

For Immediate Release

December 2, 2015

**NBFL Message for the National Day of Remembrance
and Action on Violence Against Women**

Twenty-six years ago, on December 6, 1989, 14 young women were murdered at l'Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal simply because they were women. Each year, on December 6, we take a moment to mourn these 14 young women and all women and girls who were killed or experienced various forms of violence in their homes, their communities and workplaces.

Violence against women is the world's largest and most persistent human rights violations, and Canada is no exception. Over 50% of Canadian women will experience an incident of violence at some point in their lives, the majority before they turn 25. In most cases, women and girls know their abuser.

A recent pan-Canadian survey found that domestic violence has a significant impact in the workplace. 1 in 3 surveyed workers have experienced domestic violence. Over 80 per cent of these victims of violence reported that their performance at work was negatively impacted and over half said that the abuse occurred either at work or close to their workplace.

Other jurisdictions, like Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Quebec have adopted legislation or regulations that help protect workers from violence and bullying in the workplace. They require employers to provide education, evaluate risks and take preventative measures. Our province should follow their lead.

The New Brunswick Federation of Labour is also calling on the federal government to fulfill its commitment to develop a National Action Plan on Violence Against Women. This action plan should be based on the Blueprint developed by labour, women's and anti-violence organizations.

On December 6, we not only remember the lives lost to violence, we also commit to take action to promote change. The New Brunswick Federation of Labour is working to make workplaces a safer place and to eliminate violence against women and girls.

- 30 -

The New Brunswick Federation of Labour is New Brunswick's largest central labour body representing 40,000 members of both public sector and private sector labour unions.

Patrick Colford, NBFL President
(506) 857-2125 / (506) 381-8969 (cell)

Shanny Doucet, NBFL Vice-President responsible for Women's Issues
(506) 227-9900