

## DECEMBER 6 – A DAY TO REMEMBER

### National day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women

December 6, 2011 marks the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Montreal Massacre, a tragic act of gender-based violence that left 14 young women dead on the campus of l'École Polytechnique Montreal. In 1991, the Parliament of Canada established December 6 as the **National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women in Canada**. December 6 presents an opportunity for members of the Humber community to acknowledge and reflect on the issues of violence against women as it remains a serious problem in Canada. Acts of violence can range from overt acts of hatred, such as the Montréal Massacre, to sexually based offences for example sexual harassment. According to a [2006 Statistics Canada report](#) women and girls are more likely to experience certain types of violence and assault. Provided below are a list of statistics derived from the 'Status of Women Canada' website that demonstrate the gravity of the problem:

- Young women are particularly vulnerable to violence. Between 1997 and 2006, young women aged 15 to 24 were killed at a rate nearly three times higher than for all female victims of spousal homicide.
- Four out of five female undergraduates surveyed at Canadian universities said that they had been victims of physical or sexual violence in a dating relationship.
- In 2008, there were 146 female victims of homicide in Canada, 45 of which were a result of spousal abuse;
- The spousal homicide rate for Aboriginal women is more than eight times that for non-Aboriginal women;
- Immigrant women may be more vulnerable to family violence due to economic dependence, language barriers, and lack of access to resources; and
- Senior women are twice as likely as senior men to be victims of violent crime perpetrated by a family member.

Humber College is committed to promoting a living, learning and working environment of zero tolerance of all forms of violence. Human Rights & Diversity takes into account the uniqueness of an individual's historical, social and political context, and recognizes that violence affects all individuals differently.

On December 6<sup>th</sup>, 1989, Marc Lepine confronted 60 engineering students during their class at l'École Polytechnique in Montreal. After ordering the men to leave the classroom he began his shooting rampage which spread to three floors and several classrooms, yelling, "**I want women.**" – Source: "The Montreal Massacre", CBC News.

Source: The information in this fact sheet has been developed by [CBC News](#): "[The Montreal Massacre](#)" [Status of Women Canada](#) and [Statistics Canada](#): "[Measuring Violence against Women: Statistical Trends 2006](#)." For more information please visit the [Human Rights & Diversity website](#)