



For Immediate Release
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Conservatives must take action to eliminate violence against women

OTTAWA — The Liberal Opposition today introduced a motion in Parliament calling on the Conservative government to develop a nationwide Violence Prevention Strategy to deal with the growing number of victims of violence against women, particularly among aboriginal women.

This motion follows a recent report from the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women that called on Canada to urgently carry out thorough investigations of the cases of more than 500 aboriginal women who have gone missing or been murdered in recent decades.

“As we approach the 19th anniversary of the École Polytechnique massacre on December 6th, we must remember the struggle to prevent violence against women is still ongoing,” said Liberal Status of Women Critic Maria Minna, who introduced the motion. “It is important that we take action to eliminate the growing cases of violence against women, and in particular violence against aboriginal women, who are more than three times as likely to be victims of domestic violence as non-aboriginal women.

“When women are subjects of violence they are limited in their ability to fully participate in society. We must introduce a national strategy to prevent violence against women so that all Canadians can exercise their full rights as citizens of this country,” she said.

“Every Canadian woman should be able to live her life free of violence and free from the threat of violence but that is not the case for too many First Nations, Métis and Inuit women,” said Liberal Aboriginal Affairs Critic Todd Russell. “The failure to address violence against aboriginal women is costing lives. The Conservatives must make eliminating violence against aboriginal women a key priority.”

On average, nearly 200 women are murdered in Canada each year. One half of those are murdered by someone with whom they have had an intimate

relationship with at some point, either through marriage or dating. Almost 60,000 women seek shelters from abusive relationships every year.

“Conservatives talk a good game with their law and order agenda, but when it comes to dealing with the high rate of violence against women, they’d rather play politics with the lives of Canadian women,” said Liberal Justice Critic Brian Murphy. “It’s time for the government to get serious about women’s equality.”

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Below is the full text of Ms. Minna’s motion:

“That this House recognize National Violence Against Women Prevention Week and call on the government to develop a Violence Prevention Strategy to deal with the growing number of victims of violence against women, particularly among aboriginal women, who are more than three times as likely to be victims of domestic violence as non-aboriginal women.”

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