

A Message From Tandem Ville-Marie

Last November, Statistics Canada published the results of its survey of violence against women. Among the report's shocking revelations: 50 per cent of women have suffered physical or sexual violence at least once since age 16; 60 per cent of women fear walking alone in their neighborhood after dark and 39 per cent worry while home alone in the evening.

Since these facts have been revealed, we must ask ourselves what can be done to improve security in our neighborhoods. Furthermore, should we also be asking ourselves how to improve the sense of security? Because both fear and actual danger have the same effect on the citizens' quality of life.

The StatsCan study confirms the long-held belief that violence against women is a reality in our

society. In response to this violence, *Tandem Montreal Ville Marie* redefined itself in 1992 as an urban security program. The group has taken a particular interest in women's security and has written a brochure entitled *You Are Not Alone*.

Experts agree that prevention is the first step towards reducing violence. Residents of Milton Park have already taken a number of important steps to improve women's security. The *Regroupement des citoyen-ne-s de Milton-Parc contre les agressions sexuelles* has taken charge of citizens' security. But *Tandem Ville Marie*, with its mandate to assist citizens in improving their quality of life, is also ready to help with initiatives to improve security in Milton-Park. Together, we can search for solutions to this serious and ever-growing problem. ♦