

Men, take a stand with us.



2008 Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence



What Every Man Can Do To Help End Men's Violence Against Women

Listen to women...learn from women.

Who knows better about violence against women than women who experience it? Over half of Canadian women over the age of 16 have experienced at least one incident of physical or sexual violence, and 60% were the victim of more than one incident. Learn about violence by asking a woman who trusts you how violence has affected her life.

Learn about the problem.

Most Prince Edward Island men are not violent towards their intimate partners. Most men do not attack or sexually assault women. But some men are responsible for most of the violence that PEI women suffer. Some men are part of the problem, but all men are part of the solution.

Turn to your local women's organizations. They have a wealth of accumulated experience and knowledge. Talk to them. Read their publications. Contribute financially. Learn from them.

Learn why some men are violent.

Men are not naturally violent. Historically there have been societies with little or no violence. Even today, in many countries, the majority of men do not use sexual or physical violence. Violence is something that some men learn. It is about having power and control over others. It is the attempt by some men to dominate women, or adults' attempts to dominate children, or some men's attempts to dominate other men or groups of men. Violence is a way for compensating for feelings that you're not a "real man."

Challenge sexist language and jokes that degrade women.

Sexist jokes and language help create a climate where forms of violence and abuse can be accepted. Words that degrade women reflect a society that has historically placed women in a second-class position. By reflecting this reality they once again put women "in their place" even if that isn't the intention. Learn to speak up when men talk lightly of violence against women.

Learn to identify and oppose sexual harassment and violence in your workplace, school, and family.

Sexual harassment refers to unwanted sexual advances or to sexually oriented remarks or behaviours that are unwelcome by another person. In 1992, the Prince Edward Island Government passed the Employment Standards Act. This Act requires employers to provide an employment environment free of sexual harassment.

All employers must establish a policy with regard to sexual harassment in the workplace and to ensure that all employees within the workplace are aware of that policy. The Act specifies certain elements which must be contained in the sexual harassment policy. Men can join women in opposing sexual harassment by learning to spot it and learning to say something to stop it.

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Support local women's programs.

Women (and some men) in PEI have been organizing to end violence against women and children for over 30 years. Feminist activists and counselors worked hard to awaken society to the extent of the violence women and children suffer. Women escaping violent situations depend on women's shelters, rape crisis centres, and outreach services. These services deserve individual men's support and financial backing. Encourage any service organization you are a member of to fund raise to help support services for women.

Examine how your own behaviour might contribute to the problem.

Most men will never be physically or sexually violent. But men need to examine ways they might try to control women. As a man do you dominate conversations? Do you put women down? Do you try to control where they go and who they talk to? Do you make the decisions for both of you?

If you've ever forced or pushed a woman to do something sexual she didn't want to do; if you've hit, pushed, threatened, kicked your spouse or girlfriend, then you've been part of the problem.

If this happened in the past, admit what you did was wrong and make amends if possible. But if this violent behaviour has any chance of continuing, then you urgently need to get help.

Work towards long-term solutions.

Ending violence against women won't happen overnight. Real solutions are truly long-term solutions. This is because men's violence against women is rooted in inequalities between men and women, and in the way men learn to be men.

Legal changes to combat men's violence against women (such as laws against rape and assault) are very important. The police and courts must diligently enforce such laws.

But this is not enough – attitudes and behaviour must change. Men need support and encouragement in their roles as caregivers and nurturers. Our children, boys and girls, need to be taught, by example, that violence is unacceptable. Being a man does not mean using power to control others.

Adapted from the White Ribbon Campaign materials. The White Ribbon Campaign (WRC) began in Canada in 1991 and is the largest effort in the world of men working to end violence against women (VAW). In over fifty-five countries, campaigns are led by both men and women, even though the focus is on educating men and boys.



PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women
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Profile of a Male Abuser

Abusers come from all social, educational, and cultural backgrounds. They aren't born abusive – they develop abusive personalities in response to their circumstances. Abusers can be either male or female but the factors that create female abusers are different than those that create male abusers.

Some Canadian researchers have found that the biggest childhood contributors for a man to become an abuser are the following:

- Feeling rejected by his father
- Feeling a lack of warmth from his father
- Being physically abused by his father
- Being verbally abused by his father
- Feeling rejected by his mother

However, not all male children who live through those conditions grow up to be abusive. For instance, studies have shown that with the supportiveness of a close male relationship, men are less likely to develop abusive personalities and less likely to hold negative beliefs and hostile attitudes towards women.

And while their backgrounds may differ, abusive men do tend to have many characteristics in common.

An abusive partner will often:

- Blame others for their problems
- Be jealous and imagine his partner is having affairs
- Try to isolate his partner
- Try to control his partner
- Have a “Jekyll and Hyde” personality
- Have other problems with the law
- Have an explosive temper and fly into a rage without provocation
- Use insults, put downs or slanderous names to abuse his partner in addition to physical assault
- Come from a family where family violence is practised
- Be more violent when his partner is pregnant or soon after she gives birth
- Deny the violence or its severity or seemingly not remember it
- Be skilled at manipulating others

Sources:

Dutton, Donald G. (1995). *The Batterer – A Psychological Profile*, New York: Harper & Collins
Transition House Association, Prince Edward Island, 2000

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Where violent men can get help on PEI

Often an abuser promises to go for counselling after a violent episode when the intimate partner leaves or threatens to leave the relationship. Traditional marriage counselling is based on the assumption that each person in the relationship feels safe to say what he or she thinks and feels. In a violent relationship this is rarely the case. There are documented cases of couples in marital therapy in which a threat or assault followed a session because an abuser was angry that his partner said something he wanted kept secret. Before entering into relationship counselling, a violent person needs individual help.

In PEI there are counselling programs designed for violent men. They may also need counselling for substance abuse, traumatic childhood issues, and/or mental illness. When the abuse and controlling behaviour have stopped and the partner feels safe, the couple may wish to take relationship counselling.

Turning Point Program

PEI Community Justice Resource Centre
Clinical Services
Joanne Hargrove
368.6392

PEI Community Justice Resource Centre

Clinical Services
Wayne Ford
368.6390

Community Mental Health Services

| | | | |
|---------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Charlottetown | 368.4430 | Souris | 687.7110 |
| Summerside | 888.8180 | Alberton | 853.8670 |
| Montague | 838.0960 | | |

Lennox Island Family Violence Prevention Program
831.2711

Community and Family Service of PEI (formerly Protestant Family Services Bureau)

| | |
|------------------|------------|
| Charlottetown | Summerside |
| Brenda MacDonald | Ed Ratelle |
| 892.2441 | 436.9171 |

PEI's only group program that is specifically designed to address men's violence against their intimate partners.

Turning Point Program

The purpose of this program is to provide counselling to men who want to stop controlling and abusive behaviour towards their partner. The program assists participants to challenge and take responsibility for emotions and behaviour in processes which allow for increased self-awareness.

The program also focuses upon the development of skills related to problem solving and communication, allowing participants to deal with anger and other emotions in a constructive manner.



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Memorial Services for Victims of Violence

- **UPEI** – Victims of Gender Sexuality Violence
Friday, November 28, 2008, 12 noon
For more information: UPEI Diversity Office,
902-628-4332
- **Charlottetown** – Memorial Hall, Confederation Centre
Friday, December 5, 2008, 12 noon
For more information: PEI Status of Women office,
902-368-4510
- **Summerside** – Location TBA
Friday, December 5, 2008, 12 noon
For more information: East Prince Women's
Information Centre, 902-436-9856
- **O'Leary** – United Church
Friday, December 5, 2008, 12 noon
For more information: West Prince Family Violence
Prevention, 902-859-8849

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.

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

Barbara Daigneault, 22, was in her final year of mechanical engineering.

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

Maud Haviernick, 29, was a 2nd-year student in engineering.

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

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.

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.

PEI murdered women

Carrie McMurrer was killed in 1989 by her husband.

Elaine Myers was killed in 1991 by her partner.

Shirley Anne Duguay was killed in 1994 by her estranged partner.

Della Waddell was killed in 1998 by her neighbour.

Mary Waite was killed in 2000 by her estranged partner.

Kimberly Byrne was killed in 2000 by her estranged partner.

Debbie Holmes was killed in 2001 by her ex-partner.

Chrystal Dawn Beirsto was killed in 2002 by a male acquaintance.



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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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