



**CITYNEWS AT NOON (CITY-TV), TORONTO, 06 Dec 06, 12:00**

Anchor/Reporters: DWIGHT DRUMMOND, LAURA DIBATTISTA, PAM SEATLE

Dwight Drummond (Host): Today we remember one of the darkest days in Canadian history.

Laura Dibattista (Host): It was 17 years ago that 14 innocent women were killed in the Montreal massacre at the Ecole Polytechnique. Pam Seattle is live at a local memorial service.

Pam: Yes, people are beginning to gather here at Women's College Hospital for an annual ceremony honouring those 14 victims and mourning over the Montreal massacre is being transformed to outrage against violence against all women, and today I spoke to the best friend of a victim of domestic violence who wishes she had done more. Do you feel like you saw the signs of what was happening in that relationship or did you miss them?

Deb Ashbee: No, I saw them, but, you know, when I'd talk to Sandra about them and, you know, she'd always try to smooth everything over and say, "Oh, that's just Ed being Ed," or the Monday before he actually murdered her, he had threatened to kill her.

Pam: Sandra Schott was Deb Ashbee's best friend. The mother of three was murdered last year by her estranged husband Ed, who then killed himself.

Ashbee: What I wish I would have done is I wish I would have had a little bit more knowledge on how quickly, you know, things could go bad. You know, I would have had her out of the house.

Pam: Deb is part of a grassroots campaign called "Neighbours, Friends and Families" that encourages people to recognize the signs of woman abuse and to do something about it.

Barb MacQuarrie: Ultimately nothing's going to change unless people, ordinary people, change the way they think about this and that's why I think the value of this campaign is.

Pam: Once again this memorial, the annual memorial to honour the 14 victims of the Montreal massacre, and all victims of domestic violence is just getting underway here at Women's College Hospital. We'll have more on the story for you on "Citynews at Six."

Dwight: On this tragic anniversary, the December 6 Fund of Toronto is trying to stop the violence against women. Volunteers are selling commemorative rose buttons at subway stations across the city today to remember the victims of the Montreal massacre. They're also handing out pamphlets to stop domestic violence here in the GTA.

Jane Koster (December 6 Fund): Today we've released a list of 18 women in the GTA who were killed in 2006 through male violence by men that they knew. One woman obviously—even one woman is too many on this list. We want this to end. I believe it can.

Dwight: All the money raised today goes to the December 6 fund. It provides interest-free loans to women so they can escape abusive situations, and keep it here on City TV and CP24 as we continue our December 6 coverage on today's "Cityonline."

Ann: We will be going back live to the memorial at Women's College Hospital as we remember the victims of Montreal's Ecole Polytechnique. We'll also be talking today about violence against women and the strides we have made since the massacre. Call us at 416-870-7716 or 1-800-295-5463. Tell us if you

think violence against women can be improved. What can we do? We've got some interesting experts who will talk to us about suggestions, Jane Koster president of the December 6 Fund of Toronto and Sheila McDonald from Women's College Hospital. Here's our daily phone poll. The question: have we done enough to stop violence against women since the Montreal massacre? Yes, 416-870-2242; no, 416-870-4444. Please join us. We'll have the results and your phone calls live on "Cityonline" right after "Citynews at Noon."