



Canada Must do More to Address Violence Against Indigenous Women

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OTTAWA (December 6, 2017) – Today the Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association (CCPA) commemorates the 14 young women whose lives were taken in an act of gender-based violence at l'École Polytechnique de Montréal. The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women is about remembering those victims, and it is also a time to take action against all forms of oppression against women and girls in our society.

“We still have a lot of work to do in Canada. Violence against Indigenous women and girls, in particular, is a serious problem,” said John Driscoll, President of the CCPA. “Indigenous women in Canada report rates of violence, including domestic violence and sexual assault, 3.5 times higher than non-Indigenous women. Young Indigenous women are five times more likely than other Canadian women of the same age to die of violence.”

The Indigenous Circle Chapter of CCPA provides an Indigenous voice and expertise within the Association - raising awareness and creating a network for Indigenous and non-Indigenous counsellors to work together on issues that affect Indigenous clients, families and communities.

“Counsellors and psychotherapists, especially those trained in culturally appropriate ways, can help with trauma, domestic violence, and sexual assault or harassment, in a safe environment,” continued Driscoll. “And, it also requires commitment from every Canadian to break the silence, speak out, and take responsibility to increase the dialogue and action to combat abuse against Indigenous women.”

CCPA strongly encourages anyone who may be experiencing threats, domestic violence, or abuse, or who knows someone who has mentioned personal safety issues, to seek immediate support. Talk to a trusted friend, dial 911, a crisis centre, local police, or a health facility. Do not stay silent. If you are looking for therapeutic support, go to www.ccpa-accp.ca, where you can search for a Canadian Certified Counsellor in your region. Members of the public can also find authoritative information about the profession of counselling and psychotherapy at CCPA’s public website, www.talkingcanhelp.ca.

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The Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association (CCPA) is a national bilingual association providing professional counsellors and psychotherapists with access to exclusive educational programs, certification, professional development and direct contact with professional peers and specialty groups. CCPA promotes the profession and its contribution to the mental health and well-being of all Canadians. For more information on the counselling and psychotherapy profession, please visit www.ccpa-accp.ca or www.talkingcanhelp.ca

For further information, please contact:
Cynthia Waldmeier, CCPA Media Relations
ccpa@impactcanada.com | 613-233-8906