



CANADIAN COUNSELLING AND
PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DE
COUNSELING ET DE PSYCHOTHÉRAPIE

L'École Polytechnique de Montréal: 30 Years Later

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OTTAWA – (December 6, 2019) Today is the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women in Canada. Today we remember the lives of 14 young women who had their lives cut short in the mass shooting at l'École Polytechnique de Montréal, 30 years ago. The Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association (CCPA) honours the young women who lost their lives during this incident and all other women who have experienced gender-based violence.

"During the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women in Canada, we remember the victims of this terrible tragedy", said Rabeea Siddique, Ontario Anglophone Director for CCPA. "These innocent women were all young, aspiring students, who were victims of a hate crime based on their gender. Today, we are honouring all who have faced gender-based violence, and look to take further actions on any current issues."

In 1989, l'École Polytechnique de Montréal saw one of the worst massacres in Canadian history. Fourteen women, all studying engineering, were killed by an anti-feminist man. The massacre saw a nation-wide discussion being sparked regarding gun control, and violence against women. In response to the shooting, a House of Commons Sub-Committee on the Status of Women was created in an attempt to increase women's equality and reduce violence against women through government policy.

"As we remember those who lost their lives in this horrible event, we must come together and reflect on the troubling fact that for women, girls, and LGBTQ2+ individuals, hate-violence is still a reality," said Siri Brown, British Columbia and Yukon Director for CCPA. "Violence has impacts on individuals and communities. Beyond the impact of injury or death, it may also increase the risk of mental, emotional, relational, physical, sexual, and/or reproductive health. We must continue to advocate for and be allies of all who battle hate-violence in Canada; helping those who suffer to speak up against this violence."

The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence falls within the 16 Days of Activism and Gender-Based Violence. This year's campaign, #OurActionsMatter, calls on people to share the actions they are taking to question, call out, and speak up against acts of gender-based violence. Please add your voice to the conversation by using the hashtag, and be a part of the gender-based violence solution.

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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.

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