

National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women

Thursday, December 6 2018



Vancouver, BC – *The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women* on December 6, provides an opportunity to commemorate the 14 women whose lives were tragically stolen on December 6, 1989 at l'École Polytechnique de Montréal simply because they were women. It also presents an opportunity to remember victims who continue to die as a result of gender-based violence and those who live with violence today.

Social imbalances are entrenched at all levels in our society. In Canada and around the world, women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA individuals continue to experience disproportionate levels of violence based on their gender. Indigenous women and girls are more likely to experience all forms of gender-based violence including inequitable rights and barriers to access to education.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples protects the right to education and still Indigenous education gaps are well documented in Canada and around the globe. According to the Statistics Canada National Household Survey (2011), 29% of Indigenous peoples have not completed high school and only 48% of Indigenous peoples have a post-secondary education.

The Commissioners acknowledge the National Day of Remembrance and Action and state: “Throughout our investigation, we heard about violence that occurred when women and girls had to leave their home communities and families to access education, including attending high school, and the ensuing loss of identity, culture and family connection. This contributes to heightened vulnerability of victimization and discrimination and is in itself systemic abuse. Many do not obtain post-secondary education as a result, and we continue to see education and labour force gaps that perpetuate cycles of poverty.

We encourage Canadians to stand against misogynist violence and to call for a more equitable Canada. Education empowers women in their communities, fosters healthy life decisions and ultimately enhances the safety of Indigenous women and girls.”

The National Day of Remembrance falls within the *16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence* ending on December 10, the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights observed as *International Human Rights Day*.

Marion Buller
Chief Commissioner

Michèle Audette
Commissioner

Brian Eyolfson
Commissioner

Qajaq Robinson
Commissioner