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Echo Special Edition Newsletter - Violence Against Women

Today we mourn the loss of 14 women and ask what we can do to eliminate violence against women



One year after the “Montreal Massacre,” at l’École Polytechnique de Montréal in 1989, December 6 was proclaimed as a [National Day of Mourning and Action on Violence Against Women](#).

While much has been done to bring awareness to the realities of women experiencing violence in our society over the past 22 years, it is still quite prevalent. Each year approximately one in ten women in North America is physically abused by an intimate partner (Wathen et al., 2009) and over half of Canadian women have been victims of at least one act of physical or sexual violence since the age of 16 (Statistics Canada).

As the leading catalyst in women's health in Ontario, the issue of violence against women is one that Echo continues to work diligently to address. Echo's sexual violence initiative currently focuses on the implementation of standards of care for sexual assault. Policy recommendations have also been proposed for health care providers, educators and researchers on [identifying violence against women in health care settings](#). In addition to the physical and psychological effects on women, a recent article in [Western News](#), mentions the ongoing health costs of intimate partner violence at a staggering \$6.9 billion annually in Canada and research shows that women's health problems can persist for 20 years after separation from an abusive partner.

Please take a moment today to remember the 14 women killed at l’École Polytechnique de Montréal and reflect on what you can do to help eliminate violence against women. Together we can accomplish a lot.

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