

**“NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE
AND ACTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN”**

- WHEREAS** *December 6, 2020, is the 31st anniversary of the 1989 École Polytechnique Montreal massacre in which fourteen female engineering students were singled out for their gender and were killed; and*
- WHEREAS** *in 1991 Canada’s Parliament declared December 6th a National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women; and*
- WHEREAS** *the United Nations Secretary General Campaign Against Gender-Based Violence for 2020 is guided by the global theme “Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!”, recognizing that as the world retreated inside homes due to the lockdown measures introduced to curb the COVID-19 pandemic, reports showed an alarming increase in the already existing pandemic of violence against women and a spike in domestic violence reporting, at exactly the time that services, including rule of law, health and shelters, are being diverted to address the pandemic, according to the Secretary-General; and*
- WHEREAS** *each year, communities across Canada commemorate December 6th to reflect on the tragedy of the Montreal Massacre and to remember the 14 women whose lives were so brutally cut short; and*
- WHEREAS** *violence against women affects every community member in Victoria whether as a survivor of domestic or other violence or as a family member, friend, neighbour, or co-worker of a survivor; and*
- WHEREAS** *education and awareness are key to ending violence against women, and the Public Service Alliance of Canada and its Victoria Regional Women’s Committee have been organizing vigils and educational programs to raise awareness about violence against women since 2009; and*
- WHEREAS** *the City of Victoria continues to work towards building a society in which everyone has the right to live in conditions of safety, dignity, respect and peace.*

NOW, THEREFORE I do hereby proclaim Sunday, December 6th, 2020 as “**NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND ACTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**” on the **HOMELANDS** of the Lekwungen speaking **SONGHEES AND ESQUIMALT PEOPLE** in the **CITY OF VICTORIA, CAPITAL CITY** of the **PROVINCE** of **BRITISH COLUMBIA**.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this December 3rd, Two Thousand and Twenty.

LISA HELPS
MAYOR
CITY OF VICTORIA
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Sponsored by:
*Councillor Marianne Alto and
the Victoria Regional Women’s
Alliance of Canada (BC)*