



**MEDIA STATEMENT  
DECEMBER 6, 2019**

## **Prairieaction Foundation Commemorates the 30th Anniversary of Montreal Massacre Realizing a Future Free from Violence**

PRAIRIE PROVINCES - Thirty years ago, on December 6, 1989, 14 women were murdered in Montreal at École Polytechnique. It was a hateful and targeted act against women. December 6<sup>th</sup> has become Canada's National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

“We encourage all citizens to reflect on this tragedy and commit to making our world a safer place for everyone,” said Rod McKendrick, Vice Chair of Prairieaction Foundation (PAF). Across the country today, commemorations will pay tribute to the fourteen young women who lost their lives. A 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative book has been published to honour the memory of the victims. As well, universities across Canada, in every province and territory, will recognize this day and create awareness of violence against girls and women.

The stalwart and dedicated work of Dr. Jacques Duchesneau has kept alive the yearly memorial. He was Montreal's Chief of Police in 1989. He and the Memory Committee have encouraged Canadians to remember this Canadian mass murder, and to work together to realize a future free from violence.

Prairieaction Foundation (PAF) was created in response to this tragedy. It is a tri-provincial organization, and is governed by a Board of Directors from Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. The Foundation is affiliated with seven universities in the three provinces, and funds research into the causes and solutions to violence. In addition, education and awareness grants, and youth leadership awards promote community initiatives.

PAF is proud to have The Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor General of Canada, and the Lieutenant Governors of the 3 provinces as Honorary Patrons: the Honourable Lois Mitchell from Alberta, the Honourable Russ Mirasty from Saskatchewan, and the Honourable Janice Filmon from Manitoba.

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