



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## U OF T STAFF KNIT OVER 132 SCARVES FOR VISUAL DISPLAY AGAINST WORKPLACE VIOLENCE

**On December 6<sup>th</sup>, 132 scarves will hang from trees, benches, and display boards at all three University of Toronto campuses to recognize the importance of Bill 132.**

Toronto, ON – 23rd November 2016

In September, Bill 132 made workplace sexual harassment a health and safety priority by adding it to the Ontario Health and Safety Act. Over the past three months, United Steelworkers Local 1998 members and volunteers have been knitting and crocheting scarves to recognize and educate our members about the new policy at the U of T. The changes require employers to have specific policies and programs in place that ensure workplace harassment is appropriately investigated.

Dubbed STEELwool, the project brought together veteran and novice knitters. STEELwool culminates with a one-day art installation of colourful handmade scarves—each tagged with the name of the creator—at all three campuses. The project, whose theme is: “Warming all people of any gender, race, age, sexual orientation and ability across U of T”, was developed and organized by the USW Human Rights Committee. The scarves will be donated to various charities across Toronto and the GTA.

United Steelworkers Local 1998 represents over 8000 administrative and technical staff at the University of Toronto, University of St. Michael’s College, Victoria University and University of Toronto Schools.

**STEELwool Art Installation:** December 6, 2016, 10:30 am—2:30 pm

St. George Campus: 7 Hart House Circle

Mississauga Campus: Library, 3359 Mississauga Road

Scarborough Campus: Meeting Place, 1265 Military Trail

**PHOTO OPPORTUNITY:** Scarves will be displayed on trees all around 7 Hart House Circle from 10:30 am—2:30 pm December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

December 6<sup>th</sup> marks the 27<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the École Polytechnique Massacre, also known as the Montreal Massacre, where 28 people were shot, and 14 women were killed.

**For more information contact:** Colleen Burke, USW1998 President (colleen.burke@usw1998.ca / 647.883.2678) or Tade Credgeur, Human Rights Co-Chair (tade@usw1998.ca / 647-409-8233) 25 Cecil St., Toronto, ON M5T 1N1 <http://www.usw1998.ca/steelwool/>