



The Presbyterian Church in Canada

**MODERATOR REFLECTS ON THE 28TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ECOLE
POLYTECHNIQUE MASSACRE**

Twenty-eight years ago I was in my first year in ministry at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Flin Flon, Manitoba. I had been out visiting on Dec. 6 and it was only when I got home to find Debbie sitting in front of the television in shock that I knew anything about what was happening at Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal. The dark outside (for night comes early in the north in the winter) fit well with the dark being depicted on the TV screen. It felt surreal to watch the images, like night had come, figuratively and actually.

Even 28 years later there are no words to express all that should be said.

PRAYER:

God of compassion, this day as we reflect on the lives lost, families shattered, we name before you the women who were killed:

Geneviève Bergeron
Hélène Colgan
Nathalie Croteau
Barbara Daigneault
Anne-Marie Edward
Maud Haviernick
Barbara Klucznik-Widajewicz
Maryse Laganière
Maryse Leclair
Anne-Marie Lemay
Sonia Pelletier
Michèle Richard
Annie St-Arneault
Annie Turcotte

bring continual hope and healing to their families we pray.

God who calls us to new ways of life, give us courage to stand against the violence women experience; call men to commit themselves to patterns of non-violence, and to challenge other men to do the same.

Draw us all into the community of peace you are building where rifles are turned into pruning hooks, and tanks into tractors and violence is no longer practiced.

By your Holy Spirit transform our world into the community of peace, and may that transformation being in us.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

—*The Rev. Peter Bush, Moderator of the 143rd General Assembly*