



## II. Background on the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

Every year, Canadians observe December 6 as the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. Established in 1991 by the Parliament of Canada, this day marks the anniversary of the murders in 1989 of 14 young women at l'École Polytechnique de Montréal. These victims were targeted because they were women.

As well as commemorating the 14 young women whose lives ended in an act of violence that shocked the nation, December 6 represents an opportunity to reflect on violence against women in our communities. Violence against women occurs in public, in private, and in intimate contexts and can be experienced by women at any stage of their lives, regardless of their socio-economic background. No community is free of this serious issue and the impact of violence against women is felt by everyone, either directly or indirectly. We all have a role to play in ending violence against women.

The Guiding Movement began in England when a group of girls demanded entry to a Scouting rally for boys in 1909. The actions of the pioneering girls launched the Guiding Movement, which spread to Canada in 1910. Almost 100 years later, the girls and young women who are part of the Canadian Guiding Movement continue to raise awareness of the issues affecting girls and women across the country.



### The Purple Ribbon

The Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence (Campagne du ruban violet contre la violence) was initiated by the Advisory Council on the Status of Women in 1992 to remember the 14 women who were murdered at L'École Polytechnique and to raise awareness about violence against women.

We urge our Members to wear the Purple Ribbon on December 6th as our way of showing solidarity with all girls and women and our commitment to ending violence against them.

We encourage your unit to make your own ribbons to wear and share with others. By completing the Day of Action Challenge, you'll also be eligible for a Day of Action crest (shown at left), available in all GGC stores.

