

Community Response and Advocacy From the Ground Up: Experiences of Women Organizing after the Workplace Deaths of Theresa Vince and Lori Dupont

Speakers (in order of presentation):

1. Joy Lang
2. Michelle Schryer
3. Pat Noonan
4. Joy Hamilton
5. Catherine Kedziora

Brief Description of Workshop:

In the words of Margaret Mead, Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. Long-time women's and workers advocates will share experiences and strategies from their grass-roots herstory of understanding and activism in the struggle to shed truth, knowledge and light on women's experience of gendered workplace harassment & violence and their efforts to effect equality, justice and meaningful change towards women's improved workplace safety, health and well-being.

Specific discussion will focus on community response and advocacy following the gender-based murders of Theresa Vince (1996) and Lori Dupont (2005), both killed at their respective workplaces by men with whom they worked. Advocates and members of the Windsor-based Inquest Action Group will talk about their roles in supporting and partnering with surviving family members. The daughter of Theresa Vince will discuss her personal commitment to ensure that the deaths of her mother and Lori Dupont not be in vain, and that no other woman and her family suffer such a tragedy.

Accomplishments from efforts to raise awareness, promote consciousness and effect informed and meaningful change in the Ontario Legislature and elsewhere will be highlighted along with the need for continued work in this area.