

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE & ACTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

DIALOGUES FOR
GRIEF AND ACTION



Reflective Spaces Self-Guided Memorial Walk

We invite and welcome all interested to visit any of these additional spaces of reflection on the St. George campus through this self-guided walk.

2024 marks the 35th anniversary of the massacre in Montreal at L'École Polytechnique.

On this day, we remember and honour the lives of 14 women who were tragically killed in 1989 as a result of gender-based violence. This day also provides us with an opportunity to reflect on all those who have lost their lives, as well as those who continue to experience this violence today.

Ending gender-based violence, and ensuring the dignity, wellbeing, and safety of all is a responsibility we all share.

If you or someone you know is experiencing gender-based violence, please know that you are not alone. You can find support through the resources listed below.

Resources:

- **Support:** <https://www.ontario.ca/page/supports-help-people-experiencing-gender-based-violence>
- **Helplines:** <https://www.ontario.ca/page/get-help-if-you-are-experiencing-violence>

Further Reading:

- **École Polytechnique Tragedy:** <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/polytechnique-tragedy>
- **National MMIW2SG Final Report (2019):** <https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/final-report/>
- **Gender Based Violence in Canada:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/gender-based-violence.html>

Geneviève Bergeron (born 1968) (aged 21), civil engineering student

Hélène Colgan (born 1966) (aged 23), mechanical engineering student

Nathalie Croteau (born 1966) (aged 23), mechanical engineering student

Barbara Daigneault (born 1967) (aged 22), mechanical engineering student

Anne-Marie Edward (born 1968) (aged 21), chemical engineering student

Maud Haviernick (born 1960) (aged 29), materials engineering student

Maryse Laganière (born 1964) (aged 25), budget clerk in the École Polytechnique's finance department

Maryse Leclair (born 1966) (aged 23), materials engineering student

Anne-Marie Lemay (born 1967) (aged 22), mechanical engineering student

Sonia Pelletier (born 1961) (aged 28), mechanical engineering student

Michèle Richard (born 1968) (aged 21), materials engineering student

Annie St-Arneault (born 1966) (aged 23), mechanical engineering student

Annie Turcotte (born 1969) (aged 20), materials engineering student

Barbara Klucznik-Widajewicz (born 1958) (aged 31), nursing student



Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering Memorial

(35 St. George Street, outside the Galbraith Building)



Each year, U of T Engineering students use their skills in construction, design, programming, and health and safety, to build a temporary memorial structure to remember the victims of violence. They also use their skills in social justice, empathy, and ethics to take actions to stop misogyny and gender-based violence. You can read more about these actions on Instagram @equityatskule.

On December 6th, between 2 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., come to place a rose at the memorial and hear directly from engineering students about this year's memorial design and meaning.

The memorial will be in place Dec. 5th to 11th, and all are welcome to visit.



Ziibiing

(Located in Hart House Circle)



Ziibiing provides a gathering place to learn, reflect, and celebrate Indigenous history and culture.

Named using the Anishinaabemowin word for "river," Ziibiing marks the path of Taddle Creek, a buried stream running under the St. George campus.

Ziibiing grew out of the first call to action in Answering the Call: Wecheehetowin, the Final Report of the Steering Committee for the U of T Response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, which called for "the creation of significant dedicated Indigenous space on the St. George Campus" including "outdoor space appropriate for Indigenous spiritual needs."

An Indigenous Advisory Committee led the vision for this project in collaboration with Brook McIlroy's Indigenous Design Studio, who developed the design in consultation with a broad range of Indigenous partners, including U of T community members, Elders, local First Nations, and Joseph Pitawanakwat, Indigenous Plant Specialist from Creator's Garden.

A fire will be lit and tended to by firekeepers on December 6th at Ziibiing. As a part of this memorial we honor and advocate for justice for MMIW2SG (Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Two-Spirit people, and Girls) and all affected by gender-based violence rooted in settler colonialism.



Philosopher's Walk Memorial

(Path runs between Bloor and Hoskin just west of Queens Park Circle)



On December 8, 1989, after a vigil at Toronto's City Hall, a group of women united to express their grief and outrage, forming "WOMEN WON'T FORGET," a grassroots feminist collective. They aimed to create a permanent memorial for the 14 women who lost their lives due to male violence at L'École Polytechnique in 1989. This effort involved extensive meetings, fundraising, and negotiations with government officials and the University of Toronto.

By December 6, 1990, their work culminated in a candlelight vigil and the unveiling of the memorial on Philosopher's Walk. The memorial features 14 Red Oak trees and a large pink granite boulder from the Scarborough Bluffs, accompanied by an engraved plaque.

Each year on December 6 at 6 p.m., people gather at the memorial to honor the victims and stand in solidarity against gender-based violence. WOMEN WON'T FORGET emphasizes the importance of remembering those who can no longer speak for themselves, urging society to support efforts toward change and to advocate for women living with violence.

For more information or to get involved, please visit the WOMEN WON'T FORGET website: <http://www.womenwontforget.org/>