

DECEMBER 6TH

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND ACTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

A LEARNING GUIDE



North Shore VAWIR
Coordinating Committee to End Violence Against Women

WHAT'S THIS GUIDE ALL ABOUT?

THIS GUIDE HAS BEEN CREATED TO HELP DRAW ATTENTION TO AND SPREAD AWARENESS ABOUT THE VERY IMPORTANT SOCIAL ISSUE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, GIRLS AND MARGINALIZED GENDERS IN CANADA.

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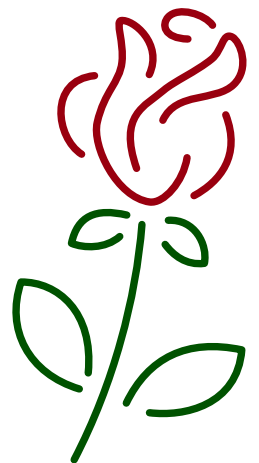
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PART ONE



North Shore VAWIR
Coordinating Committee to End Violence Against Women

WHO ARE WE?

The North Shore Coordinating Committee to End **V**iolence **A**gainst **W**omen In Relationships: <https://www.northshorevawir.com>

We are a group of service providers and representatives from many different areas that are involved in preventing and responding to violence against women. For example policing, probation, victim's services, health, First Nations, immigrant and multicultural services, and many more.

Our purpose is to work together to coordinate information and response.

We organize various local community initiatives, including an annual event to honour the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls on December 6th. This event takes place at the Strength and Remembrance Pole described on page 5.



The North Shore VAWIR Committee would like to acknowledge that the work we do, including the creation of this guide, takes place on the unceded, ancestral, and traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.

In recognition of the legacy of colonization, and the continued high levels of violence experienced by Indigenous women, girls and LGBTQ2SIA+ individuals, the North Shore VAWIR Committee commits to working toward decolonizing our actions and collaborating with both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to learn, unlearn and create meaningful change. This land is sacred, and we express our utmost gratitude.

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF **DECEMBER 6TH** IN CANADA?

The National Day of Remembrance and Action Against Violence Against Women.

This National Day was initiated as a result of the murder of 14 women at Polytechnique Montréal (December 6, 1989). "This act of violent misogyny shook our country and led Parliament to designate December 6 as The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. In Canada and around the world, women, girls and 2SLGBTQI+ individuals face unacceptable violence and discrimination" (Women and Gender Equality Canada, 2022).

For Indigenous women and girls, this risk is dramatically higher (Department of Justice, 2023).

None of this is a coincidence, but rather a systemic social issue that is deeply rooted in our society. **December 6th is about honouring people who have experienced gender-based violence, spreading awareness around gender-based issues, and taking action** (Women and Gender Equality Canada, 2022).

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE ABOUT THIS?

You have more power than you might realize. We are shaped into the people we are because of the systems around us. Our education, social media, the songs we listen to, our family, friends, sports teams, video games, and extracurricular activities all influence us. We might not even notice the harmful cultures around us, because it can be subtle and it is all we have ever known. It might just feel normal. We are not separate from the issues connected to December 6th. We are ALL a part of it. In order to prevent the really obvious, serious acts of violence, we first have to change the normalized culture all around us.

THE MONTREAL MASSACRE

On December 6, 1989, fourteen women lost their lives (Lambert, 2019).

It was the last day of the term at l' École Polytechnique de Montréal. At around 5:10 pm, students in their final year of the Mechanical Engineering program were listening to a student presentation, when a man with a gun walked into the room (Scott, 2014). He ordered the men to line up on one side of the room, and the women to line up on the other (Scott, 2014). He screamed "you're all a bunch of feminists! I hate feminists!" and began shooting the women (Lambert, 2019). His twenty-minute violent shooting rampage, targeted women both in that class and in the hallways, until he ran out of ammunition (Lambert, 2019).

He committed suicide at the scene, leaving a suicide note behind with a list of "feminists to slaughter", identifying names of well-known women (Lambert, 2019).



(CBC, 2019)

MURDERED AND MISSING INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS

According to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (NIMMIWG, 2019), over the years, **thousands of Indigenous women, girls, and LGBTQ2SIA+ individuals have disappeared or have been murdered in Canada** (2019). The exact number is not known, because many have likely gone unrecorded (NIMMIWG, 2019).

It is appalling how little concern or care Canadian society overall has shown on this serious issue (NIMMIWG, 2019). Finally, in 2016 the national inquiry began. A final report was released in 2019, finding that this is in fact a **current, ongoing genocide in Canada** (NIMMIWG, 2019).

Each and every one of these women and girls are human beings. They were daughters, sisters, mothers, cousins, and aunties. They were more than just a statistic. Imagine the loss families, friends and communities feel every single day.

Indigenous women are

12 X

More likely to be **murdered or go missing** than non-Indigenous women (NIMMIWG, 2019)

2.5 X

More likely to be **victims of violence** than non-Indigenous women (Canadian Women's Foundation, 2016)

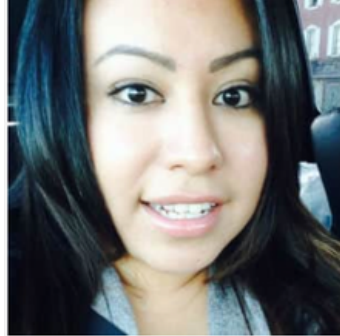
3 X

More likely to report **sexual assault** than non-Indigenous women (Department of Justice, 2023)

HERE ARE JUST A SMALL NUMBER OF INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS FROM BC WHO ARE MISSING OR WERE FOUND MURDERED



Angeline Pete
28, BC, Missing



Caitlin Potts
27, BC, Missing



Amanda Simpson
4, BC, Murdered



Cecilia Nikal
15, BC, Missing



Jeanette Basil
33, BC, Murdered



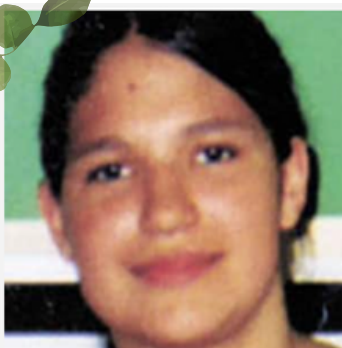
Belinda Williams
N/A, BC, Missing



Abigail Andrews
28, BC, Missing



Angela Williams
31, BC, Murdered



Aielah Saric-Auger
14, BC, Murdered



Dawn Crey
42, BC, Missing



Destiny Tom
21, BC, Murdered



Immaculate Basil
26, BC, Missing

SOLVED

Notice the **only** solved case? To read some of the stories check out <https://www.cbc.ca/missingandmurdered/>

THE STRENGTH AND REMEMBRANCE POLE

Carved by Sinámkin - Jody Broomfield



The Strength and Remembrance Pole is located outside of the North Vancouver RCMP Detachment, in the City of North Vancouver.

Squamish Nation Elder Doris Paul- Xelemilh, describes the pole: it has a very spiritual and meaningful significance. The pole represents a headstone for the murdered and missing women and girls (MMIWG), whose bodies have not been found. Their spirit is restless and their souls wander the earth. The pole is a place of prayer, and a place to find peace. At the top of the pole is a woman wrapped in a blanket with her eyes closed in a peaceful state, to honour all of the loved ones who have suffered. Below her is an eagle imparted with the power to carry prayers to the creator. The 2 hands on the chest of the eagle are the recognised handprints used to represent the MMIWG. Worshippers can place their hands on top of these hands to connect with the spirit.

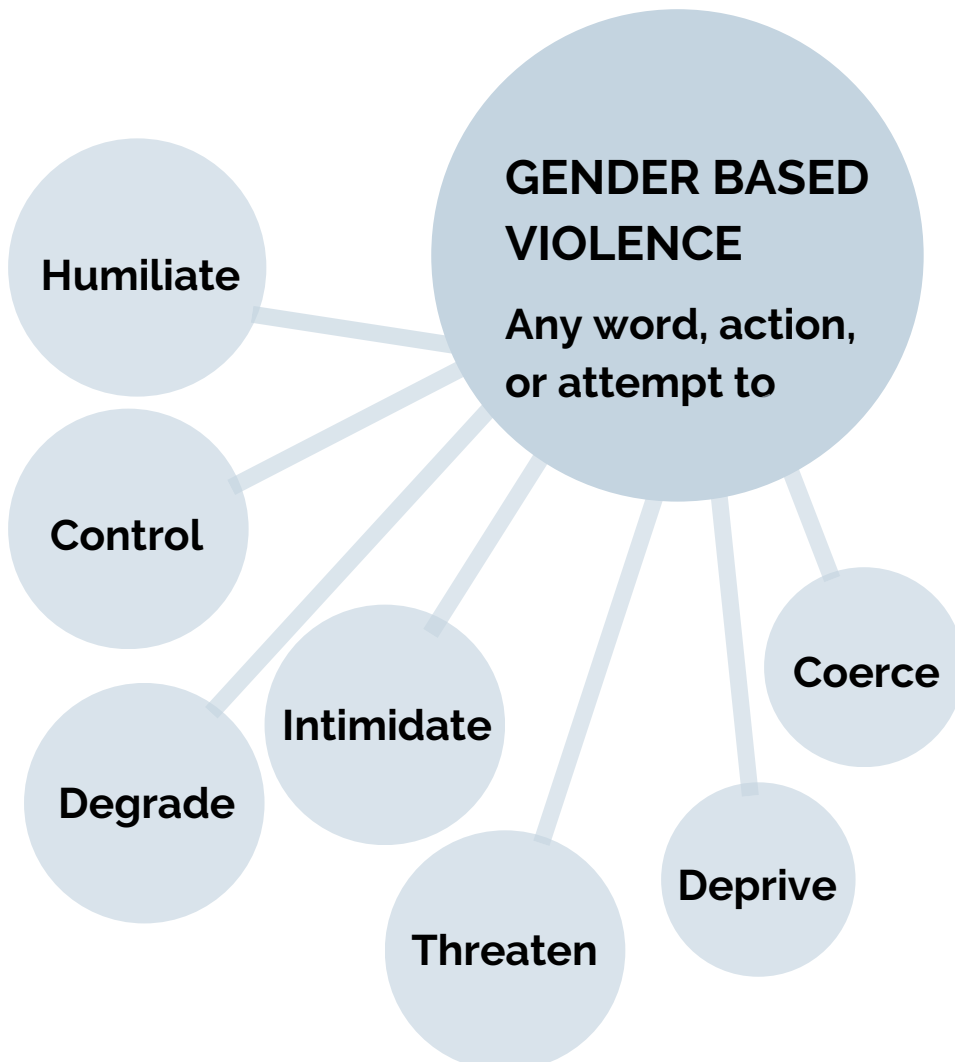
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

Any person can experience violence. If you experience violence at any point in your life, regardless of your gender, sex, race, religion, age, sexual orientation, ability, etc., your experience truly matters, and you deserve support.

It is crucial though to understand patterns of violence in our society. In doing so, it becomes clear that there is a problem far beyond a person harming another person. Gender based violence is a systemic issue that we are all a part of in one way or another, through a culture that can feel normal in our day to day lives.

According to Status of Women and Gender Equality Canada (2022):

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is the use and abuse of power and control over another person, and is perpetrated against someone based on their gender identity, gender expression or perceived gender. Violence against women and girls is one form of gender-based violence. It also has a disproportionate impact on LGBTQ2[SIA+] (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and two-spirit) and gender non-conforming people.



Forms of GBV

- PSYCHOLOGICAL
- PHYSICAL
- SEXUAL
- EMOTIONAL
- CYBER
- SOCIETAL
- ECONOMIC
- NEGLECT
- HARASSMENT
- DISCRIMINATION

IMPORTANT STATISTICS ON GBV

Just under **1 in 3** female youth in BC reported being physically sexually harassed in 2023 (McCreary Centre Society, 2023)

One woman or girl is violently killed in Canada by a male every **48 Hours** (Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability, 2022).

7% of girls age 15 to 17 have experienced sexual violence by a dating partner (Statistics Canada, 2009-2022)

Just over **1 in 4** Canadian women have been assaulted by a spouse or partner (BC Women's Hospital and Health Centre, 2020)

Lesbian, gay and bisexual Canadians are **twice** as likely to experience violence than heterosexual Canadians (Status of Women Canada, 2020)

1 in 3 transgender and nonbinary Canadians report having been injured or physically threatened in the past year. (UBC, 2018)

94% of sexual assaults are committed by a male perpetrator (Carleton University, 2020)

PART TWO

This class lesson plan is made up of videos and discussion questions. There are 6 videos, adding up to under 30 minutes in total.

WATCH: "What is Gender-Based Violence?" A less than 5 minute video, created by the city of Edmonton, but very relevant all over Canada.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hsSNTOIOT_Q&feature=emb_title

WATCH: "Let's Change the Story: Violence Against Women in Australia", a 4.5 minute video on socialization of men and women, and how violence manifests.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fLUVWZvVZXwy>

WATCH: "Don't confuse love and abuse", a less than 3 minute video about teen dating violence and how it develops.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1L6HB97lbrQ&feature=emb_title

WATCH: "Be More than a Bystander", a 2.5 minute video by the BC Lions and Eva BC.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_SeiA14tSKl

DISCUSSION:

What are some examples of comments or jokes we make or hear that enforce violence against women and girls? How about LGBTQ2SIA+ and gender diverse individuals?

How might parents react differently to a girl wanting to stay over at a guy's house versus a guy wanting to stay over at a girl's house? How does their reasoning vary?

How do heterosexual guys feel about walking around alone at night? How about girls? If these answers contrast, why is that?

WATCH: Two videos about murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls in Canada.

"Protect our Future Daughters" a less than 6 minute video

<https://vimeo.com/239493840>

"If I Go Missing" – Trailer, a 1 minute video

<https://vimeo.com/267159334>

DISCUSSION

What did you already know about Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls in Canada? What are your thoughts on what we just watched?

Reflect on what you've learned!

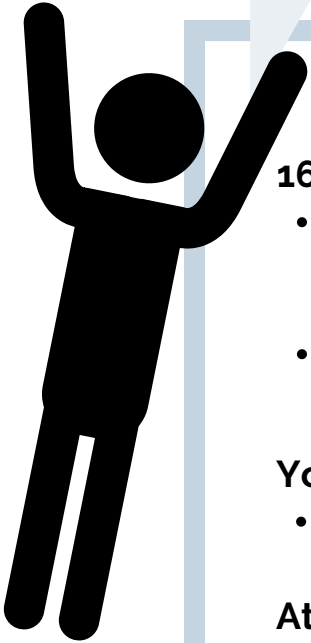
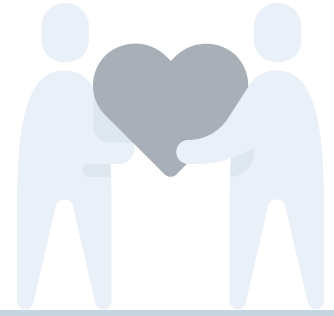
1. In the two videos on Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls, what stood out to you most? What emotions do you feel?

2. Read 20 Ways Youth Can Prevent Violence Against Girls & Women:

<https://www.bwss.org/20-ways-youth-can-prevent-violence/>

3. Write, or do a voice recording, reflecting on what you have learned and how you would like to help prevent violence against women, girls, and LGBTQ2SIA+ individuals using at least 3 of the ways from the list in the link above.

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED OR LEARN MORE!



16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

- Government of Canada 2024 Theme: Come Together, Act Now.
<https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/commemorations-celebrations/16-days/16-days-2024.html>
- #NoExcuse. UNiTE to End Violence against Women
<https://www.unwomen.org/en/get-involved/16-days-of-activism>

Youth Dating Violence Awareness

- <https://www.bwss.org/support/programs/youth-ending-violence/>

Attend a program or organize a program at your school

- Flip the Script: www.northshorewomen.ca/flipthescript
- Safe Teen: www.safeteen.ca
- Safe Dates: <https://www.hazelden.org/store/item/545255?Safe-Dates-Third-Edition>
- Redefining Masculinity:
<https://www.childrenofthestreet.com/redefining-masculinity>

Stand with Indigenous Women and Girls to End Violence

- No More Stolen Sisters: <https://www.amnesty.ca/our-work/campaigns/no-more-stolen-sisters>
- Check out documentaries online: https://www.nfb.ca/indigenous-cinema/subjects/justice-system-indigenous-people/missing-murdered-indigenous-women-mmiw/?&film_lang=en

Take part in the White Ribbon and Walk a Mile in Her Shoes Campaigns

- <https://www.whiteribbon.ca/> and
<https://www.walkamileinhershoes.org/>

WHERE CAN YOU ACCESS SUPPORT?



North Shore Crisis Services Society:

Provides various services and programs for women and children/youth who have or are currently experiencing or witnessing violence or abuse in the home.

Just a few examples are their 24 hour crisis line, transition house, and multicultural outreach program.

<https://nscss.net/>

Hollyburn Victim Support Program:

Provides a range of supports to any person who has experienced relationship violence, family violence, sexual assault or criminal harassment.

E.g. counselling, connecting you to relevant programs, providing info, helping you to create a safety plan, and assistance in navigating the criminal justice system.

<https://www.hollyburn-society.ca/victim-support/victim-support-program/>

Foundry North Shore:

Provides 12-24 year olds with mental health services, substance use support, peer support, primary care, and social services.

<https://foundrybc.ca/northshore/>

BWSS:

Battered Women Support Services provides support and advocacy for women experiencing gender-based violence. For example, their call or text crisis line and transition homes.

BWSS: <https://www.bwss.org/>

Salal:

Supports all marginalized genders who are survivors of sexualized violence.

They have a crisis line, provide hospital, police, and court accompaniment, counselling, Indigenous counselling, and MMIWG2S Family Counselling.

<https://www.salalsvsc.ca/>

Kids Help Phone:

Offers counselling, info, and referrals through text, phone, FB messenger, and their website.

<https://kidshelpphone.ca/>

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If you have any questions or feedback, please email us at:

nsvawir@northshorewomen.ca



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<https://www.northshorevawir.com>

north shore
women's
centre

a place for women, a voice for women

<https://www.northshorewomen.ca>