



News Release

For immediate release

December 4th, 2009

SFL Marks 20th Anniversary of the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

Saskatchewan's labour central will commemorate the victims of the 1989 École Polytechnique massacre this December 6th, alongside workers and citizens across the country.

"Saskatchewan's labour movement stands in solidarity with the "20 Days, 20 Ways" campaign of the Canadian Labour Congress. It begins with honouring the memories of the 14 women who were murdered that day, for the expressed reason that they were women. Violence continues to affect shocking numbers of women. Far too many of our daughters, wives, mothers, sisters, and partners live in fear and pain because collectively we have not solved the problem of the hatred of women," says Mary-Beth Hollis, chair of the SFL Women's Committee.

"The trade union movement believes that one key way to solve the problem of violence against women is to push our governments to promote and support women and their struggle for equality. This December 6th we are pressing the Harper government to promote and advance women's equality, rather than continuing their agenda of diminishing it," says Larry Hubich, SFL President.

The campaign highlights the need for a comprehensive social and economic program that includes:

- maintaining the long gun registry, which has reduced gun-related spousal homicides by 50% since it was started;
- access to affordable, safe housing;
- a living minimum wage;
- effective pay equity laws;
- a national publicly-funded child care programme;
- equal access to Employment Insurance;
- access to justice, including the resources to challenge discriminatory government action and legal aid;
- increased governmental support for women's centres, rape crisis centres and women's shelters;
- legal protection and support for women who report sexual assault.

Workers are mailing postcards on these issues every day, for 20 days, directly to the Prime Minister.

The SFL also invites Saskatchewan citizens to attend a vigil outside Member of Parliament Ray Boughen's office, at #210 – 2631, 28th Ave. Regina, on Sunday December 6th at 4:00 p.m. (see attached poster)

"We will be sending a message to stop Federal Bill C-391 which proposes to end the registry of long guns. Let's send a message to our government that the gun registry helps save women's lives and should not be dismantled," says Hollis.

The SFL represents 95,000 unionized workers from
37 affiliated unions in Saskatchewan.

For more information, contact Mary-Beth Hollis at 596-8672 or Larry Hubich at 537-7330 (cel.)