



## Silent Witness Project

- I would like to honour a lost family member.
- I will help build/sponsor her commemorative silhouette.
- I would like more information about the project.

My Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

If you wish to honour someone's memory, you will be contacted for more information about her.

Send forms to:

Silent Witness Project  
 SGEU Women's Committee  
 1011 Devonshire Drive N.  
 Regina, SK S4X 2X4  
 1-800-667-5221



## Goals of the Silent Witness Project

### To remember....

by honouring women in Saskatchewan who were murdered by a spouse, partner or acquaintance.

### To create awareness....

by sharing information in communities around the province about the nature and extent of family violence.

### To promote action...

by profiling local resources that support women coping with violence in their lives and encouraging community and government action to end all forms of violence in our society.



SILENT WITNESS PROJECT

SGEU Women's Committee  
 1011 Devonshire Drive N.  
 Regina, SK S4X 2X4

Phone: 306-522-8571  
 Fax: 306-352-1969



SASKATCHEWAN

# Silent Witness

PROJECT



SGEU



## What is the silent witness project?

The **Silent Witness Project** is a traveling exhibit of life sized wooden silhouettes.

Each represents a Saskatchewan woman who was murdered by a husband, partner, or acquaintance.

Although silent in voice, these silhouettes stand as **Silent Witnesses** screaming for an end to the violence.

Through research and information sharing we eventually hope to craft a silhouette to honour each Saskatchewan woman who has died tragically as a result of domestic violence since 1990.

Each figure will bear a shield with a name of a woman who once lived and worked among us.

An additional unnamed silhouette will commemorate the women who are still suffering from domestic violence or whose murders have been uncouncted or unsolved.

## How did the silent witness project begin?

The **Silent Witness Project** began in the USA as a national initiative to honour women killed by their partners in acts of domestic violence.

In 1990 an ad hoc group of women artists and writers, upset about the growing number of women being murdered by their partners, joined with other women's organizations to take action.



They decided to commemorate and honour the lives of 26 women murdered in Minnesota in 1990 as a result of domestic violence.

Eventually, it became a **National American Silent Witness Initiative** with fifty states and thirty countries participating in the project.

In Canada, New Brunswick, Alberta and Manitoba have formed similar initiatives. Now Saskatchewan will join in speaking out against domestic violence through the **Silent Witness Project**, with the hope of seeing similar initiatives in every province and territory.

## Who can be involved?

The organizing committee for the **Silent Witness Project** will add to the number of silhouettes as their families come forward with requests to have their loved one included. Community involvement in this awareness campaign promotes healing and an opportunity to speak out on family violence.

## Some facts about domestic homicide in Canada

According to Statistics Canada

- \* Between 1991 to 2001, 738 Canadian women were murdered by current or ex-spouses compared to 197 men.



- \* Nearly 60% of women who were assaulted by an ex-spouse after separation were injured.
- \* Stalking behavior was associated with 12% of all homicides committed by male ex-partners.
- \* About 80% of murders by ex-spouses happen within a year of separating.
- \* Younger women are most at risk of being killed by ex-partners.
- \* Homicide of wives aged 15 to 24 was three times higher than that of the overall rate and that of husbands in the same category.
- \* Women in common-law relationships are at greater risk of family violence and murder.
- \* Nearly 40% of spousal homicides occur in a common law relationship.
- \* Aboriginal and disabled women experience considerably higher rates of family violence and spousal homicide.
- \* Saskatchewan has the highest rate of spousal homicides among Canadian provinces according to *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile 2006*, released in July 2006 by Canadian Center for Justice.
- \* 8.4 spouses per million are killed in Saskatchewan each year, compared to a national average of 4.8 per million.
- \* Only 28 per cent of spouses contact police in cases of family violence.