

QuickTime™ and a  
TIFF (LZW) decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

## Over 600 Ontario Women killed since 1989 due to male violence

“Silence and invisibility go hand in hand with powerlessness.” Audre Lorde

### WOMEN WON'T FORGET CANDLELIGHT VIGIL SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2009 AT 6 PM Philosopher's Walk, University of Toronto

**Guest Speakers** Chantal Mukandoli – Native of Rwanda, Genocide Survivor  
Mahlikah Awe:ri – Indigenous Afro-Native Spoken Word Activist  
Beverly-Ann Braithwaite – Chester Le Community Activist

**Toronto, November 27th 2009 – On the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre, Women Won't Forget invites you to attend the Annual Candlelight Vigil on Sunday, December 6 at 6 pm at Philosopher's Walk, University of Toronto (between the Royal Ontario Museum and the Royal Conservatory of Music) to commemorate all women killed due to male violence.**

On December 6<sup>th</sup> 1989, 14 women were shot to death at L'ecole Polytechnique, because of their gender. Since the Montreal Massacre, more than 30 women have died each year as a result of male violence in Ontario alone. In addition, over 500 Native women have gone missing in Canada. These numbers only increase each year, which makes our vigil integral to raising awareness that something more must be done to stop the violence. We vow not to forget these women and all the women who live with violence, who have died due to violence, and those who have survived. It is the job of those of us who go on living to speak for them and to change the world in which we live.

December 6 is the National Day of Action and Remembrance on Violence Against Women. We gather to remember the 14 women who were killed in the 1989 Montreal Massacre as well as the women who have been killed since then because of male violence. Every day women die lonely and quickly forgotten deaths at the hands of strangers – and even more often, at the hands of their husbands, ex-husbands and partners. Women are brutally beaten, sexually assaulted and harassed at home, on the street and in the workplace.

The aim of Women Won't Forget is to heighten awareness of the continuing and pervasive extent of abuse against women in our society and to encourage and support efforts to end it. Since 1989, we have met to tell the stories of those women who can no longer speak for themselves. Our permanent memorial consists of 14 red oak trees, a granite boulder and a memorial plaque.\* Every year, hundreds of people gather to experience a native healing ceremony and listen to speakers and performers. The hour-long ceremony ends with the laying of roses. Everyone is welcome. We provide sign language interpretation. Ceremony proceeds regardless of the weather. For more information call 416.762.8798. or visit [www.womenwontforget.org](http://www.womenwontforget.org)

#### **Contacts and Information:**

**Women Won't Forget Committee: (1) Shirley Gillette 416.762.8798 or (2) Eve Hoffman 647.342.9064**

*\*These fourteen trees are with sorrow planted in memory and in honour of fourteen sisters slain because of their gender in Montreal on December 6, 1989. May commitment to the eradication of sexism and violence against women be likewise planted in the hearts and minds of you who stand here now and of all who come after. It is not enough to look back in pain. We must create a new future.*