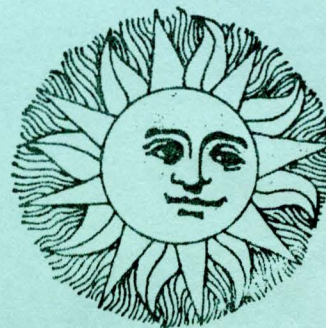


NEWS NOUVELLES

OCTOBER 1979
VOL 1 NO 2

FEMINIST PARTY OF CANADA PARTI FEMINISTE DU CANADA
BOX 5717, STATION 'A', TORONTO, ONTARIO, M5W 1A0, (416) 925-3777

A CELEBRATION



THE FEMINIST PARTY OF CANADA
INVITES YOU TO A
RECEPTION IN CELEBRATION OF
THE PERSONS CASE

SATURDAY OCTOBER 20, 1979, 4:00 to 7:00 P.M.

The Heliconian Hall 35 Hazelton Avenue
(North of Yorkville Avenue)

On October 18, 1929, the Privy Council in Britain decided that women were "Persons" under the British North America Act and were therefore eligible for appointment to the Senate. This ended a battle begun in 1916 by an Alberta woman, Judge Emily Murphy and carried on by Nellie McClung, Irene Parlby, and Henrietta Muir Edwards.

* COME AND BE A PERSON WITH US *

CASH BAR

CONTEMPORARY FEMINISM AND ITS RELATION TO THE
FEMINIST PARTY OF CANADA:
FPC EDUCATIONAL DAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1979

The Feminist Party is one of our routes in the labour to create an operative feminist society within a social milieu, a feminist culture which we have created by struggles already waged. Mary O'Brien, one of the women who spoke in the course of an educational forum of the Party on September 29, left us with a wonderful measure of assurance about feminism and its stature as the movement best equipped and most inclined to give a beneficial new turn to life and its relations, social, biological and economic. Both speakers, Mary O'Brien and Angela Miles, addressed very incisively the subject of the day: the problems and promise of the Feminist Party and its relations to contemporary feminism. Mary spoke of feminism as an integral part of a history which takes humankind and its rapport with nature forward in a constructive way. Any feminist-identified party has its commission to work out the ramifications of a basic notion of feminism as a new view of human reality. We are not, like other parties, joining the known political world. We are joining the feminist effort to redefine politics. A primary task for this new politics is to propose how human survival is to be won and given a character of light and improvement. This, obviously, is also the very essence of the personal. And if it is the desire of feminists to make the political personal, as Angela Miles says, then we in the Party must make ourselves a group which allows and demands

that union of the two spheres. If we work - as we can - with the formula which integrates most completely the transformation of ourselves with the transformation of the world, our politics will take place so much among the people that the blending of the personal and the political planes will not involve any diminishment or distortion.

Both speakers implied that the contemporary feminist milieu, our common environment, acts for the Party the parts of stimulant, guide, backer and critic. If we keep an avenue of touch open to all the other faces of the women's movement, our vitality is assured. Located within the feminist milieu, the Party can and will be expected to bring political modes into closer touch with life as we live it and as our feminist culture would have it evolve. There are, among the women of that culture, divisions carried over from the dominant culture; but we should not take them to be definitive, or imagine that they put a united party out of the question. A deep enough analysis shows connections running deeper than those divisions. Mary O'Brien pointed out that we must try to achieve as soon as possible the creative organization necessary to keep the Party functioning as a true exponent of our radicalism. A party



which can do that, can become one of those strong, elastic centres where the individual fights we wage cohere and make ultimate sense. The Feminist Party, Angela Miles suggested, will help place women in visible history - as we should be placed now, as this movement happens.

The day, coordinated by the Education Committee, had this agenda:

Orientation for new FPC members - Angela Miles

Welcome - Joan Archer

FPC background - Marg Evans

Committee reports

Talk by Angela Miles

Discussion in small groups

Response from groups - introduced by Lynne Buchan

Talk by Mary O'Brien

Wind-up and announcements

Questions raised in the small group discussions concerned both the Party's internal workings and the Party as it fits into the complete feminist spectrum. We talked about the feminist vision of the possible quality of life, and how any structure could meet the needs of the feminist movement, or any party express its values. People asked whether the feminist position could be upheld, without modification, throughout an attempt to enter public politics. Other subjects raised were: party cohesion; interaction with other women's groups; the loss it would involve to pare down our field of interest for the sake of any single goal - namely the election of candidates; out-of-Toronto chapters and their participation in policy-setting; the refinement of all our various values into a tenable party philosophy. Most of us found the day very useful, as regards both our own education and the Feminist Party process.

Caoron Sowton

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* * * * * ATTENTION VANCOUVER FEMINISTS * * * * *

AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE FEMINIST PARTY OF CANADA FROM TORONTO WILL BE IN VANCOUVER FROM DECEMBER 15 TO JANUARY 3 AND WILL BE HAPPY TO SPEAK TO INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS ABOUT THE PARTY.

PLEASE WRITE TO THE FEMINIST PARTY OF CANADA BOX NUMBER TO ARRANGE A MEETING, OR, AFTER DECEMBER 15 CALL C/O 604-224-4835.

* * * * *

NEW OFFICE FOR FEMINIST PARTY OF CANADA

The office is ready! 121 Avenue Road, Toronto, Ontario, telephone number 925-3777.

We are in the process of staffing it for three-hour intervals at a time. 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m.; 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.; and 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. It will be open everyday except Sunday. We still need people so please submit your name and the time you would like to work.

Committee happenings should be reported to the office so that we may pass the information on. There are message slots for the various committees.

We estimate our monthly costs to be \$125.00. We are seeking financing for this in the form of pledges by post-dated cheques and more are needed.

All help will be appreciated.

Jeanne Jenns

LETTERS * LETTERS * LETTERS

Most of the mail received by the Feminist Party of Canada comes from women and men all across the country. A few examples follow.

South Slokan, B.C.

I am really interested in obtaining further information about the FPC. Does it actually exist or is it just in the planning stages?

Please let me know what has been done and what I and women in this area can do to help.

Maggie Quinlan

Sherwood Park, Alberta

I was very excited and enthusiastic when I was told about the party. I am interested in the nature of the party, the policy concerning men and whether or not you will be dealing with issues other than those considered 'strictly feminist' issues? I would appreciate very much hearing from you and I wish you success and congratulations.

Brit Griffin

Winnipeg, Manitoba

Women in Manitoba are most interested in what you are doing and we would like to receive some information on what your plans are. Many women here feel that we cannot leave the major political parties in a vacuum with no input from women and that it is necessary to get into these. However, I think that there are some women here who would be interested in the FPC. We all certainly wish you all the best.

Alice Steinbart

Churchill, Manitoba

Please send me a membership in the Party. I'm not sure what I can do from here, but certainly I can support you.

Florence Flynn

WINDSOR, ONTARIO

Thanks for sending the button, sticker and the printed material. The material is for two women who probably will form a branch here.

My husband (a professor of English Lit) is teaching a course on Women and Literature and he is going to wear the button to his class next week.

Jo Atkinson

Manitoulin Island, Ontario

Kindly send me more information on the new FPC. Just heard about you on the radio and am interested in learning more about you. I am involved in establishing a Native/Non-Native Women's Crisis Centre and would be keen on knowing your support in these matters.

Christine Bueché-Devai

Thunder Bay, Ontario

Enclosed find small love gift for rising expectations. Consider me a small rock in the building of a bridge that must be built between leadership and the working class woman. I shall be looking for that leadership in our new party and I suggest to you all that whether we arrive or not is secondary, just getting the show on the road will raise the political hair on the bureaucracy. Keep me informed.

Gert Beadle

Ottawa, Ontario

Congratulations! We're happy to hear of your formation. We are requesting that you send us a number of application forms so that we may distribute them among our members.

Rosemary Kries
Women's Centre, Carleton University

Halifax, Nova Scotia

In various national media publications as well as the Summer '79 CLOW News-letter Connections, I have read with interest about the spawning of the FPC...While I identify strongly with the concerns expressed in your Interim Committee notes (April 1979) I cannot agree entirely with your analysis that "most female politicians regardless of background or party affiliations have reduced their connections with women's organizations to a minimum when they obtained office." While the record of Liberal and P.C. elected women has been fairly consistent in this respect - an outcome which is both predictable and inevitable in my view - I strongly submit that the records of Agnes MacPhail, Grace McInnes and Rosemary Brown, to name three, strike a sharp contrast and it is more than coincidental that they have sought public office via the N.D.P.

I do agree that the pressures are very great for just that to happen but it is a major challenge that the women's movement faces to ensure that it holds women, elected with their support, more accountable than has been done in the past.

Alexa McDonough

Brossard, P.Q.

Suite à un article parut dans la revue "Statut De La Femme," je désiré recevoir des renseignements supplémentaires au sujet de l'P.P.F. Merci pour vos renseignements.

Patricier Couture

Sherbrooke, P.Q.

Can you send me as much information as possible about the FPC as I would like to write an article about it for the English press in Quebec.

Sondra Corry

* * * * *

STUDY GROUPS The Study Groups are now underway and meeting on Wednesdays.

A second group is proposed for November. Interested persons should get in touch with the present coordinator, Helen Lenskyj, 453-5100.

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NOM _____

ADRESSE _____ TELEPHONE _____

CODE POSTALE _____

1. Je désire que l'on continue à m'envoyer NEWS/NOUVELLES _____
2. Mon nom peut être employé dans NEWS/NOUVELLES comme contact pour le parti féministe du Canada, dans ma région _____
3. J'aimerais devenir membre du parti féministe du Canada pour \$5.00 _____
personnes âgées, étudiants, parents seuls, personnes à l'assistance sociale pour \$1.00 _____
4. Çi-inclus ma contribution _____

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Outreach Committee, having lost some of its members due to the pressures of work on other Committees, moving to another area, etc., or natural attrition are now getting down to the serious business of planning our strategy, both short and long term.

The Orientation session held before the Educational Seminar on September 29th was a further indication of the need to continue Orientation Sessions to answer questions and concerns of new and prospective members. How this may best be achieved will be discussed at the next Outreach Committee meeting on October 12th.

Outreach were contacted in September by the Law Union (University of Toronto) for a representative of the F.P.C. to take part in a panel discussion on "Feminism in the 80's" to be held on September 29th. Although most of our speakers were already involved in the September 29th meeting, Mary O'Brien "doubled" and took part in the discussion. Thanks Mary, you surely have to be the best way of showing where Feminism will be in the 80's!!

If you would like to come to an Outreach meeting to contribute ideas or just listen in, please give us a call for the date of the next meeting - we need your support.

Contact person: Gill Lloyd-Jones, 826-6098

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NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ TELEPHONE _____

POSTAL CODE _____

1. I am interested in continuing to receive NEWS/NOUVELLES _____
2. My name may be printed in NEWS/NOUVELLES as a contact for the Feminist Party of Canada organization in my area _____
3. I would like to purchase membership in the Feminist Party of Canada at
\$5.00 _____ seniors, students, single parents, welfare, disability at
\$1.00 _____
4. I enclose a donation _____
5. I would like to participate. Please contact me _____. I am interested in the following committee(s): Constitution _____ Fund Raising _____
Media & Communication _____ Study Groups _____ Membership _____
Policy Development _____ Education _____ Outreach _____
Office Management _____ Other (please specify) _____

***** A NEW CHAPTER IS BORN *****

On August 27, 1979, the Peel/Halton Chapter was born. Since then we have had another meeting on September 26. Spanned over the two meetings we have had fourteen people visit us; five of whom are members of the Feminist Party of Canada. May I introduce those members who are here representing the chapter: Barb Sims, George Angus, Jill Lloyd-Jones and Lynne Buchan.

As with all infants we are toddling at the moment but also as toddlers we are naturally inquisitive and we have questions for our founding mothers. Questions arose at our last meeting such as: is the chapter considered autonomous thus giving us the privilege of receiving moneys from our Toronto branch and can we expect to be able to keep part of the membership money received when new members join the Feminist Party in Peel Halton? Also, as we extend our membership and strike our own committees, I would hope that we could receive minutes of all committees in Toronto to keep us abreast of the Party's activities.

But not only are we inquisitive. We were also born with natural optimism and an enthusiasm for our Party. I have an executive working committee who are, at the moment, contacting our Mississauga libraries as an avenue for publicity and our local newspapers for coverage. Peel/Halton will have its first Feminist Party Garage Sale on October 13 and we extend an invitation to all of you around the area of Streetsville that day to look for the signs and support us in this fund raising endeavour.

The Peel/Halton Chapter is alive and well! It may yet have many primal screams but it will continue to grow, gaining a voice in Mississauga and surrounding areas, adding prestige to the Feminist Party of Canada. We trust our founding mothers will look on us with pride as the first of their children to blaze trails on a new horizon for the women of Canada.

Speech given by Ms. Gwen Sims, President, Peel/Halton Chapter, to members of the Orientation Day gathering on September 29, 1979.

NEXT MEETING OF THE PEEL/HALTON CHAPTER: October 24, 1979, at 7:30 p.m. at 227 Medhat Drive, Mississauga.

CONTACT: Ms. Gwen Sims, 828-1491 (home) or 822-6700 (work)

*** MEMBERS ***

OUT-OF-TOWN MEMBERS: *Do you need a place to stay when you come to Toronto to attend any Feminist Party of Canada activities and functions? Let us know at the office (925-3777) and we'll see what we can do about billeting you for the night.*

IN-TOWN MEMBERS: *Do you have a spare room - couch - floor space to offer for billeting out-of-town members? Just let us know at the office (925-3777).*

*** NOTICE ***

The Nuclear and Alternative Energies Subcommittee of the Policy Committee will report back from the S.O.S. (Stop Overseas Sales) demonstration in Ottawa. They meet at 8:00 p.m. on October 14 at St. Paul's Church, 121 Avenue Road. Information about further meetings of this Subcommittee can be obtained from the Feminist Party of Canada office (925-3777).

FEMINIST VISIONS OF THE FUTURE

The National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC) will be holding a series of day-long conferences, or "visions". The first "vision", **WOMEN AND THE ENVIRONMENT**, is planned for Saturday, November 10, at Bloor Collegiate Institute.

The subject matter for both plenary and workshop sessions will cover:

1. Energy planning, women and their environment
2. Planning and design of women's urban environment
3. Women's health and the environment

Registration is \$2.00. Day care will be provided if requested.

NAC hopes the discussions will lead us all to have a greater understanding of the connection between our specialized, individual, local and immediate concerns and the wider questions of feminism and its impact and relationship to the future of our mental, physical, technological and philosophical environment.

Kay Macpherson/Margaret Evans

Contact: 922-3246 (day)
922-7490/487-9427 (evenings)

**FEMINIST PARTY OF
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P.O. Box 5717 Station 'A'
Toronto, Ontario M5W 1A0

