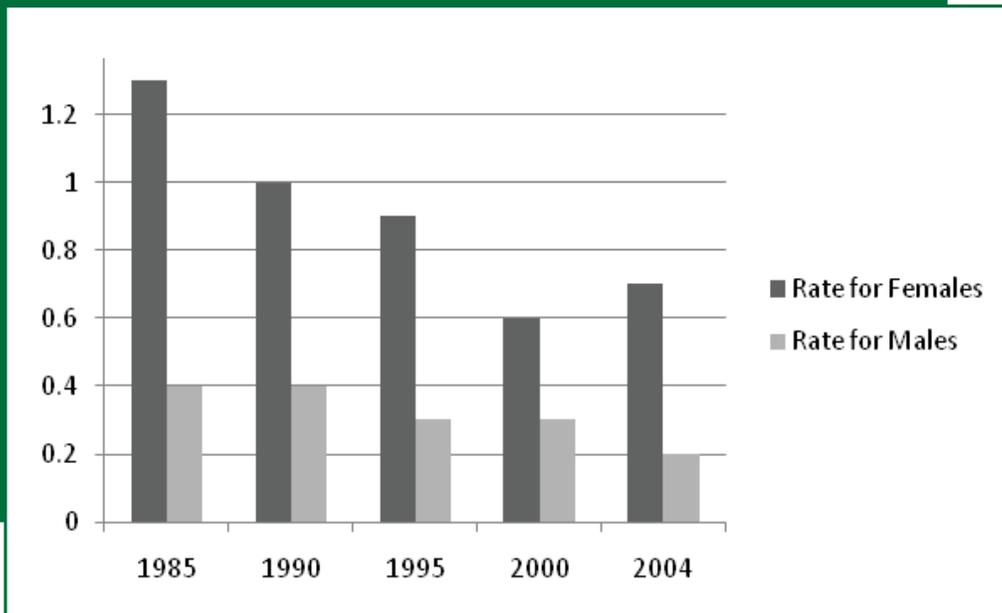
Annie St. Arneault, 23, was a mechanical engineering student.

Annie Turcotte, 21, was a 1st-year student in engineering materials.

Violence against women has its roots in the history of women's inequality. Statistics can help paint a clearer picture of how women and men compare. They can tell us where equality is improving and where improvement is still needed.

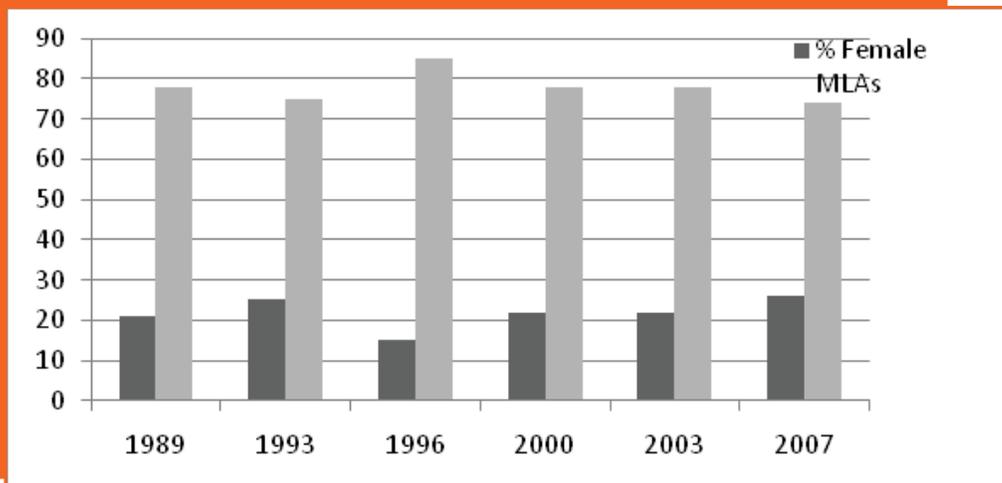
When you look at the charts below that show statistics changing over about 20 years for murder rates, election results, university and college attendance, and wages for young workers, can you see how women and men compare? Has change over time led to more equal results, or not?

**Female and male rates of murder by their spouses in Canada, 1985 - 2004
(rate per 100,000 spouses, rounded)**



Source: Statistics Canada <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-570-x/85-570-x2006001-eng.pdf>

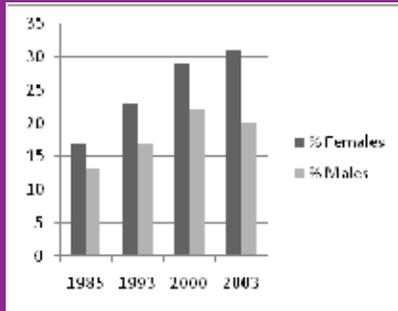
Female and Male MLAs Elected to the PEI Legislature, 1989 to 2007



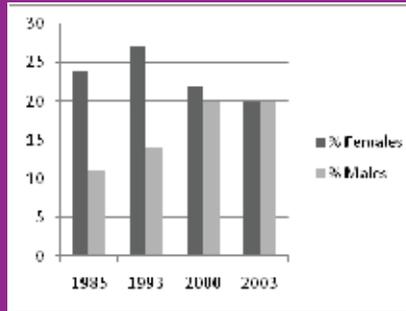
Source: Elections PEI <http://www.electionspei.ca/provincial/historical/results/files.php>

**Female and Male Young People (17 to 24) in University and College
Canada: 1985 to 2003**

University

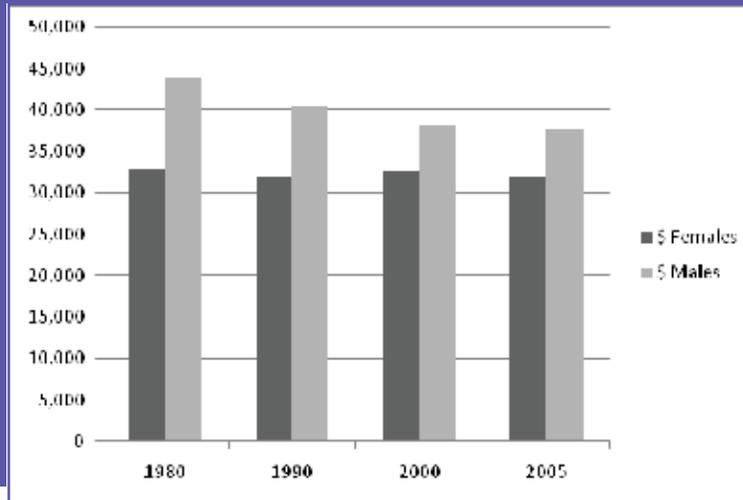


College



Source: Study by Christofides, Hoy, and Yang (2006), from Statistics Canada Data
http://www.utoronto.ca/rdc/files/papers/L_Yang_Gender.pdf

**Earnings of Female and Male Full-time Workers in Canada
Ages 25 to 29 Years Old, 1980 to 2005
(median earnings, calculated in constant 2005 dollars)**



Source: Statistics Canada
<http://www12.statcan.ca/census-recensement/2006/as-sa/97-563/tables-tableaux-notes-eng.cfm>

For Montreal

by
Tanya Davis

Today...

In 1989 on PEI I was 10 years old. I was a good kid, I did what I was told. I went to swimming lessons then so I could protect myself in the water. I went to grade school so I could prepare myself to be a grown-up in the world 'cause I would someday have a job there. My parents, like any others, just wanted to keep safe their young daughter. And so though they listened to the news they didn't relay back to me what went on there.

In 1999 I was 20 years old. I had survived puberty, high school, and life in a residence dorm. I had survived date rape just like every other woman I know. I had taken abuses and hate from men who were acquaintances and strangers both. And in 1999 I found an anger on the inside and I began to let it show.

I followed in the footsteps of women I didn't even know, who had all been hurt before, who lived and died trying to tie the score, until there was nothing left to be fighting for. My feet fell in time with the beat of females marching in the night to take back our rights or maybe gain them or feel safe for the first time. In peace we came together to remember those who died.

And also in 1999 I began to see I was, indeed, a feminist. I knew the Montreal Massacre had happened ten years previous but I didn't yet know the details of it. I have since been educated; for instance, I've learned that in an institution of learning a man went spreading his message. In a classroom he separated the sexes and he kept the women and he sent the men out and maybe some protested but still they all went out. And then he had a truly captive audience. And so before he shot them he made sure he taught them what he thought about why they deserved what they got, he said, "I hate feminists."

The shots rang out in the cold December air and soon but not soon enough the police were there and 14 people had perished.

The news was all over this. 14 dead. More injured. And what of the fact that they were women? What of the fact that a man killed them as a revenge he waged against feminism? Well, the presses didn't much mention this. Instead, they stressed the importance of honouring the victims, mourning the losses, not making this into a feminist issue or something to strengthen our causes.

And why not? Why shouldn't a vendetta against women be reflected upon? Why shouldn't we have a discussion on the fact that misogyny is still strong and the massacre in Montreal was one man's assault on women, each with her own face, as well as feminism, a call to bring equality to half the human race. After all, ever since women existed there has been violence against us. On Prince Edward Island it is no different. In 1989, here, too, women were victims. Some lived to talk about it and some didn't. Some segments of the population simply went missing. First Nations women, for instance; poor people living on the fringes and those working in the sex industry... 'cause as long as there are classes there are those who matter to people in power and those on the periphery.

But in 1989 in Montreal feminism was a topic on the table that no one wanted to debrief.

And of course, mourn the victims, support those who witnessed it and will twitch in haunted dreams as it sticks with them. Grieve the people whose lives he took with him. But, remember, too, there is a system this was rooted in. He did not grow up in a bubble. Or learn in a bubble. Or become a killer 'cause he was living in a bubble. He walked city streets like anybody. And maybe he had a murderer's tendencies but we can't excuse events like these to crazy people and anomalies without also questioning the society that raised them, the influences that shaped them, the school systems that trained them, the media that played to them, the ideas that swayed them and the meanings and actions that came from them.

Today, we search for meaning still. I put my words into the world using my full name and not just my initials. Female writers have not always been this free. I am a working woman now but there were so many more before me.

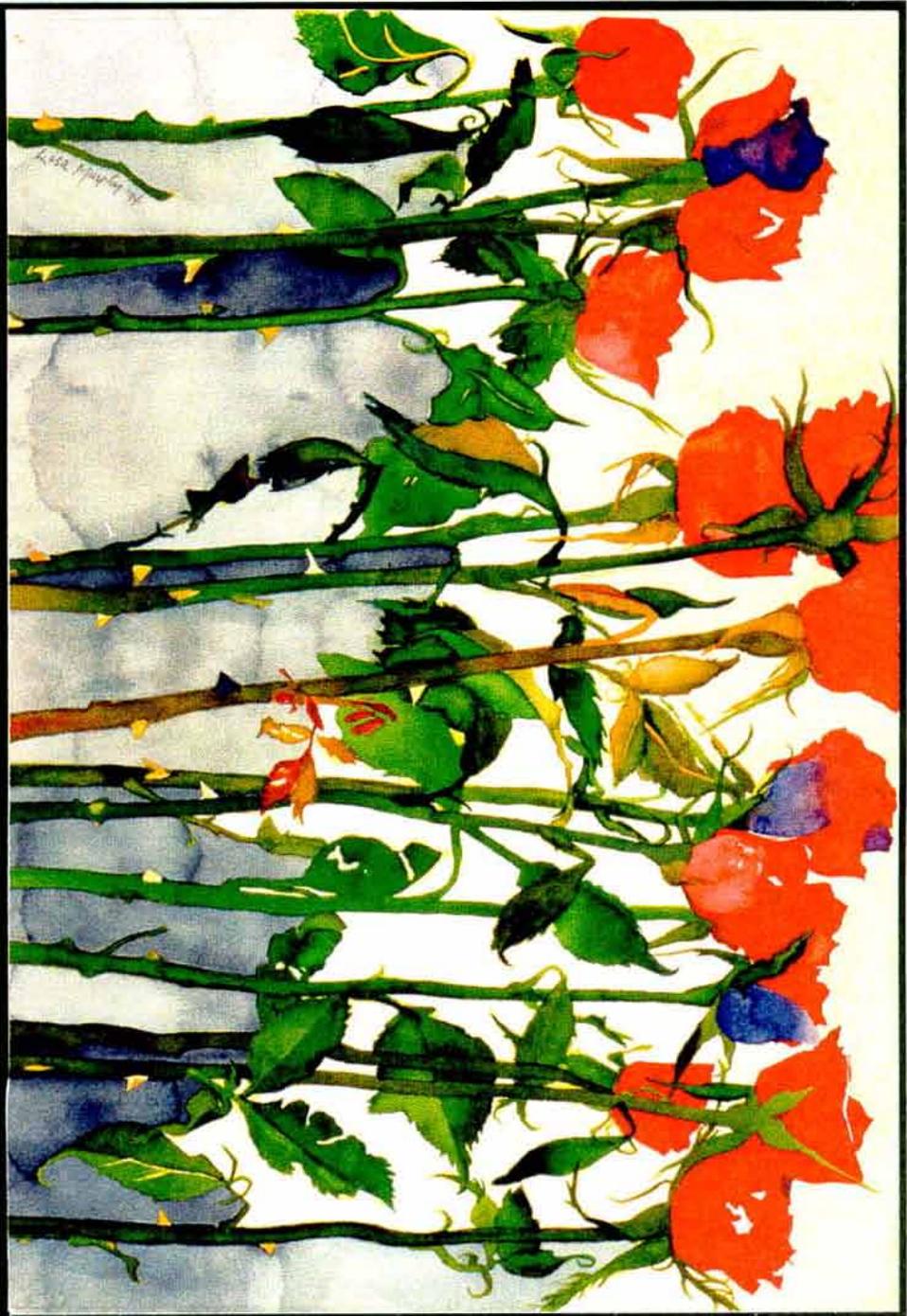
In 1989 I was only 10 years old. Montreal was miles away yet it was right next door. 14 murdered women were strangers but they were women we know. Because violence didn't start there and then and it didn't end with them, it is the whole world over. It's here on our island home and the blood blends with the red soil. And tears are shed for all our toils.

We remember them because we cannot forget. We stand in honour of all women. And when we march and are followed by honourable men we welcome their support, we welcome them. And as we follow feminists who have gone ahead, for the path they paved we thank them. And for the women who are living and for those who have passed their last breath, we show them every time we gather, that we will work, and we will hurt until the violence ends.

Tanya Davis, 2009

Commissioned for the 20th Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre





Sisters' Remembered

Commemorative Artwork by Lisa Murphy, 1994
Photograph of watercolour, original 22 x 34 inches