

September 2019

Municipality of South Huron
Box 759, 322 Main St. South
Exeter ON
N0M 1S6

Dear Council,

Re: December 6 – The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women in Canada

Request by the Huron Domestic Assault Review Team

- **That the flags be lowered to half-mast on December 6th 2019 to acknowledge the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.**

Half-masting the Flag on December 6, 2019 on all federal buildings and establishments in Canada, including the Peace Tower, from sunrise to sunset on December 6, 2019, is set out in the Federal Flag protocol.

December 6, 2019 – National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women in Canada.

Established in 1991 by the Parliament of Canada, December 6 2019 marks the 30th anniversary of the murders in 1989 of 14 young women at l'École Polytechnique de Montréal. They died because they were women. It is a day of remembrance and a time to take action.

It is a day:

- of commemoration of the 14 young women who were murdered.
- to reflect on the phenomenon of violence against women in our society.
- to consider the women and girls for whom violence is a daily reality, and to remember those who have died as a result of gender-based violence.
- for communities to consider concrete actions to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls.

December 6, 2019 in Huron County

Huron County will commemorate the 14 young women who were murdered as follows:

Please join us for a Memorial Ceremony at Courthouse Park in Goderich at 10:00am

In addition, the following will occur at the Huron County Courthouse:

- **Lower flags to half-mast** on December 6th to acknowledge the National Day of Remembrance.
- **14 red roses** with the names of each woman who was killed will be displayed inside the Courthouse on December 6th. Huron DART will pay for and make arrangements for delivery and pick up of roses.

All Councilors and staff are invited to attend the ceremony and join us as we raise awareness about violence against women and honour the 30th anniversary of this tragic event.

The action that the Huron Domestic Assault Review Team is requesting that all municipalities in Huron County take – is to lower their flags to half-mast on all municipal buildings on December 6, 2019. This year we will also be encouraging businesses and individuals to lower the flags on their properties on December 6. If the municipalities could spread the word to the people in their jurisdictions, we would appreciate the support.

If the Municipality would like to mark December 6 in other ways, DART would be pleased to assist in the planning. Contact Garry Atkinson by email at <dart@huronwomensshelter.com>

Background

The Huron Domestic Assault Review Team is a community-based, cross-sector committee that works together to improve community response to victims of domestic violence. Agencies represented at Huron DART include: Huron Perth Children's Aid Society; Crown Attorney's Office; Canadian Mental Health Association; Rural Response for Healthy Children; Huron County Health Unit; Probation Office; Huron O.P.P.; Alexandra & Marine General Hospital; Victim Services; Victim Witness Assistance Program; Huron Women's Shelter; Choices for Change; Huron Perth Centre and One Care.

We aim to strengthen linkages among agencies and service providers, and enhance inter-agency cooperation, collaboration, coordination and integration. We provide training and educational sessions on how to live a life free from violence (training of service providers, community members and students). DART's work supports the ultimate goal of a place where all women and children are able to live healthy lives, free from violence.

If you have any questions, we would be pleased to answer them.

Yours,
Teresa Donnelly/G.A.

Teresa Donnelly
West Region Sexual Violence Crown
Ministry of the Attorney General
Chair of the Huron Domestic Assault Review Team
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