They're trying to buy the property.

We confronted our Co-op Council; women in particular were ready. Tenants were up in arms. The only pay $135—but on $110 a month--utilities included.

So I got a job in a cafe. Nothing more. But then I missed an appointment to benefit control officer said I could keep up. That's when the trouble started. The cops have already had a taste of that. Council works in hand in hand with the City to stop the rent freezes and evictions. We've already tasted the plums of money waitresses make in tips and what a hard time the tourism industry is having here in Ontario. Well, I want to remind them that my tips are a subsidy to industry because they allow employers to pay us less wages!

Welfare Mother

I've lived at Bain Avenue for three years now. It's non-profit housing, which is supposed to mean reasonable rents, but we just got our third increase in two years! Frank brought my tiny one bedroom up to $193 a month, and I've lived at Bain Avenue for three years now. It's non-profit housing, and I've lived there for fifteen years and we have UIC Recipient. I've been married for fifteen years and we have two school age kids. For a long time I didn't even think about going back to work—-I have to high school to get my diploma--I was back living with my mother--but it just didn't make sense.

I applied for Unemployment Insurance and, at first, everything was ok. We needed the money and the bars and discos and I made a lot more money. Anyway, that lasted for about two years. After Frank was called back to military, it was worse in fact, because unemployment is much higher now. But I've been busted twice already, and the cops have been hugging me a lot with all this talk about "cleaning up the streets". So I've stopped for now, and I'm staying on welfare till they cut me off. Well, I'll see after that... I really don't know what I'll do....

Five Women Speak Out!

Wherever women have won some money and power, those gains are now under attack. Unemployment insurance is being cut, women's wages continue to lose ground, welfare remains low, rents and prices keep rising, and we are supposed to make up the difference by working harder. But women are saying "no!" In this issue we report on the fight that millions of women are making to prevent the government -- at all levels -- from solving their "crisis" at our expense.

Jerri Watson

The government is talking about the plums of money waitresses make in tips and what a hard time the tourism industry is having here in Ontario. Well, I want to remind them that my tips are a subsidy to industry because they allow employers to pay us less wages!

If the government is allowed to increase the "tip differential" and extend it from liquor servers to all other tipped workers, they--a lot of us are going to be giving away our hard work at bargain basement wages, I, for one, say no damned-way! Ellen Agger

City-Housing Tenant

I've lived at Bain Avenue for three years now. It's non-profit housing, which is supposed to mean reasonable rents, but we just got our third increase in two years! It brought my tiny one bedroom up to $193 a month, and we're underpaid to start with, and many of us have kids to support and more than one job to make ends meet.

Anyway, tenants were up in arms. The women in particular were ready to fight. We confronted our Co-op Council who negotiated the increase, but they're trying to buy the property from the City so they're on "good behaviour"--at our expense.

Council's push for ownership is the main obstacle to lower rents here, and all it will get us is the privilege of doing our own rent collecting and evicting. We've already had a taste of that. Council worked hand in hand with the City to stop the rent freezes and evict us when they couldn't. We need more of that like a hole in the head!

So we're organizing for the referendum now, and we know we can win it hands down!

Francie Wyland

Prostitute

I was born in Toronto and I started as a hooker when I was fifteen. It was sort of by accident, I was hitting the books and this guy made me an offer! I didn't have any money--I was living at foster home at the time--so I figured "sure, why not?" Later I got into working the bars and discos and I made a lot more money.

Then last year I tried going back to high school to get my diploma--I was back living with my mother--but it just didn't make sense. What would I have when I got out? It was like when I dropped out a few years ago, worse in fact, because unemployment is much higher now. But I've been busted twice already, and the cops have been hugging me a lot with all this talk about "cleaning up the streets". So I've stopped for now, and I'm staying on welfare till they cut me off. We'll see after that... I really don't know what I'll do....

Donna F.

Waitress

It really burns me up that the Ontario Government wants to increase the minimum wage for everyone except workers who make tips. Because most of us are women, we're underpaid to start with, and many of us have kids to support and more than one job to make ends meet.

Anyway, tenants were up in arms. The women in particular were ready to fight. We confronted our Co-op Council who negotiated the increase, but they're trying to buy the property from the City so they're on "good behaviour"--at our expense.

The government is talking about the plums of money waitresses make in tips and what a hard time the tourism industry is having here in Ontario. Well, I want to remind them that my tips are a subsidy to industry because they allow employers to pay us less wages!

If the government is allowed to increase the "tip differential" and extend it from liquor servers to all other tipped workers, they--a lot of us are going to be giving away our hard work at bargain basement wages, I, for one, say no damned-way! Ellen Agger

Wages for Housework

Wages for Housework. Five Women Speak Out! 'Wherever women have won some money and power, those gains are now under attack. Unemployment insurance is being cut, women's wages continue to lose ground, welfare remains low, rents and prices keep rising, and we are supposed to make up the difference by working harder. But women are saying "no!" In this issue we report on the fight that millions of women are making to prevent the government -- at all levels -- from solving their "crisis" at our expense.

Vol.1 No.3 Spring 1977
FAMILY ALLOWANCE

the rents rise?

In organizing the freeze, the Bain Avenue women expressed the anger and frustration of thousands of tenants throughout Toronto.

Support has come readily, especially from other city housing tenants. A group of tenants at the Beverley-Dundas Projects went on a partial freeze of their own to protest a City surcharge aimed at offsetting lost commercial revenue. These tenants had successfully blocked plans for such a development and the surcharge, they say, is their "punishment".

Women Lead Rent Fight

According to the Bureau of Municipal Research, there are close to 40,000 families in Toronto who rent premises they "cannot really afford", or that are "over-crowded and in poor structure". Within a city of 2 1/2 million, that's a crisis by anyone's standards.

When a group of tenants at the largest city-owned non-profit housing project recently went on a rent freeze, the magnitude of the crisis was driven home. The tenants at the Bain Avenue Apartments, for instance, were demanding to pay an 18% increase as of February 1, 1977. The rents in City projects are geared to 'low incomes' which presumably means these tenants are better off than the rest of us.

In reality however, the floor space they get for the money is less than what they need. The Canadian government had a problem on its hands. They knew the war wouldn't last forever and there had to be a way of taking the places in the factories and offices. The government had to think of ways to get workers back into the factories and offices. They knew the war wouldn't last forever and they had to think about "rebuilding the nation".

But the government knew it wouldn't be easy, because no one wanted to give up the power of a weekly pay cheque for an armod of diapers. The Canadian government was not alone with this problem. In Britain Sir William Beveridge proposed a programme of Family Allowances, to be paid to the mother of children. He saw it as an investment in recognition of the work of raising children. He had the support of the House of Commons to which the prime minister, the late Mr. Attlee, had just brought his government.

The programme was proposed in 1944. It was called the Family Allowance Act and it was introduced in the British House of Commons.

The purpose of the programme was to provide financial assistance to families with children. The government would provide a fixed amount of money each week to families with children, regardless of their income. This was to help families with the cost of raising children.

The programme was a huge success. It helped millions of families with the cost of raising children. It also helped to improve the health and education of children.

In this country, the programme was expanded in 1952 to include a foster care allowance for children in foster care. This helped to provide financial assistance to families who were caring for children in foster care.

In 1969, the programme was expanded again to include a foster care allowance for children in foster care. This helped to provide financial assistance to families who were caring for children in foster care.

In 1974, the programme was expanded again to include a foster care allowance for children in foster care. This helped to provide financial assistance to families who were caring for children in foster care.

In 1979, the programme was expanded again to include a foster care allowance for children in foster care. This helped to provide financial assistance to families who were caring for children in foster care.

In 1984, the programme was expanded again to include a foster care allowance for children in foster care. This helped to provide financial assistance to families who were caring for children in foster care.

In addition to the financial assistance, the programme also included other benefits for families with children. These included:

- Access to a range of services and supports for families with children, including health care, education, and social services.
- Access to information and resources about parenting and child development.
- Access to a range of programs and services that support families with children, including family support services, child care, and after-school programs.

In 1990, the programme was expanded again to include a foster care allowance for children in foster care. This helped to provide financial assistance to families who were caring for children in foster care.

In 1999, the programme was expanded again to include a foster care allowance for children in foster care. This helped to provide financial assistance to families who were caring for children in foster care.

In 2008, the programme was expanded again to include a foster care allowance for children in foster care. This helped to provide financial assistance to families who were caring for children in foster care.

In 2017, the programme was expanded again to include a foster care allowance for children in foster care. This helped to provide financial assistance to families who were caring for children in foster care.

In 2021, the programme was expanded again to include a foster care allowance for children in foster care. This helped to provide financial assistance to families who were caring for children in foster care.

In addition to the financial assistance, the programme also included other benefits for families with children, including:

- Access to a range of services and supports for families with children, including health care, education, and social services.
- Access to information and resources about parenting and child development.
- Access to a range of programs and services that support families with children, including family support services, child care, and after-school programs.

The programme was funded by the federal government, in partnership with the provinces and territories. In 2012, the federal government announced that the programme would be expanded to include a foster care allowance for children in foster care.

In 2015, the programme was expanded again to include a foster care allowance for children in foster care. This helped to provide financial assistance to families who were caring for children in foster care.

In 2018, the programme was expanded again to include a foster care allowance for children in foster care. This helped to provide financial assistance to families who were caring for children in foster care.

In 2022, the programme was expanded again to include a foster care allowance for children in foster care. This helped to provide financial assistance to families who were caring for children in foster care.

The programme was funded by the federal government, in partnership with the provinces and territories. In 2012, the federal government announced that the programme would be expanded to include a foster care allowance for children in foster care.

In 2015, the programme was expanded again to include a foster care allowance for children in foster care. This helped to provide financial assistance to families who were caring for children in foster care.

In 2018, the programme was expanded again to include a foster care allowance for children in foster care. This helped to provide financial assistance to families who were caring for children in foster care.

In 2022, the programme was expanded again to include a foster care allowance for children in foster care. This helped to provide financial assistance to families who were caring for children in foster care.

In addition to the financial assistance, the programme also included other benefits for families with children, including:

- Access to a range of services and supports for families with children, including health care, education, and social services.
- Access to information and resources about parenting and child development.
- Access to a range of programs and services that support families with children, including family support services, child care, and after-school programs.

In 2012, the federal government announced that the programme would be expanded to include a foster care allowance for children in foster care.

In 2015, the programme was expanded again to include a foster care allowance for children in foster care. This helped to provide financial assistance to families who were caring for children in foster care.

In 2018, the programme was expanded again to include a foster care allowance for children in foster care. This helped to provide financial assistance to families who were caring for children in foster care.

In 2022, the programme was expanded again to include a foster care allowance for children in foster care. This helped to provide financial assistance to families who were caring for children in foster care.

In addition to the financial assistance, the programme also included other benefits for families with children, including:

- Access to a range of services and supports for families with children, including health care, education, and social services.
- Access to information and resources about parenting and child development.
- Access to a range of programs and services that support families with children, including family support services, child care, and after-school programs.
Hustling For A Wage

You might know that two reform aldermen, John Sewell and Allan Sparrow, are the prime movers in the crusade to "clean up Yonge Street". Body work and nude amusements are "morally degrading to women" they say, and an open invitation to organized crime.

Lost in their moral outrage however is the fact that many of us are forced to earn our living in one of Toronto's sweatshops. There are enough of them to fill the minimum wage in the home that gets Johnny working every day. This consumes our time, drains our energy, and leaves us penniless. So when women get a second job outside of the home, what we are after is our money. Those of us who stay as long as it takes to get UIC have plenty of work waiting at home to keep us "productive". Women have never had the option of taking "little or no interest in working"!

Secondly, the unemployment rate for youth under 25 is over 50%. Of the one million Canadians presently unemployed, a high proportion are young people who have a right to their own wages. Many of those who are working, are stuck in dead-end jobs at the bottom of the pay scale. If they choose to keep coming and draw UIC in between who can blame them? No one in his or her right mind would want a "stable attachment" to a shitty job at low wages!

Lastly, along with extending the qualifying period from eight to twelve weeks, the government's new legislation would give only one week of benefits to every 25 weeks worked, up to 25 weeks. At present, the full entitlement for the same period is 51 weeks, which means that thousands of other workers (i.e. taxpayers) will also be cut back. For the men whose wives and kids are cut off it will mean either living on less or making up the difference by working longer hours. Some break!

The present Unemployment Insurance Act was introduced in 1971 when unrest was mounting among students and when demonstrations were taking place like the one in British Columbia where students, mothers with small children, elderly people, and unemployed men all invaded the provincial legislature.

The result was that the qualifying period was reduced from 30 weeks in two years to eight weeks--thus including temporary workers like students and housewives. Also universal coverage was extended benefits to public employees, hospital workers and teachers. And benefits rose by 50%.

Now six years later, the unemployment rate is the highest in 19 years, prices keep rising, thousands of families can't survive without two wages, and Trudeau is telling us we're all living "too high off the hog"! With his campaign against women and youth "freeloading" on the taxpayer, he's really out to lower everyone's expectations and standard of living.

Telling women and kids there is no money for us is the government's way of lowering other workers wages as well--wages they are going to keep footing the bill.

"freeloading" on the taxpayer, he's really out to lower everyone's expectations and standard of living.

For your free copy of "A Housewife's Guide to UIC" contact the Toronto Committee.

The Housewife At Sussex Drive

Canada's first lady, Margaret Trudeau has just taken another beating in the media. Apparently it's "inappropriate", and even "offensive", for the Prime Minister's wife to leave husby and kids to go to rock concerts, New York ballets, or do whatever else she feels like doing.

For all the pomp and prestige of her position, it sounds like she's in the same boat as the rest of us--and fighting back. The call to duty", whether it's the week's shopping or a state dinner, is always expected to come before our needs and priorities more power to you Margaret, for refusing to be "a rose in any husband's lap", and a housewife to the Canadian State!
INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN NEWS

TORONTO

In October 1976, women from Nellie's Hostel ended their occupation after receiving $7,000 from the local government and a one year federal grant that allowed them to hire more staff. Their fight for justice continues. Paula Fainstain, leader in the occupation, is writing a diary of Nellie's struggle, soon to be published by the Toronto Committee.

NEW YORK

On March 12, 1977, an International Women's Day march along 5th Avenue culminated in a rally at which Wilmette Brown from Black Women for Wages for Housework spoke for the International Campaign. Her speech, which included references to the fight against current welfare cuts in New York City, was enthusiastically applauded by the 1500 women and men present.

LOS ANGELES

A recent interview about Wages for Housework appeared in "Motherhood, Lesbianism and Child Custody" by Francie Wyland. They have been actively organizing around custody and recently sponsored a benefit for a lesbian mother whose fight is still in the courts. To order a copy of the pamphlet write to Wages Due Lesbians, Box 58 Stn. E Toronto, Ontario.

Waitresses' Action Committee

Waitresses active in the Campaign recently helped form the Waitresses' Action Committee to oppose the Ontario Government's proposed changes in the minimum wage (see page one). Excluding waitresses and other tipped workers (liquor servers, chambermaids, etc.) from the higher minimum wage when unemployment for women is over 9%, is just one more way the government is trying to pick women's pockets to put money in the banks. The Committee has prepared a brief demanding a higher minimum wage for all tipped workers. It also demands money for the enormous quantity of unpaid work that most waitressing jobs involve, as well as the implicit sexual work which is required to make tips. Waitresses are "glorified housewives and hookers," say Committee members.

Black Women for Wages for Housework

The International Tribunal on Crimes Against Women, held last summer in Brussels, and attended by 2000 women from 45 countries, has just published its official proceedings. In the 300-page volume edited by Diane E. H. Russell and Nicole Van de Ven, Wages for Housework "testimonies" appear from Italy, Northern Ireland, and England. A speech by Ruth Hall of Wages Due Lesbians/England is included along with a letter which the Canadian Campaign sent the Tribunal. Published by LES FEMMES (Calif.), the book is available from the Toronto Women's Bookstore, 85 Harbord Street, Toronto.

BELGIUM

The Black Women for Wages for Housework in organizing against cuts in the federally funded WAGES program (for black and third world students) on major university campuses. Along with the Queen's College Women's Action Group and the New York Women for Housework Committee, they are circulating a petition demanding an end to the harassment of student welfare mothers and the cuts in SEEK funds.

QUEBEC

On March 21, 1977, Selma James, feminist author from Britain, gave the keynote address for "Women's Week" at Concordia University in Montreal. At week's end, Selma was also on a wrap up panel along with Marcia Gallo, member of the Socialist Workers' Party. During the question period which followed, organizers tried to silence a black sister (she was speaking too long!) and give the microphone to a white man instead. Selma left the panel in protest--alone--and was shouted down abusively by the organizers.

But Quebec women in the audience, present as observers, immediately rose to protest their exclusion from the conference, and the sham of a few token French-speaking women on various panels! The Wages for Housework Campaign fully supports the Quebecoises sisters.

CHICAGO

On April 8 - 10, 1977, the network of Wages for Housework groups in North America held a conference on organizing. Seventy-five delegates from 12 cities attended including women from Toronto, Kitchener, Winnipeg, Windsor, and Regina. England, Italy, the West Indies, and Africa were also represented.

ENGLAND

The London Committee held a successful "Mother's Day" Event on March 20, 1977. Many women took time for themselves to attend an afternoon of films, music and discussion at the Gata Cinema. Afterwards, a delegation of 50 women presented Family Allowance petitions demanding a raise to Dennis Healey, the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

TORONTO

On February 18, 1977, Judy Ramirez of the Toronto Committee was the guest speaker at a family planning conference sponsored by the City of Toronto Board of Health and the Immigrant Women's Centre. Many immigrant women attended, and Judy's emphasis on women's right to love and have children, and the money to choose freely, dominated the day-long workshops.

The immigrant women won a floor fight in the plenary session to pass a resolution demanding that the government fund indigenous health centres run by immigrant women. In India, South Africa and the West Indies, women have protested government-run family planning clinics by burning them to the ground.

Campaign Gifts for Mother's Day

Buttons: $0.50
  Wages for Housework
  No Cuts Just Bucks

Tea Towels: $1.00
  Black Women for Wages for Housework

Cotton T-shirts: $4.50
  Indicate quantity and colour of each size.
  Size: S M L
  Colour: Green Blue Red Black

Books & Pamphlets:

1. ALL WORK AND NO PAY
   -first feminist documents from the abortion movement in Italy
   -introduction by Judy Ramirez

2. WOMEN SPEAK OUT
   -speeches from May Day Rally 1975 in Toronto
   -by Silvia Federici

3. POWER OF WOMEN JOURNAL
   -magazine of the international Wages for Housework Campaign

Send to: Wages for Housework Campaign Office
745 Danforth Ave., Suite 301
Toronto, Ontario (phone 466-7457)
Postage included. All proceeds are used to publish the Bulletin.