

For Immediate Release

December 6, 2024

Marking the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan (SASS) Reflects on Progress and the Road Ahead

Regina, Saskatchewan – On this solemn day, December 6th, we join Canadians across the country in marking the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. This day commemorates the tragic loss of 14 young women at l'École Polytechnique de Montréal in 1989, and it serves as a powerful reminder of the ongoing struggle to end gender-based violence in all its forms.

At Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan (SASS), we are dedicated to supporting survivors of sexual violence and advocating for systemic change to prevent such violence.

While we acknowledge the progress made, we must also recognise that much more needs to be done. The rates of sexual violence in Saskatchewan remain alarmingly high, and many survivors still face barriers to accessing the support they need. As we reflect on this day, we call for continued action and commitment to:

- **Address Systemic Barriers:** We must continue to work towards dismantling the systemic barriers that perpetuate sexual and gender-based violence. This includes addressing issues such as economic inequality, discrimination, and lack of access to justice.
- **Promote Cultural Change:** Ending sexual violence requires a fundamental shift in societal attitudes and behaviours. We need ongoing education and awareness campaigns that challenge harmful norms and promote respect and equality.
- **Increase Funding and Resources:** A sustainable funding model is essential to maintain and expand our services. This includes ensuring that rural and remote communities have access to the same level of support as urban areas.



- **Government Policy Enhancements:** Sexual violence causes many social, health, and economic issues in our province. These costs will continue to rise for reactive care—including increased spending on addiction services, corrections, policing and child welfare. Putting sexual violence on this government’s policy agenda is the first step towards a Saskatchewan where everyone lives free from the threat, fear, or experience of sexual violence.

A Call to Action

On this National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, we urge everyone to take a stand against sexual violence. Whether through volunteering, donating, or simply educating oneself and others, every action counts. Together, we can create a safer, more just society for all.

For more information about our services and how you can get involved, please visit sassk.ca or contact us at 306-757-1941.

-30-

Media Contact:

Tal Marsolais

Communications and Community Engagement Specialist

tal@sassk.ca

306-757-1941

About Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan:

Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan (SASS) is a provincial non-profit organization that works collectively with frontline agencies, community partners, and governments that provide support and advocacy for those affected by sexual violence in Saskatchewan.

Let us honour the memory of those we have lost by committing to a future free from violence



306.757.1941

SASSK.CA

