

**Say Their Names.** *Sonia Pelletier, Anne-Marie Edwards, Anne-Marie Lemay, Michèle Richard, Annie Turcotte, Barbara Daignault, Barbara Klucznik-Widajewicz, Genevieve Bergeron, Helene Colgan, Nathalie Croteau, Annie St-Arneault, Maud Haviernick, Maryse Leclair, Maryse Langanière.*



**The Montreal Massacre** occurred on Dec 6, 1989, at École Polytechnique, when a former student entered the school armed with a gun and knife. He entered an engineering class, and separated the men from the women, and yelling “You are all feminists!” before opening fire on the women. In the next 20 minutes, 14 women would die at his hands, 13 more injured, and countless others traumatized by the events that occurred on the day of Canada’s deadliest mass shooting. The shooter then turned the gun on himself. His suicide note, he blamed feminists for “ruining his life. The note contained a list

of 19 ‘radical feminists’ who he said would have been killed had he not run out of time. It included the names of well-known women in Quebec, including journalists, television personalities, and union leaders” (Stéphanie Lanthier & Celine Cooper, [The Canadian Encyclopedia](#), 2021).

**December 6<sup>th</sup>** has become recognized as a day to remember, to mourn, and to work towards ending gender-based violence. Accordingly, the Government of Canada has named December 6<sup>th</sup> *National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women*.

## **Gender Based Violence (GBV)**

Gender based violence is violence against someone due to their sex or gender. It is caused by stereotypes about sexuality, gender roles, and gender expressions. These stereotypes involve strict ideas about gender roles, heterosexuality, and gender normativity (there can only be males or females). GBV is also heavily influenced by the structures of racism and colonialism. (City of Edmonton, 2022)

- Canadian statistics report 1 in 6 women will be sexually assaulted in her lifetime (but this is based on reported numbers, in reality the statistic is likely much higher)
- Every hour of every day, a woman in Alberta is a victim of some form of violence by an intimate partner
- Almost 70% of domestic violence incidents in Edmonton go unreported
- Indigenous women are more than 8 times as likely to be killed by their intimate partner and times likely to be victims of violence compared to non-Indigenous women (City of Edmonton, 2022).

## What Can Be Done to End Gender Based Violence?



### 1. Educate yourself on prevention and intervention

- *Gender-Based Violence and Your Workplace*: 1 hour on-line learning module offered by The Alberta Council of Women's Shelters (ACWS) [Domestic Violence and Your Workplace - Alberta Council of Women's Shelters \(acws.ca\)](https://www.acws.ca)
- *The National Framework to Address and Prevent Gender-Based Violence at PSIs in Canada* <https://youtu.be/bIVZXfquqKQ>

### 2. Familiarize yourself with the signs of GBV

*National Action Plan to end Gender Based Violence - Video by Calgary Immigrant Women's*  
<https://youtu.be/5Oi0p40PKvQ>

### 3. Learn more about your workplace/school policies and practices around GBV. Familiarize yourself with the campus resources for survivors of GBV.

<https://www.nait.ca/nait/life-at-nait/health-well-being/sexual-health-consent>

### 4. Take GBV *out of the closet*! Normalizing openness about difficult topics takes away the shame and secrecy associated with being victimized. Share GBV resources with your students and staff, and encourage survivors to speak up, and out.

### 5. Teach about GBV, and inform students about campus and community resources.

### 6. Refuse to be a passive bystander. GBV is preventable, and everyone deserves a life free from violence, and GBV is everyone's business. Ask the question: **ARE YOU OKAY?**



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