



*For Immediate Release*

*December 4, 2014*

## **December 6, National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women**

**Moncton** - 2014 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the December 6, 1989 Ecole Polytechnique massacre where 14 young women lost their lives simply because they were women. Each year, on December 6, we take a moment to mourn these 14 young women and all women and girls who were killed or experienced various forms of violence in their homes, their communities and workplaces. We also take this time to renew our commitment to work for change and to build a society based on respect, equality and peace.

The onus is on all of us, every day of the year, to take a stand on violence against women and girls. We can make violence our business, we can raise non-violent children, we can promote women's equality, we can break the silence, we can listen to victims, protect them and support them, we can encourage offenders to get help.

Until all women have true economic and social equality, ending the violence we experience is not possible. For women to achieve social and economic equality, the New Brunswick Federation of Labour (NBFL) Women's Committee calls upon the provincial government to focus their efforts to: implement Pay Equity Legislation for the private sector, increase the minimum wage to a living wage, increase funding to social housing, implement a universal and accessible public child care program and increase funding for women's centres, shelters, rape crisis centres and front-line advocacy and support.

We also turn our thoughts to the 1200 cases, as reported by the RCMP earlier this year, of missing or murdered Aboriginal women and girls in Canada. The report also points out the fact that this number is disproportionately high: Aboriginal women and girls make up over 16% of female homicides, 11% of missing women and yet make up only 4% of the female population in Canada.

That is why the NBFL joins other labour groups and the Native Women Association of Canada to demand a National Public Inquiry into the epidemic of missing and murdered Aboriginal Women and Girls in our country. Only a public inquiry will be able to examine the causes and to identify solutions to end this horrifying injustice.

Finally, we encourage all of you to attend the December 6<sup>th</sup> activities organized in your region and to support the YWCA's Rose Campaign, a national advocacy campaign to end violence against women and girls.

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**The New Brunswick Federation of Labour is New Brunswick's largest central labour body representing 40,000 members of both public sector and private sector labour unions.**

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