

THE Accent

Prince Edward Island Union of Public Sector Employees

Family Violence Prevention Week! February 9 - 15, 2020



The theme this year is **supporting family violence survivors**. It is hard to know what to think or say to a friend, family member, co-worker, or neighbour who suffers trauma and harm from violence, abuse, or harassment. Myths and assumptions in our culture prompt us to be judgmental. By finding the right words and responding with compassion, you can **support the person, involve the community, and right the world**.

What is Family Violence?

Family violence affects, or will affect, all people in Prince Edward Island.

Family violence is connected to abuse of power and control, and to injustice

based on sex, race, age, class, sexual orientation, and physical or mental ability. Family violence is known by many names: child maltreatment, child abuse, incest, child exposure to domestic violence, intimate partner violence, spousal violence, woman abuse, domestic violence, sibling abuse, parent abuse, elder abuse, and abuse of older adults.

Things we can do to support someone in an abusive or violent relationship:

- **Learn the warning signs:** *What does abuse or violence look like? Look for “red flags” that may indicate someone is being abused. Check out www.stopfamilyviolence.pe.ca/warningsigns.*
- **Reach out:** *If you are worried about someone in a situation of abuse or violence, speak to the person privately about your concerns. Don't try to tell the person what to do, but let them know you are willing to listen and help think about options.*
- **Provide information on community resources:** *Having the right information may help the person seek protection or reach out to a community support agency.*
- **Be patient:** *Do not get discouraged if the person does not want to talk or is not ready to make a change. It is important to continue to be supportive and let the person know they can come to you.*
- **Trust your instincts:** *If you think someone you know is in danger, or if you are in danger, call 911 (Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention).*

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.

Family Violence Prevention Week!

February 9 - 15, 2020

Souris Walk in Silence, 11:45 am (Souris Regional High School, Tuesday, February 11)

All are welcome to join students and teachers of Souris Regional High School, the mayor and several council members for this community walk. Warm treats and hot chocolate to follow at St. Mary's Hall. For more information, call 902-687-2157. Sponsored by the town of Souris with support from (PAC).

Summerside Walk in Silence, 12:00 pm (263 Heather Moyse Dr., Tuesday, February 11)

Join the *Walk in Silence* to raise awareness and stand in solidarity with victims of family violence. Following the walk, there will be a reception at the Eptek Centre, author Susan Rodgers will be speaking and Nikkie Gallant will be performing a song from her new album. For details, call 902-888-3310. **Route:** 263 Heather Moyse Drive to Eptek Centre.

Morell Walk in Silence, 11:00 am (Morell Regional High, Wednesday, February 12)

Wear purple and join students and staff for the *Walk in Silence* for Victims of Domestic Violence led by RCMP and the Morell Fire Department through the village of Morell. Hot chocolate to follow at the school. For details, call 902-314-1445. Sponsored by the Morell Fire Department with support from (PAC).



Wear Purple Day (Wednesday, February 12)

Islanders across the province are asked to wear purple to remember victims of violence and their families. As a neighbour, friend, family member or coworker, you can help prevent and respond to abuse in our community. Share your photos on facebook.com/govpe or twitter.com/InfoPEI.

Montague Walk in Silence, 11:30 am (Montague Regional High, Wednesday, February 12)

Join the *Walk in Silence* to raise awareness and stand in solidarity with victims of family violence. Light refreshments will follow the walk at Montague Regional High. Sponsored by Montague Regional High's *Students Against Violence Everywhere* group with support from (PAC). **Route:** Active Communities Inc. (540 Main St. Montague) to Montague Regional High.

Charlottetown Walk in Silence, 12:00 pm (Coles Building, Wednesday, February 12)

10th Anniversary *Walk in Silence* for victims of family violence. Join the walk to raise awareness and stand in solidarity with victims of family violence. Light refreshments to follow at Charlottetown City Hall. Sponsored by the City of Charlottetown with support from (PAC). **Route:** Coles Building to Charlottetown City Hall.

Kensington Walk in Silence, 12:30 pm (Town Hall, Friday, February 14)

All are invited to take part in the walk with a reception to follow with snacks at Town Hall. Sponsored by the Town of Kensington with support from (PAC). **Route:** from the town Hall to Victoria St E to Broadway Street N to Commercial Street and back (<http://www.stopfamilyviolence.pe.ca/2020events>).