



Ontario Association of Interval & Transition Houses

2 Carlton Street, Suite 1404

Toronto, Ontario M5B 1J5

Tel.: (416) 977-6619

Fax: (416) 977-1227

E-mail: oaith@web.ca

## Media Advisory

### Women's shelters to ask parties for promise on violence against women

**For immediate release: November 23, 2009**

Ontario women's shelters will this week ask Ontario politicians to sign a written commitment to work for an end to violence against women at a Queen's Park event marking the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of December 6<sup>th</sup>, 1989, and remembering women and children murdered by male partners across the province.

**When: Thursday, November 26<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.**  
**Where: Erie/Thames/St Clare Room, MacDonald Block**  
**900 Bay Street, Toronto (across from the Legislature)**

December 6<sup>th</sup> is the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women in Canada. It commemorates the day when a gunman murdered 14 women at l'École Polytechnique in Montreal because they were, in his view, "feminists." Since then, 486 women and children in Ontario have been murdered in situations where intimate partners were either charged or committed suicide.

"20 years after Montreal, women continue to be murdered by their male partners, and their killings are only one part of a violent picture for thousands of women in Ontario," said Eileen Morrow, Coordinator of the Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses (OAITH), which is sponsoring the event. "This is a good time to ask elected members to demonstrate what they will do, not only to manage response to violence against women, but to end it."

"Ending violence against women calls for a broad strategy led by women's advocates and survivors across Ontario," said Leighann Burns, Executive Director of Harmony House in Ottawa. "We're also hoping to hear about party action plans for including survivors and women's frontline advocates as leaders in this work."

Women's Issues Minister Laurel Broten has confirmed her intention to speak at the event, as has NDP Women's Issues Critic, Cheri DiNovo. We are awaiting response from the Progressive Conservative Party.

Visuals displays will remember the names of the 14 women killed in Montreal and the 486 women and children on our list since 1990. An event notice flyer is attached.

For more information, contact:

Leighann Burns, Harmony House (Ottawa)  
Eileen Morrow, OAITH Coordinator (Toronto)

(613) 233-5990  
(416) 977-6619