

HOW MANY MORE OF US?

"It could have been me, and instead it was you..."
(Holly Near)



On December 6th 1989, 14 women were killed at Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal in what has become known as the "Montreal Massacre". Their tragic deaths jarred the nation awake to the frightening reality that dozens of women die violently every year in this country. By the end of 1989, 97 women had been killed. Most women were killed by their partners. A few, like the 14 in Montreal, died at the hands of strangers. A shocked women's community first mourned their fallen sisters, then renewed their determination to work for change.

In the fall of 1991, with the unanimous support of all three national political parties, and just in time for the second anniversary of the Montreal Massacre, the federal government declared December 6th a National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. This formalizing of the day legitimized it as the appropriate anniversary on which to remember all the women who are killed violently in Canada every year.

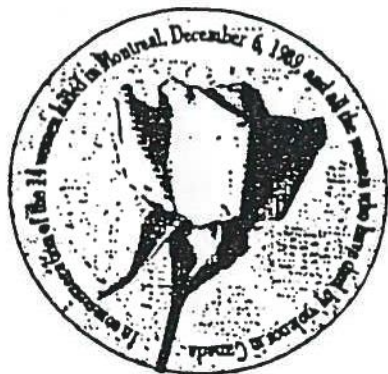
The statistics are still grim. In Ontario in 1991, 54 women had been killed by December 6th. Their names were added to an ever-growing list.

The "Rose Button" reproduced above, was first produced in 1990 by the December 6th Coalition, a Waterloo Region coalition of 19 community groups who shared a concern about the rising incidence of violence against women. Their dream was that one day the December 6th Rose would be a national symbol, much like the Remembrance Day Poppy, to be worn by all concerned women and men in Canada, so that the 14 women who died in Montreal, and all the other women who die violently each year will not be forgotten.

Three thousand buttons were sold locally in 1990. In 1991, with increased awareness and promotion, much of it through Boards of Education and Women Teachers Federations, 60,000 buttons were sold, mostly in Ontario, but as far away as Quebec, Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan.

The dream is even closer to reality this year, with the YWCA of/du Canada taking over distribution of the button all across Canada. Proceeds from button sales will go to women's shelters and other organizations that assist women who are victims of violence.

By purchasing and wearing the December 6th Rose, you will be joining thousands of Canadians who believe that the violence must end. Your button purchase will not only honour these unnecessary deaths, it will help support services for abused women.



Member Organizations

Anselma House

Citizens for Choice

Men's Network for Change

Congress of Black Women

Family Crisis Shelter

Focus for Ethnic Women

Sexual Assault Centre

YWCA

Mothers and Others Making Change

Ontario Secondary School Teachers'

Federation District 24

Social Planning Council; Kitchener
Cambridge

Federation of Students, University of Waterloo

Women's Centre, Wilfrid Laurier University

Representatives from: Waterloo County Board of Education

Waterloo Region Catholic School Board

Waterloo County Women Teachers' Association