



For Immediate Release
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Minna continues calls for a national violence against women prevention strategy on eve of Day of Action

OTTAWA – The Conservative government must implement a national violence against women prevention strategy, Liberal Status of Women Critic Maria Minna said today.

“Many women in Canada face violence on a daily basis in this country and the minority Conservative government is not doing enough to protect them, to provide them with shelter or to give them hope to get out of violent relationships,” said Ms. Minna.

Ms. Minna made her comments on the eve of National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, which commemorates the December 6, 1989, killing of 14 women at l'École Polytechnique de Montréal. They were killed solely because of their gender.

“Prime Minister Stephen Harper showed yesterday that he can run away and hide when his job is at risk, but women whose lives are at stake don't have that luxury,” said Ms. Minna.

“This is a day of remembrance and action not only for those 14 young women, but for all women and girls who face discrimination and violence on a daily basis,” said Ms. Minna.

More than 650,000 women aged 15 and over have experienced spousal violence in the past five years. Women are still six times more likely to be victims of sexual assault than men and continue to be victimized.

On November 25, 2008, the House of Commons unanimously passed a motion introduced by Ms. Minna to develop a violence against women prevention strategy.

“Progress on the equality rights of women has been undermined by the right wing ideology of the Conservatives,” said Ms. Minna.

“They got rid of the Court Challenges program and cut funding for women’s groups and are now trying to use the economic crisis to undermine pay equity. It is shameful that our country is moving backwards instead of forward. It is time for all Canadians to stand up and say together: ‘we have had enough.’”

-30-

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