



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 6, 2010

**Dec. 6: National Day of Remembrance and Action on
Violence against Women:**

**OFL CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION TO ERADICATE
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

(TORONTO) - Every minute of every day, a woman or child is sexually assaulted; each week, 1-2 women are murdered by a current or former partner; violence against Aboriginal women continues to mount – so far 582 Aboriginal women have been documented as missing and likely murdered; homicide is the #1 killer of women in the workplace; women with disabilities are 1.5 to 10 times as likely to be abused as non-disabled women, depending on whether they live in the community or in institutions.

“As long as the issue of violence against women is not given priority and prominence, women will continue to live in danger. The statistics are appalling and demonstrate the need for urgent action,” says OFL President Sid Ryan. “For starters, governments must view every legislative and political measure through the lens of women’s safety and economic security.”

Canadian women have been placed in increased jeopardy by the Harper government’s ideological attacks and cuts to women’s agencies, programs, and services. Its actions serve as a chilling reminder of why the Tories must not be returned to power.

“Harper’s record is one of weakening women’s rights in every arena and silencing the very organizations women rely on to provide services and advocate for equality. The attacks on reproductive rights, pay equity, child care and other human rights are a scandalous indictment,” says Ryan.

Ontario’s provincial government must also take action. “Women’s inequality is made worse by low wages, cuts to social assistance, inadequate funding for women’s services and shelters and the lack of public housing and child care,” says OFL Secretary-Treasurer Marie Kelly. “We must see substantial legislative, regulatory and funding initiatives to immediately remedy the situation.”

December 6, the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women, is the day to remember and mourn the loss of 14 women, murdered at Montréal’s École Polytechnique. The OFL and all affiliates are united in our call for action to end violence against women in all its forms.

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