

The OSSTF  
DISTRICT 12  
Status of Women Committee  
Fall 2007

# Remembering December 6th



## What happened that day...

*A gunman confronts 60 engineering students during their class at l'École Polytechnique in Montreal on Dec. 6, 1989. He separates the men from the women and tells the men to leave the classroom, threatening them with his .22-calibre rifle. The enraged man begins a shooting spree on three floors and in several classrooms, jumping from desk to desk while female students cower below. He roams the corridors yelling, "I want women."*

*Before opening fire in the engineering class, he calls the women "une gang de féministes" and says "J'haïs les féministes [I hate feminists]." One person pleads that they are not feminists, just students taking engineering. But the gunman doesn't listen. He shoots the women and then kills himself. Parents of the Polytechnique students wait outside the school crying and wonder if their daughters are among the 14 dead tonight.*

Source: [http://archives.cbc.ca/IDC-1-70-398-2235/disasters\\_tragedies/montreal\\_massacre/clip1](http://archives.cbc.ca/IDC-1-70-398-2235/disasters_tragedies/montreal_massacre/clip1)

## Web Resources

### Status of Women Canada

<http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca>

*A Federal Agency that promotes gender equality.*

See the **Commemorative Dates** section for information on Dec 6<sup>th</sup> activities, lessons, and commemorations.

This site offers practical suggestions easily adaptable for a high school environment. It also includes a link for free posters and toolkits.

### The White Ribbon Campaign

[http://www.whiteribbon.ca/educational\\_materials](http://www.whiteribbon.ca/educational_materials)

An education and action kit designed specifically for Canadian Secondary Students is available for \$30. The kit combines in-class lessons with school wide projects to raise awareness of violence against women.

## Commemoration

This newsletter provides information, resources, lesson plans, and commemoration suggestions for all TDSB teachers. Together we can help our students learn about the devastating consequences of Violence Against Women and ways in which we can all work together to eradicate violence in our society.

### Suggestions for the Day of December 6<sup>th</sup>:

- ✿ Make an announcement of the event, including the commemoration
- ✿ Read the names of the 14 victims, followed by a moment of silence
- ✿ Invite students and their families to join the Candlelight Vigil: 6pm, The Philosopher's Walk (Bloor Entrance) University of Toronto Campus
- ✿ Engage students in a discussion on violence against women in your classroom
- ✿ Provide students time to explore the links provided in this newsletter

## THE VICTIMS

Geneviève Bergeron, 21  
Hélène Colgan, 23  
Nathalie Croteau, 23  
Barbara Daigneault, 22  
Anne-Marie Edward, 21  
Maud Haviernick, 29  
Barbara Maria Klucznik, 31  
Maryse Laganière, 25  
Maryse Leclair, 23  
Anne-Marie Lemay, 27  
Sonia Pelletier, 23  
Michèle Richard, 21  
Annie St-Arneault, 23  
Annie Turcotte, 21

## Web Resources

### Men for Change

<http://www.m4c.ns.ca>

*A Violence Prevention Curriculum*

"Helping students to analyze the culture of violence that condones abusive behaviour is the first step towards empowering them to create the violence free culture of tomorrow."

A three-volume curriculum document is available for 70\$ which includes units on *Dealing with Aggression, Gender Equality and Media Awareness, and Forming Healthy Relationships.*

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### CBC Archives

<http://archives.cbc.ca>

*Subject Search: Montreal Massacre. Click the icon "For Teachers" on the right.*

This site contains in-depth lessons and activities for students in Grades 9-12 in English, History and Social Studies. There are links for video footage, tips for classroom use, and an assessment suite.

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### The Global Women's Memorial

<http://www.globalwomensmemorial.org/index2.html>

This website is an on-line community aimed at creating support and education around issues of violence against women. The site also reports on specific events happening around Canada.

# Lesson Plans Suggestions: Across the Curriculum

## English/Social Sciences

- Sociological analysis: How could this have been avoided? Could it happen again?
- Survivor's journal (one or more entries)
- Collage: media images of "real" men and "real" women
- Letters to the editor/companies in response to negative media images
- Discussion/debate: Should we remember Jean-Marc Lepine's name?

## Drama

- Dramatic reading of news story and the names of the victims
- Rehearsed improvisation on the theme of violence against women
- Forum theatre: events leading up to the massacre; during; the aftermath

## Art

- Public awareness posters (try to publish and distribute; maybe a competition)

## Physical Education/Health

- Discussion/activities on themes of beauty, self-esteem and true power

## Math

- Statistical analysis: Violence against women in the past 40 years and predictions

*\*Select Lesson Plans are available online at our website! Please see below for details.*

## School Wide Activities and Fundraising

### The December 6<sup>th</sup> Fund

<http://www.dec6fund.ca/>

This organization, supported by the YWCA and the United Way, works to help women in abusive situations find safety and independence. It is a well-respected fund that accepts donations small and large. The site also offers specific information on the Montreal Massacre as well as personalized stories of the 14 victims and their families.

## About The OSSTF District 12 Status of Women Committee

The District 12 Status of Women Committee is composed of all interested members throughout the district, including day school teachers, continuing education teachers, occasional teachers and members of the Professional Student Services Personnel.

**The objective of the Status of Women Committee is to promote items of concern for women in OSSTF. PLEASE JOIN US!**

- ✓ In the past few years we have –
- ✓ Conducted financial planning for women
- ✓ Promoted the December 6<sup>th</sup> day of mourning
- ✓ Celebrated International Women's Day (IWD)
- ✓ Raised money and awareness for breast cancer, women's shelters and international women's issues
- ✓ Developed the Pregnancy, Parental and Adoption Leave Guide
- ✓ Awarded certificates of recognition for female members and students at the annual dinner – held each spring!

Meetings are held on the fourth floor of the District 12 office on the second Thursday of the month from 4:30-6:30. For further information or for lesson plans, please contact the District office at (416) 393-8900 or visit the District 12 website at <http://www.osstfd12.com> – click on the **Status of Women** link under "Committees".