



## News Release

December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006

for immediate release

### **SFL Calls for Federal Action on Violence Against Women**

The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, December 6<sup>th</sup>, was created to honour the memories of 14 young women who were killed in the Montréal Massacre. The women were murdered 17 years ago at the École Polytechnique because they were women.

Young women were again singled out as victims of school shootings in several recent incidents across North America.

Domestic violence is also widespread across Canada. According to Statistics Canada, women are more likely than men to be the victims of the most severe forms of spousal assault, as well as spousal homicide, sexual assault and stalking. The 2006 data also reveals that on a single day, over 200 women were turned away from overcrowded shelters across the country.

“We call on the Harper government to restore funding to groups that work to create equality for women. Violence against women of all socioeconomic backgrounds is widespread and we know that part of tackling this problem is to provide women with opportunities and support,” says SFL President Larry Hubich.

The Harper government recently slashed the budget of the Status of Women, resulting in the closing of 12 regional offices across the country including the Saskatoon and Winnipeg offices. The mandate of the Status of Women has also been altered: it will no longer provide grants to women’s groups who do research and advocacy for women’s equality.

“It is outrageous that this government is gutting one of the key programs for creating gender equality. Workers are also very frustrated at the government’s rejection of the recommendations of the federal Pay Equity Task Force, and the government’s recent cuts to literacy programs. Pay equity laws and literacy initiatives build women’s capacities to remain economically independent of men. Women will not be safe and secure without economic equality,” adds Hubich.

The SFL represents over 93,500 unionized workers from 35 affiliated unions in Saskatchewan.

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