

November 2009

TO ALL CUPE CHARTERED ORGANIZATIONS

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

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

December 6th this year will mark the 20th anniversary of that terrible day in 1989 when 14 women were killed at the École Polytechnique in Montréal. We remember and mourn those women who were murdered simply because they were women. We also must keep in mind the over 500 murdered and missing Aboriginal sisters, and all women who have suffered from violence.

We commit ourselves to work to end violence against women, including taking measures to end poverty, which is a form of structural violence that makes women more vulnerable. The current economic crisis has had a devastating effect on hundreds of thousands of Canadian workers, including many women who have lost jobs, and who have minimal access to Employment Insurance (EI) benefits. Women also continue to experience wage discrimination, unequal access to training and education, a shortage of affordable housing, and a lack of quality non-profit child care. The Harper government's economic stimulus package addresses the need for improvements in the physical infrastructure, but ignores the social infrastructure where most women's jobs are found. For Aboriginal and racialized women the situation is even more stark. Economic inequality, racial discrimination and harassment are a constant reality.

This year, to mark the 20th anniversary, we encourage CUPE locals and members to participate in the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) December 6th Postcard Campaign. This campaign outlines 20 different measures that governments can implement to improve the safety and security of women. The focus of the campaign is on women's social and economic security issues which are fundamental for women to escape violent situations and to achieve equality.

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The campaign will be launched on November 16, 2009 and we are asking you to get involved by sending one postcard per day for the following 20 days to the Prime Minister. A package of 20 postcards is included and you can order more from the CLC for a cost of \$1.00 per package, at www.clc-ctc.ca.

Also, in recognition of the 20th anniversary we have updated our beautiful butterfly poster "*Until All Women Are Free to Be*" and have included one in this package. December 6th is a reminder of the killing of 14 women in Montréal and it is an occasion to reaffirm CUPE's commitment to the broader struggle for women's equality. We will continue to do whatever is necessary to ensure that women have economic and social security so that they truly can be safe at home, at work, and in our communities.

In solidarity,



PAUL MOIST
National President



CLAUDE GÉNÉREUX
National Secretary-Treasurer