

## **News Release**

For Immediate Release

## **Government of Nunavut Observes National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women**

**IQALUIT, Nunavut (December 6, 2013)** –The Government of Nunavut is joining Nunavummiut and all Canadians today, in commemorating the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

"On December 6, 1989, the lives of 14 young engineering students were tragically cut short by an act of hatred targeted at women," said Jeannie Ugyuk, Minister of Family Services and Minister Responsible for the Status of Women. "This tragic event reminds us of the urgency that we, as a society, should place on challenging ideas and visions that exclude and undermine equality between the genders. We, as Nunavummiut, want a society built on a foundation of the best human values, including respect for women and girls."

Minister Ugyuk is calling on the public to participate in remembrance ceremonies and to reflect on the significance of this anniversary.

On December 6, a coalition of organizations, including the Qulliit Status of Women Council, the YWCA, the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, and the Alianait arts festival are planning a community walk and vigil in Iqaluit.

Iqalummiut will meet at 5:30 p.m. at the Igluvut Building for the community walk. The Vigil will take place at 6:30 p.m. at Inuksuk High School.

## **Emergency protection for victims**

There are family violence shelters across Nunavut providing emergency protection to victims.

"Shelters give protection to women and their children. If a victim of family violence lives in a community that does not have its own shelter, we take them to the nearest safe place, and that may sometimes mean a shelter in another community," explained Peter Dudding, Director of Children and Family Services with the Department of Family Services.

There are currently five family violence shelters in Nunavut:

- Cambridge Bay, St. Michael's Crisis Shelter: (867) 983-5232
- Iqaluit, Qimavvik Shelter: (867) 979-4500
- Kugaaruk Family Violence Centre: (867) 769-6100
- Kugluktuk Women's Crisis Centre: (867) 982-3210
- Rankin Inlet, Kataujaq Society Shelter: (867) 645-2214

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