



Canadian Engineering Memorial Foundation
Fondation commémorative du génie canadien

Canadian Engineering Memorial Foundation Reacts to Tragedy at Dawson College

For Immediate Release

September 15, 2006 (Ottawa, Ontario) – The Canadian Engineering Memorial Foundation (CEMF) extends its heartfelt sympathies to the family and friends of Anastasia De Sousa, who lost her life at Dawson College on September 13.

“Our thoughts and prayers go out to all the victims and their families of this senseless tragedy,” says Dr. Suzelle Barrington, CEMF President. “Our prayers are with those fighting for their lives and the many whose worlds will be forever altered by this cowardly act of violence.”

The Canadian Engineering Memorial Foundation is a charitable organization formed following the December 6, 1989 events at École Polytechnique’s engineering school that resulted in the death of 14 young women. The initiative to establish CEMF was taken by Claudette MacKay-Lassonde, P.Eng., then President of the Professional Engineers of Ontario, together with a number of other concerned female engineers.

CEMF is dedicated to attracting women to the engineering profession so they may contribute in a truly inclusive manner. In so doing, they also honour the memory of 14 women whose contributions to Canada ended on December 6, 1989.

“While it is little consolation to those suffering now as a result of the shooting at Dawson College, we hope it gives some comfort to know good and positive events did arise out of the tragedy at École Polytechnique,” says Barrington.

“Over the past 16 years we have been able to assist many young women pursue their dream to become an engineer through our scholarship program and promotion of women in engineering. In the past 12 months alone we have grown and expanded to now offer 16 scholarships at the undergraduate, masters and PhD levels.”

All scholarships are awarded to Canadian women who show exemplary leadership skills, are involved in numerous volunteer and extracurricular activities and who show

dedication to promoting engineering as a career to other young women, rather than academic achievement. Scholarship monies can be used by the award winners in any capacity they so choose, from tuition costs to accessing childcare.

Along with scholarships, CEMF also provides an extensive resource of information and support to young women considering a future in engineering through its website, support of summer engineering camps for girls and more.

Many Canadian companies and University Faculties have stepped forward to join in partnership with CEMF, including Inco Ltd, AMEC and IBM which all offer scholarships to Canadian women in engineering.

Other partners include: Labatt Canada, Power Financial Corporation, The Canadian Council of Professional Engineers, ESSO, SNC-Lavelin, ADGA Group, TD Meloche Monnex, Read Jones Christoffersen Engineering, Professional Engineers of Ontario, RMC Club of Canada and Coyle Publishing. The Engineering Faculties of McMaster University, University of Guelph, University of Saskatchewan and University of Waterloo have also partnered with CEMF to support its mandate.

“With every scholarship we award, we not only promote engineering as a career for young women, we also honour and remember the 14 young women who died at École Polytechnique,” says Barrington.

“Again, our sympathy to all the victims and their families as well as the faculty and students at Dawson College.”

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For more information on the Canadian Engineering Memorial Foundation,
please visit www.cemf.ca