OSSTF/FEESO

December 6 Statement

December 6, 2021 — Thirty-two years ago, on December 6, 1989, after days of planning and surveillance, a man with a rifle walked into École Polytechnique in Montreal. Proclaiming that he was "fighting feminism", he targeted and murdered 14 women students who were studying in traditionally male areas of study. Another 10 women were shot and wounded in that attack, which has come to be known as the *Montreal Massacre*. All of those women were killed or wounded simply because they were women.

Each December 6, we commemorate not only the lives lost in Montreal on that day in 1989, but also, we remember each woman who has been killed at the hands of a man in the 32 years since the massacre. We honour each woman, and we pledge that we will not stop until we see an end to gender-based violence against women.

We also renew our commitment to acting against gender-based violence, which affects many women, children, and families every day in Canada. OSSTF/FEESO members will hold commemorative events to honour the victims of the Montreal Massacre and all victims of gender-based violence. We will continue our work with students and in our schools to promote equality, confront sexism and misogyny and prevent violence against women and girls.

"OSSTF/FEESO, is working tirelessly to eradicate violence against women through a variety of actions. One of these actions is to have trained at least one women's advocate in most of our districts across the province," said OSSTF/FEESO President, Karen Littlewood.

"The Women's Advocates will be a source of support and resources for members who are facing situations of domestic violence. This year during the COVID-19 pandemic, it is even more important to support and protect women and children who are facing domestic violence. As our homes become our workplaces, some women are even less safe. We must be diligent in bringing awareness and action to our members and communities in the fight to end gender-based violence. We will continue to work with our many community partners, government, school boards, and parents to ensure the eradication of gender-based violence," concluded Littlewood.

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