



# News Release

For Immediate Release

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

December 6, 2012

**IQALUIT, Nunavut** – December 6 was declared National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women in Canada in 1991, following the 1989 murder of 14 young women at l'École Polytechnique in Montréal. They were targeted because they were women.

“I ask all Nunavummiut on this National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women to think of the violence we experience in Nunavut. What can each of us do to prevent violence in our homes and communities?” said Monica Eil, Minister responsible for Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council. “It is important that we work together to end the chain of violence that affects us all. Let us each take concrete actions to prevent violence that is so prevalent in Nunavut.”

Violent acts are not just experienced by victims and abusers but also touch families, neighbours and co-workers. Children who witness violence can experience psychological damage and may even grow up thinking it is normal behavior and repeat the cycle of violence in their relationships.

The Government of Nunavut is actively involved in advancing the status of women in our territory and is responsible for funding and supporting the work of the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council, which continues to work diligently to raise awareness of issues that affect the women of our territory.

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“As a mother and grandmother, I want to work towards a Nunavut in which violence is not tolerated,” said Minister Ell. “Suggesting that a friend stop drinking and seek medical help can save a life. Proper storage of firearms and bullets can save lives. Picking up a telephone and calling for help is not a weakness. There are solutions to end violence and many ways we can each make a difference.”

On December 6, the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council will hold a community vigil to pay tribute to the women and loved ones who have been lost to violence and to show support towards eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls.

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