



National Day of Remembrance & Action on Violence against Women:

A message from the Municipality of the County of Kings

Today, December 6, we remember Maryse Laganière; Anne-Marie Lemay; Sonia Pelletier; Michèle Richard; Annie St-Arneault; Annie Turcotte; Barbara Klucznik-Widajewicz; Geneviève Bergeron; Hélène Colgan; Nathalie Croteau; Barbara Daigneault; Anne-Marie Edward; Maryse Leclair; and Maud Haviernick, 14 young women who were all brutally murdered at Polytechnique Montréal on December 6, 1989 because they were women. This tragic event sent the country into shock and triggered the Parliament of Canada to designate December 6 as the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women.

The observance of National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women is a time to mourn all women and girls who have died as a result of gender-based violence; increase support to eliminate violence against women, girls and gender diverse persons; build public awareness about gender-based violence and, educate the public on their role in ending violence against women, girls and gender diverse persons.

Violence against women and girls is a human rights crisis, threat to a healthy society and a hindrance to sustainable development. The COVID-19 pandemic has contributed to reduced access to several support networks and funding channels that have been designed to combat gender-based violence and help survivors of gender-based violence. Measures to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, such as stay-at-home orders, have been highlighted as elements contributing to increased gender-based violence against women who live with violent partners. A 2021 UN Women briefing from the End Violence against Women Series revealed that Canada, among other countries, has reported an increase in violence against women and requests for emergency shelter. The Municipality of the County of Kings mourns the loss of all women, girls and gender diverse persons who have died as a result of gender-based violence.

For counselling and outreach services to help persons impacted by gender-based violence, call the provincial help line at [1-855-225-0220](tel:1-855-225-0220); or visit Chrysalis House Association at www.chrysalishouseassociation.org to access support services.

To learn more about the actions of the Government of Canada to ending gender-based violence against women and girls, visit Women and Gender Equality (WAGE) at www.women-gender-equality.canada.ca.

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