

FEMINIST PARTY OF CANADA / PARTI FEMINISTE DU CANADA  
175 Carlton St.,  
Toronto, Ont., M5A 2K3.

Newsletter, Vol. 4, No. 1, Jan. 1982.

EDITORIAL:

With this issue, I take over the editorship of the F.P.C. newsletter. Following in the footsteps of Mary O'Brien is no mean feat. As a feminist and as editor she is a hard act to follow. Since I agreed to be the editor of the newsletter, I have found myself asking the same central question: What should the F.P.C. Newsletter be like? The first things that spring to mind, of course, are the things that it should not be. It should not be a glorified "minutes of the last meeting", nor should it be simply a "notice board" of coming events. Although these are important, there is a great deal more to the feminist movement and to the F.P.C. than that.

First there is the feminist issue of collectivity. The feminist movement has been built on a spirit of co-operation and mutuality. In this spirit, the F.P.C. Newsletter must be the sum of its members' concerns. To this end, we invite all F. P. C. members to contribute to our newsletter. This contribution can be in the form of letters, articles, cartoons, anything "fit to print". We especially invite input in the form of guest editorials. (If you don't like this one, get a pen and paper and write your own!)

A second concern involves coming to terms with the demands placed on us as a "party". There are many interpretations of the term "party", and there must be a place within our party for women with divergent views. We must feel free to express our views and to act politically in accordance with them. The newsletter can be a forum for the expression of these views.

A third issue, critical to the very existence of the Feminist Party of Canada, is the third word in our name -- Canada. The F.P.C. has members in every province of Canada (as well as in many countries outside Canada), but we are in danger of perpetuating the myth that the F.P.C. (like almost everything) exists only in Toronto. We place a high priority on dispelling this myth, and invite all F.P.C. members to take part in the activities of the party through the newsletter.

As you read through this copy of the newsletter, you may find that it suffers from both the "should not be's" mentioned in the first paragraph. This is, perhaps, the strongest argument for a collective enterprise. The F.P.C. cannot exist without the support and contribution of all its members.

-- Joan Blackwood --

General Membership Meeting

November 22, 1981.

At the November general membership meeting it was decided to dispense with the Friday night drop-ins at the F.P.C. centre. Although the idea is good, the drop-ins were not working, and should be re-thought.

Sue Kelly, who had attended the T.T.C. meeting, reported on the controversy over the Right to Life advertisement. As a result of public outcry, the proposed ad ("Some toys will have less (sic) children to play with this year.") has been turned down.

Courses:

The new year brings with it a new set of "courses" offered by the F.P.C. There have been two sets of six-week "courses" offered by the F.P.C. and each has been successful. The new course offerings will be:

"Women in a Sexist Justice System," given by Reva Landau and Wendy King, beginning Feb. 2, 1982.

"Women Spirit: Feminism and Religion", given by Terry Flower, beginning Feb. 3, 1982.

See the attached form for registration information.

THE FEMINIST PARTY OF CANADA  
PARTI FEMINISTE DU CANADA

175 Carlton St.  
Toronto, Ont. M5A 2R3  
960-3427

The FPC has launched a series of courses in response to the urgent need in the Toronto area for readily accessible feminist educational opportunities. The courses run for six two-hour weekly sessions, and they are taught by feminists, members of the FPC, who have practical experience and/or academic training in the topic area. The courses do not represent formal FPC policy statements, but rather the informed feminist perspectives of the women teaching them. All courses are held at the FPC Centre, 175 Carlton St., Toronto.

In the fall of 1981 four courses were taught. These were The Power of Feminist Politics, Feminist Issues in Philosophy, Women and the Media, and Feminism and "Mental Health." The courses were well-attended and were positive learning experiences for the women participating. A consciousness-raising group was also started in the early fall, 1981, and it is still meeting weekly. The form below includes a blank for women to check should they be interested in participating in a new CR group.

Two new courses are starting the first week of February, 1982: (Titles and descriptions provided by the instructors)

Women in a Sexist Justice System - The course will examine those aspects of Canadian law that pertain specifically to women, and will include the topics of rape, abortion, wife battering, the juvenile justice system, and the female offender. It will be co-taught by Reva Landau and Wendy King, founding members of the Toronto Area Caucus of Women and the Law (TACWL). Both women have law degrees and are presently articling.

Time: 7:30-9:30 Tuesdays, February 2, 9, 16, 23, March 2, 9

Women Spirit: Feminism and Religion - One's understanding of religious reality creates a framework for political reality and vice versa. This course will explore the interconnections between feminism and religion. The instructor, Terry Flower, is an active FPC member, and is completing a Ph.D. in religious studies at York University.

Time: 7:30-9:30 Wednesdays, February 3, 10, 17, 24, March 3, 10

Registration in these courses is not restricted to FPC members, but is open to all women. The fee for each course is only \$5 and can be waived in the case of financial hardship. Since the instructors are contributing their time and energy for free, we ask that those who register for a course commit themselves to attending the full six sessions.

-----  
SPRING, 1982, FPC COURSE REGISTRATION FORM

<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Instructor</u>	<u>Meeting times</u>	<u>Check courses for which you are registering</u>
Women in a Sexist Justice System	Reva Landau & Wendy King	7:30-9:30, Tues., Feb 2 to March 9	_____
Women Spirit: Feminism and Religion	Terry Flower	7:30-9:30, Wed., Feb. 3 to March 10	_____

Registration fee of \$5 is enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

(In the case of financial hardship, the \$5 fee is waived.)

I am interested in participating in a newly formed consciousness-raising group \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

I suggest the following topics for future courses \_\_\_\_\_

I am willing to teach a course in the following topic area \_\_\_\_\_

## Political Action

Now is the time for the F.P.C. to develop strategies for political action. Next year (or perhaps the year after) there will be municipal elections. The local arena is where our political enemies on the Right are putting their energies. The Party has a political obligation to fight this trend.

The members listed below are committed to political action and the development of strategy. We are considering a high profile, perhaps even candidates in Toronto and the boroughs. We also think that school and hydro boards and health and social committees are places of struggle for feminists who care deeply about our children, our seniors and our natural environment. We can build on our small but energetic and effective efforts of last year. What we'd like to see is an organized feminist presence in every ward in metro. If you want to know more about this, call any of the following women, and we will meet on Sunday, January 17 at 2:00 p.m. at the F.P.C. Centre, 175 Carlton St.

Janka Seydegart	921-1849
Frieda Forman	531-2905
Moiria Armour	469-0920
Mary O'Brien	766-3436
Cath McNaughton	766-3436
Debbie Magidsen	653-4353
Patricia Hughes	789-3831
Pat Silliker	533-8547
Helen Lenskyj	463-5100
Ann Pappert	921-5318

\* \* \* \* \*

## Not a Love Story

On Dec. 3, the F.P.C. sponsored a showing of the N.F.B. film about pornography, Not A Love Story, at the Centre for Christian Studies. Because of the nature of the film and the reaction that it provokes, we chose to make this a "women only" screening. This film should be seen by everyone as a powerful reminder of the damage that is done to women by pornography. There is no "good" porn.

We encourage you to get in touch with your local N.F.B. office to find out when screenings are being held in your area, or to arrange to sponsor a screening.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Canadian Constitution

The F.P.C. co-sponsored a forum on the situation of the Canadian Constitution at O.I.S.E. on November 16, 1981. Speaking on the platform were:

Sheila Copps, M.P.P. (Lib)  
 Marion Bryden, M.P.P. (N.D.P.)  
 Pat Israel (Nat'l Assoc. of Women and the Law)  
 Ada Hill (Fed. of Women Teachers of Ont.)  
 Lynne Gordon, Chair, Status of Women Council  
 Linda Ryan-Nye, Ad Hoc C'ttee.  
 Jean Wood, Pres. N.A.C.  
 Marilou McPhedran  
 Laura Sabia  
 Linda Silver Dranoff  
 Mary Eberts

The well-attended forum listened to the above-mentioned speakers who encouraged action by means of communicating with members of Parliament, the Justice Department, the Attorney General and the Prime Minister.

The F.P.C. sent a night letter and several telegrams concerning the constitution. The text of our letter is as follows:

"The Feminist Party of Canada wishes to express outrage at the callous trade-off of women's rights in the Federal-Provincial accord signed November 5, 1981. The "Notwithstanding clause" of the accord will allow provincial governments to override the equality rights of individuals guaranteed by clause 15. Moreover, it has been publicly declared by federal officials that the override provision will apply to clause 28 which guarantees rights and freedoms equally to male and female persons. Inclusion of the clause can only mean that the provincial government intends discriminatory legislation. If governments can override clause 28, Canadian men and women do not and can never have the same rights and freedoms. Any charter of rights that entrenches inequality is unacceptable in a democratic society.

The opportunistic resolution to conflict among provincial and federal leaders is an inadequate excuse for entrenchment of the inequality of men and women in Canada's Charter of Rights. We urge you to review your position and publicly declare that you support the equality of men and women by

(cont'd p. 3 ...)

## F.P.C. Centre

The F.P.C. Centre at 175 Carlton St. has its own answering machine now. Our first recorded in-coming message was: "This is a recording. You have reached a disconnected number". (Perhaps we were talking to Ottawa. They seem pretty disconnected up there from time to time!)

Space is available at the centre for bookings by other women's groups. There is no set rental rate, but a donation is requested. Phone Terry Flower (925-6486) for information and bookings.

Volunteers are desperately needed to help staff the office especially during the day. If you can help us, please indicate this on the form at the bottom of this page. If you can't donate time, there are other things that the office needs. Cushions and folding or stacking chairs are a high priority. We could also use a typewriter and a small fridge. If you have any of these things to donate, but can't get them to the centre, leave a message on the answering machine (960-3427) and someone will pick them up.

Elders: The F.P.C. particularly invites Seniors to participate in our activities. Younger feminists have a great deal to learn from women whose experiences are both longer in time and larger in scope.

If you would be interested in meeting with other feminists to talk about your own experiences and views and to share them with others, please call Jill Lloyd-Jones at 828-0979, or the F.P.C. Centre (960-3427)

## Constitution (cont'd)

agreeing to the deletion of the override provision (the Notwithstanding clause) from the terms of the accord. We further urge you to support equality by publicly recognizing that the equality clause (clause 28) was never, and will never be subject to the override provision of the accord."

The above telegram was sent to Prime Minister Trudeau and to the provincial Premier, Mr. Davis.

\* \* \* \* \*

### \* BULLETIN BOARD

- \* Jan. 17 -- meeting of political action group at the F.P.C. Centre -- 2:00p.m
  - \* Jan. 29 -- a showing of the Judy Chicago film at the Education Centre, 155 College St. (at McCaul) -- 6th floor auditorium, 7:30 p.m. admission: \$2.00
  - \* Jan. 31 -- General Membership Meeting, 2:00 p.m. at the F.P.C. Centre.
  - \* Feb. 14 -- We're having a party to celebrate the first anniversary of the Constitutional Conference held in Ottawa last year.  
Place: The Heliconian Club, 35 Hazelton Ave.  
Time: 7:00-10:00 p.m.  
Entertainment by Kye Marshall (cellist) and other musicians!  
Food! Cash bar!
- \* \* \* \* \*

### INFO UPDATE

Regular F.P.C. membership is \$5.00; seniors, single parents and disabled, \$1.00. Please check where applicable:

- I wish to renew my 1980 membership \_\_\_\_\_
- I wish to become a member \_\_\_\_\_
- I have renewed my membership \_\_\_\_\_
- I have a new address \_\_\_\_\_ (details below)
- I am not a member but wish to be on the mailing list. Payment of \$2.00 is enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

- \* I would like to help staff the office. I am free on \_\_\_\_\_ (day)
- \* in the morning \_\_\_\_\_, afternoon \_\_\_\_\_, evening \_\_\_\_\_

# What is happening to women in Canada?

The best way to find out is to subscribe to *Status of Women News*

We will keep you up-to-date on women and the law, pensions for women, women's housing co-ops, work-related day care, books about women, women and technology.

*Status of Women News* is a political magazine with articles, news stories, book reviews, and discussions of controversial issues. It is the official publication of The National Action Committee on The Status of Women.

### *Subscription/Abonnement*

RATE: \$8.00 for 4 issues      TARIF: \$8.00 pour 4 numéros  
INSTITUTIONS: \$12.00      ORGANISMES: \$12.00  
OVERSEAS and U.S.: \$15.00      OUTRE-MER ou ÉTATS-UNIS: \$15.00

One Year/un an      \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Two Years/deux ans      \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Donation/Contribution      \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total/ Vous trouverez ci-inclus  
mon cheque pour le montant de      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Nom \_\_\_\_\_  
Address/Adresse \_\_\_\_\_  
City/Ville \_\_\_\_\_  
Province \_\_\_\_\_ Code \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL ACTION COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN  
LE COMITÉ NATIONAL D'ACTION SUR LE STATUT DE LA FEMME  
40 ST. CLAIR AVENUE EAST, TORONTO, ONTARIO M4T 1M9