Men’s Walk
December 6th- in the morning, every year.

On Dec 6. 1989, a young man walked into ’Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal, separated men and women and shot and murdered 14 women, injuring 14 other students, screaming that they were a “bunch of feminists”, before killing himself.

Each year, a group of men and male identified people gather on December 6th for a walk around campus on the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women to think about the 1989 massacre at “Ecole Polytechnique, Montreal, gender-based violence and violence against women and how these matters relate to us and McMaster University.

At each stop one volunteer takes a rose and places it at the commemorative marker and is invited to share why they are here today. Each stop is ended with a moment of silence.

We gather…

Planter outside of Student Centre:

This is often where we begin the walk, introduce ourselves to one another. We stop to think about students who have passed away here at McMaster University. On this day we think about the 5 women who have been killed from McMaster specifically.

John Hodgins Engineering Building:

Our next stop is the John Hodgins Engineering Building where we convene in from of the stone memorial at McMaster to commemorate and remember those who were murdered in 1989 at ‘Ecole Polytechnique, Montreal.
Rose Garden:
In September 1993, the Nina de Villiers Garden was opened in front of Convocation Hall. Twenty-year-old de Villiers was a student at McMaster when she was abducted and killed by a violent offender while jogging in Burlington two years prior. The solemn garden is a place to reflect on Nina’s memory, but also stands as a symbol of peace, compassion and understanding. A plaque in the center of the garden reads: “as the garden renews itself, let it remind us of what we can do to make the world a better place.”

Wilson Building:
Here, we gather to think about the over 1200 Aboriginal women who have gone missing or murdered in Canada over the last 20 years.

After our shared walk, remembering, critical thinking and reflection, we gather for the McMaster December 6th commemorative events organized with the Anti-Violence network.