



STATEMENT ON NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

December 6, 2021

Kelowna, BC – Central Okanagan Public Schools recognizes the [National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women](#) today, and honours the victims of the École Polytechnique massacre.

On this day in 1989, 14 women were murdered at École Polytechnique in Montreal because they were women in science education. The National Day is a reminder that misogyny has deadly consequences and that we must work together to combat gender-based violence.

"Beyond what young people may learn at home, education must lay a foundation for equitable treatment and empowerment of women and girls," said Kevin Kaardal, Superintendent of Schools/CEO. "Today is a sobering reminder of our shared responsibility to recognize the violence that is a daily reality for many women and girls and work together to confront the culture that allows such violence. Although it has been over three decades since the tragic attack in Montreal, we know that gender-based violence continues and has been exacerbated by the pandemic. We urge our community to join us in educating ourselves about gender-based violence and taking action against it."

Central Okanagan Public Schools works to increase opportunities for girls and empower them to follow their curiosity in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and other fields where they may traditionally be under-represented. We also strive to create safe and inclusive learning and working spaces for all women, girls, and gender diverse individuals.

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For comments, please contact:

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