

**National Day of Remembrance and Action
on Violence Against Women
December 6, 2011**

For Immediate Release

St. John's, NL –On this National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, social workers pay tribute to the women who have lost their lives to violence in Newfoundland and Labrador; and support on-going efforts by individuals, communities and government to prevent violence against women.

Provincial statistics show that 1 in 2 women over the age of 15 will experience an incident of physical or sexual violence in their life. Many women continue to live with violence on a daily basis. “Violence against women is an issue that all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians should be concerned about” says Pamela Rodgers, President of the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Social Workers. “Everyone has the right to live a life without violence and the threat of violence.”

Social work is a profession committed to improving the health and well-being of individuals, couples, families and communities. “Through their practices, social workers support women and families who experience violence, advocate for services and supports that will allow women to leave abusive relationships, and inform the development of social policies to address issues such as gender equality and poverty” says Rodgers. Public education is also important and social workers support and are involved in the work of the Provincial Violence Prevention Initiative and regional coalitions against violence.

Violence against women is a provincial, national and international issue. Today, social workers join the global community in saying that violence against women is not acceptable and that action must be taken now. Together we can make a difference.

NLASW is the professional association and regulatory body for over 1400 social workers in this province. The vision is excellence in social work.

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