

November 15, 2005

TO ALL CUPE CHARTERED ORGANIZATIONS

**NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND ACTION
TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN – DECEMBER 6th**

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

December 6th, 2005 is the 16th anniversary of the murder of 14 young women at the École Polytechnique in Montréal.

Violence against women continues to be a huge problem in our society and is too widespread to be dismissed as the isolated actions of a few dysfunctional or anti-social men. Violence against women is a social and political problem and we need to address the underlying causes which perpetuate women's inequality in our society.

CUPE is part of the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) Campaign for Social and Economic Independence for Women. The Campaign calls on the Federal Government to take action on pay equity legislation, a universal child care program and funding for women's organizations and services, such as shelters for women and their children. The campaign will run from December 6th to March 8th, International Women's Day. We invite you to take part by sending the enclosed postcard to the CLC. The CLC will then use the responses to pressure the government either prior to or during the coming federal election. We have lots of cards, so if you want to really get your Local involved, let us know and we'll send you more.

We also encourage your Local to look at other ways of getting members involved in this issue, such as inviting a speaker from a women's shelter to your Local meeting, or arranging a meeting with your region's Member of Parliament to lobby on the issues of child care or pay equity, or organizing a Stewards' training program on how to recognize abuse and what to do about it.

In order for us to build a community in which women are truly respected and valued we are asking you to make a personal commitment and to encourage your members to work for change to end violence against women.

In solidarity,

PAUL MOIST
National President

CLAUDE GÉNÉREUX
National Secretary-Treasurer

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