

Men, take a stand with us.



2008 Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence



Purple Ribbon Campaign

December 2008 marks the 17th 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 who were murdered in Montreal because they were women. We must remember them and work to ensure an end to violence against women and children. First mourn, then work for change!" Christian also urges Islanders to donate to an organization in their community which is working toward ending violence against women and children.

Websites: **PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women**

Website: www.gov.pe.ca/acsw

Blog: peiactsw.wordpress.com

Status of Women Canada

www.swc-cfc.gc.ca

National Clearing House on Family Violence Prevention

www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncfv-cnivf/familyviolence

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
- to remember all women who have died violently and the many thousands who continue to live with abuse
- to 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.

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PEI ACSW Information Sheet: Purple Ribbon Campaign

In Remembrance of 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.

In Remembrance of PEI murdered women

Carrie McMurrer, killed in 1989 by husband Kevin McMurrer, Summerside

Elaine Myers, killed in 1991 by partner Roger Burke, Summerside

Shirley Anne Duguay, killed in 1994 by estranged partner Leo Douglas Beamish, Wellington

Della Waddell, killed in 1998 by neighbour Edmund Aylward, Charlottetown

Mary Waite, killed in 2000 by estranged partner John William Fennell, Summerside

Kimberly Byrne, killed in 2000 by estranged partner Frederick Francis Sheppard, Cardigan

Debbie Holmes, killed in 2001 by ex-partner Barry Bradley, Stratford

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

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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 wear a purple ribbon?

Yes. Wearing a purple ribbon is an opportunity for men, as well as women, to remember and acknowledge violence against women and to support the work against violence against women.

What about the White Ribbon Campaign?

The White Ribbon Campaign is a campaign by and for men, originating in Toronto. The white ribbon symbolically acknowledges men's accountability for violence against women. The white ribbon is usually worn by men only. While the White Ribbon Campaign may have some distribution in PEI, we are asking that men who choose to wear a white ribbon also wear a purple ribbon.

Who organizes the Memorial Services?

The City of Summerside, O'Leary, and the Évangeline communities usually hold annual memorial services on or near

the anniversary of the December 6, 1989, Montreal Massacre. These services are typically organized by local women's organizations such as the East Prince Women's Information Centre, THA Outreach, and l'Association des femmes acadiennes et francophones de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard.

The Charlottetown service used to be organized by the UPEI Student Union. It was held outside on the UPEI campus (outside the Engineering Building). Once established, the UPEI Women's Centre organized a noontime Memorial Service for students, faculty, and the public-at-large to attend. The chapel ceremony often included a keynote speaker; candlelighters representing survivors, groups, organizations and government; and the sale of single roses (\$ went to the Women's Centre). Following the ceremony, those gathered would walk in procession to the engineering statue where the roses were left at its base in honour of the massacre victims and Island victims and survivors.

With increased profile and numbers attending the service, planning assistance was offered by women's organizations, the Advisory Council on the Status of Women, and the Interministerial Women's Secretariat. Eventually an ad hoc committee was struck to plan an annual event in a larger venue off campus. A small service for the faculty, staff, and students at UPEI is often held, on campus, organized by the Women's Centre.

For several years, the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women has initiated the annual memorial service held in Memorial Hall of the Confederation Centre of the Arts. The Confederation Centre provides the rental facility, sound equipment, and technician free-of-charge. The Advisory Council includes many individuals and community groups in the event planning and as candlelighters, performers, and speakers. Nineteen years after the Montreal Massacre, the memorials continue to resonate with the public.



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