

THE Accent

Prince Edward Island Union of Public Sector Employees

National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women *Dec. 6, 2010*

December 6 is the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women in Canada. Established in 1991 by the Parliament of Canada, this day marks the anniversary of the murders in 1989 of 14 young women at l'École Polytechnique de Montréal. They died because they were women.

As well as commemorating the 14 young women whose lives ended in an act of gender-based violence that shocked the nation, December 6 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. And finally, it is a day on which communities can consider concrete actions to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls (Status of Women Canada).

2010 Purple Ribbon Campaign

The PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women organize the Purple Ribbon Campaign in PEI. Thousands of Islanders participate and the numbers are growing each year. PEI UPSE encourages members to wear a purple ribbon in remembrance of the fourteen young women who died in violence on December 6, 1989 in Montreal. 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.

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First Mourn, then work for change

The Accent is an internal publication of the Prince Edward Island Union of Public Sector Employees. Comments, questions, concerns and suggestions should be sent to: Mark Barrett, PEI UPSE Communications and Campaigns Officer, at mbarrett@peiupse.ca.

Note to members distributing The Accent:

Because the material contained in this publication is often of a time-sensitive nature, please post or distribute it as soon as possible.

PEI UPSE is proud to represent over 5000 members in the public and private sectors.

2010 Purple Ribbon Campaign *continued...*

The colour purple has long been the colour of the women's movement, beginning with suffragettes. It's a symbol of pain and suffering but also of power, spirituality, and transformation. The purposes of the Purple Ribbon campaign are to:

- *Remember the fourteen women who died in Montreal on December 6, 1989*
- *Remember all the women who have died violently and the many thousands who continue to live with abuse*
- *Raise awareness about violence against women*

In 2010, the Purple Ribbon Campaign is asking Islanders to *Face the Facts: Stop the Violence*. People use violence to establish power and maintain control over others. Violence and abuse take root in the many types of inequality in our society. Most at risk are women, children, youth, older persons, those with disabilities, Aboriginal women and children, and other people who are vulnerable to violence because of their ethnicity, sexual orientation or economic status.



In our patriarchal society, it is most often men who use violence to get their way, both in personal relationships and with strangers. But women can also be violent and men are also victims (PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women).

Events -2010 Purple Ribbon Campaign *continued...*

Charlottetown - Dec. 6

Silent Witness Project Display: Memorial Event
9 a.m., Holland College, Charlottetown Centre Cafeteria

More info: 566-9349

Memorial Service and Candle-Lighting

12 noon, Memorial Hall, Confederation Centre of the Arts
Special guest Michael Kaufmann, White Ribbon Campaign

More info: 368-4510

Summerside - Dec. 6

In English: Memorial Service & Refreshments
12:10 p.m., Heritage Park, Ottawa Street Entrance

More info: 436-9856

En français: Candle-Lighting for Victims of Violence
7 p.m., Le Centre Belle-Alliance

More info: Actions Femmes Î.P.É. 888-1685

O'Leary - Dec. 6

Candle-lighting for Victims of Violence
12 noon, O'Leary United Church

More info: 859-8849

Charlottetown - Dec. 7

Students Against Violence Everywhere
Launch & Unveiling of Purple Ribbon
7 p.m. MacMillan Hall, Student Union Building, UPEI

More info: 892-0110



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