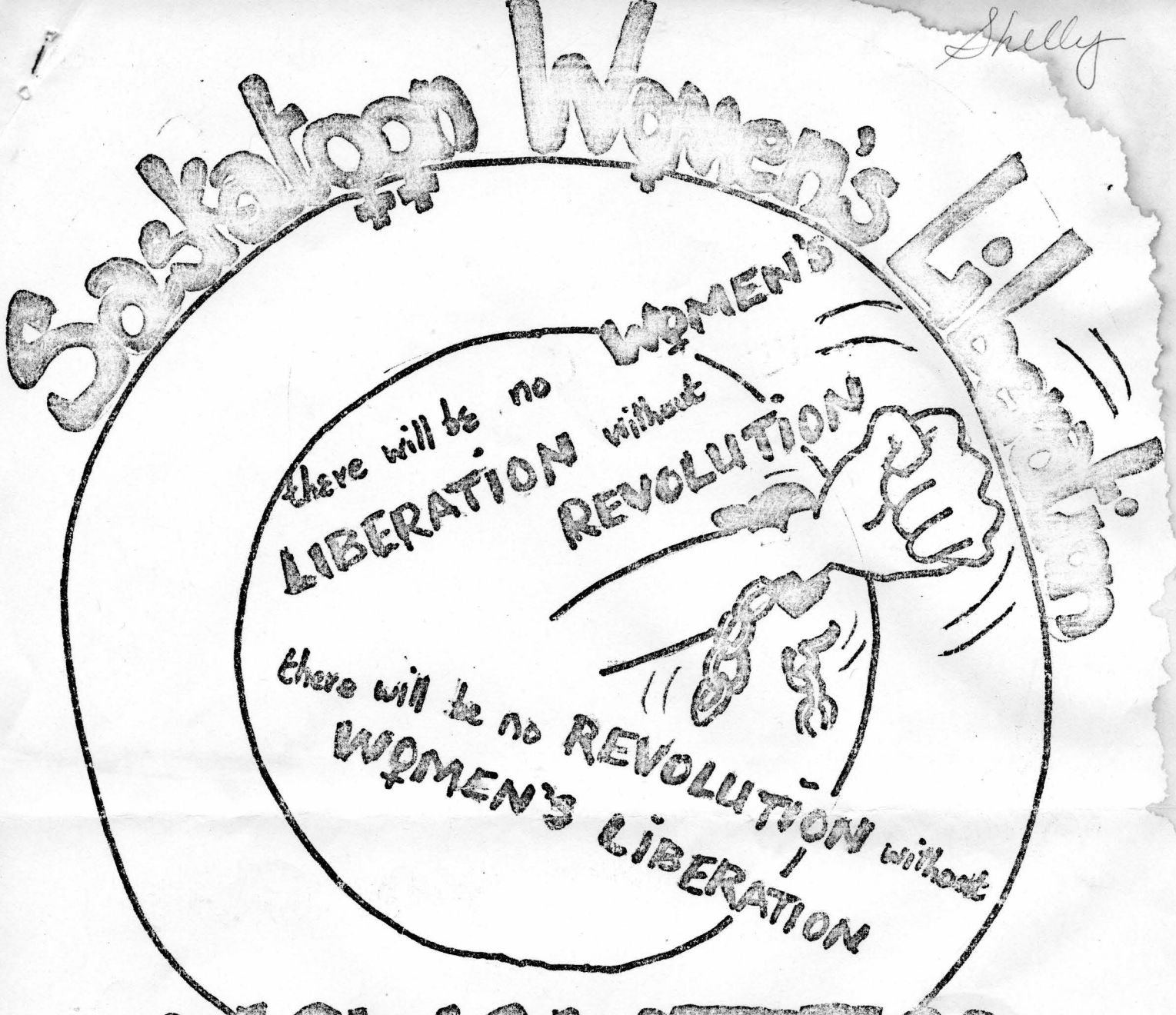
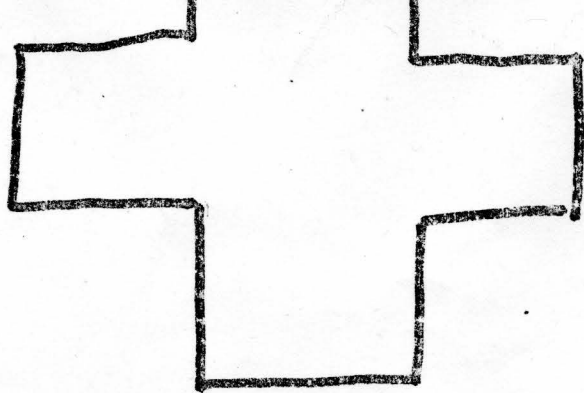


Shelley



# NEWSLETTER



MAY 1971

SASKATOON WOMEN'S LIBERATION NEWSLETTER

EDITORIAL POLICY

The goals, aims and direction of this newsletter are synonymous with those of Saskatoon Women's Liberation; this editorial policy reflects the policy of the movement.

The goal of Women's Liberation is to end the oppression of women. Women are oppressed by sexism inherent in a patriarchal society. Women are doubly oppressed under capitalism. All our efforts must be directed towards ending this oppression, rather than learning to cope with it.

It is necessary that women work together and that we concentrate our energies to develop an analysis and strategy which will destroy sexism. Present socialist analysis does not insure this. Only as women together can we create the base, reclaim our herstory, make accessible that information, direct our energy, and develop the skills necessary to eradicate our oppression.

This newsletter will be a vehicle for discussion and debate leading towards a solid feminist socialist analysis of our oppression.

Remember, there will be no Women's Liberation without revolution ~~AND~~ there will be no revolution without Women's Liberation!

Newsletter Collective

Acknowledgements to Editorial Policy  
of Saskatoon Women's Liberation  
Newsletter, 1974.

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## STRUCTURE OF SASKATOON WOMEN'S LIBERATION

Since the Women's Liberation Movement in Saskatoon has only recently re-emerged through solidification of politics and direction, structure within the group is yet to be defined more clearly.

General meetings, at which all interested women are welcome, are held bi-weekly. Three planning committees have been appointed by the membership to promote momentum towards the aims of the group.

1. **The Steering Committee:** The five women on this committee will be presenting the group with a plan for the structure of the Women's Movement in Saskatoon.
2. **Political Position Committee:** The four women on this committee will be studying the political path along which the Saskatoon Women's Liberation Movement will progress and will be presenting specific working papers on various issues.
3. **The Newsletter Committee:** The four women on this committee will be organizing a newsletter in order to liase with various other women's groups across the country. The committee will also act as a medium by which women within the movement may express their opinions to one another and to the public.

This is the basic structure of Saskatoon Women's Liberation. As stated previously, the steering committee is preparing an analysis of the appropriate structure, and will be presenting it to the general membership for consideration shortly.

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SONGS OF THE UPPITY AMAZON

that's right friends  
rush your money in today  
& you get this amazing  
collection of your favourite  
amazon hit singles & LPs

unfortunately,  
the printer refused to publish  
the song titles because they  
reek of a woman's pride  
& depict women's bodies  
as glistening with power  
like fine-edged diamonds  
cutting raw strength  
into bones of a woman's dream

the printer, poor man,  
just read over the titles  
& began perspiring so badly  
that we put him in the showers  
three times before he finished reading  
poor man, didn't understand

or perhaps he did  
& feared his wife  
would memorize the list  
& proclaim international  
women's century

the last we saw of him  
he was heaving & sobbing  
crumpled to the floor  
in a bag of bones  
his eyes sunken & gray  
still refusing to print for us

but don't let this stop you  
friends, rush your order  
in today & we'll ship you  
a lifetime supply  
of uppity amazon songs  
guaranteed to turn the world  
upside/inside down/out  
when enough uppity sisters  
learn the lyrics  
& join us singing loudly

NANCY BRIZENDINE  
(taken from Room of One's Own  
Vol. II, No. 2/3)



## WOMEN UNIONISTS RALLY

Two hundred women attended Saskatchewan's first all women unionist conference in Saskatoon May 7th and 8th, 1977. The conference was sponsored by the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour; however, non-affiliates to the Federation were invited—S.U.N. (Saskatchewan Union of Nurses), R.W.D.S.U. (Retail, Wholesale and Department Stores Union).

Anyone who is unacquainted with the internal politics of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour wouldn't really appreciate the revolutionary scope of a conference that dealt directly with delicate problems like sexism in unions and invitation of non-affiliate unions to S.F.L. funded functions. Hopefully this means that women unionists are not going to waste valuable energy on the non-productive internal hassles within the union movement.

The conference was as good as it was partly because it was planned by left wing women who have managed to gain some position of influence within the union movement.

The other part of the success is the 200 women who showed up to register. A great turnout! What was laid on for these women was the usual conference format—panels, plenary sessions, and workshops. The content of the sessions was spotty however, the presentations in the panels and workshops were excellent. A lot of hard core, valuable information was handed out in the area of organizing the unorganized, statistics on women in the labour force, double-day, and women in unions. Resolutions on these issues were presented to the Sunday (May 8th) plenary session and will be dealt with by the elected committees who will represent women unionists in the province.

A position was presented by some participants at the conference that there are no problems particular to women and that existing problems are only workers' problems. This position was not supported by a vast majority of the conference.

Watch for a further report on resolutions when they become available.

Women's Directorate  
c/o Memorial Union Building  
University of Saskatchewan  
April 5, 1977

The Honourable Allan Blakeney  
Premier of Saskatchewan  
Legislative Building  
Regina, Saskatchewan

Dear Premier Blakeney:

The Minister of Social Services, Herman Rolfes, and the Minister of Health, Wes Robbins, have each made statements recently expressing their opposition to any change in the availability of abortions. Since these individuals occupy the two cabinet positions which deal directly with this issue, their personal views have prevailed to the extent that it appears to have become official government policy. Mr. Rolfes, in particular, has responded to charges of personal bias in his role as Social Services Minister by making increasingly outrageous statements. Most recently, he compared abortion to the extermination of the Jews (CBC, March 29th). Our reaction, along with other women's organizations, has been to demand the resignation of the two cabinet minister. Both Mr. Rolfes and Mr. Robbins have ignored our suggestion and dismissed our concerns as unworthy of their consideration.

To the best of our knowledge, we feel that at no time in the past, or indeed within recent months, have you declared that their position reflects official NDP policy. We specifically request clarification from you on this issue. If Mr. Rolfes and Mr. Robbins have accurately represented NDP policy, then let it be on the record that this is where your party stands. On the other hand, if their views are inconsistent with the party's, we ask that you take immediate action to remove them from their posts.

We look forward to an early reply to our request.

Yours sincerely,

Saskatoon Women's Liberation



PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN  
OFFICE OF THE PREMIER  
REGINA

April 26, 1977

Saskatoon Women's Liberation,  
c/o Women's Directorate,  
Room 14, M.U.B.,  
University of Saskatchewan,  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Dear Ms. Gordon:

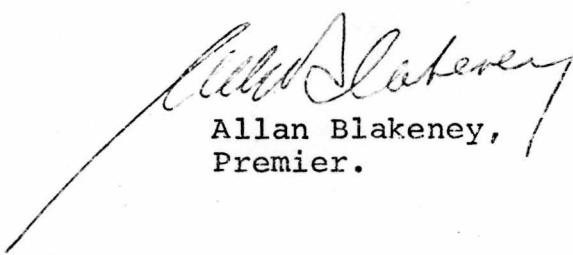
I write in reply to your letter dated April 5, 1977, regarding the statements made by the Ministers of Health and Social Services on the issue of abortion.

On a subject like this, it is quite understandable that personal opinions may vary. Members of Cabinet may also have varying views, although these personal views - that they may or may not choose to express publicly - do not affect the application of the federal law in Saskatchewan.

I do not agree that Mr. Rolfes and Mr. Robbins should be removed from their Cabinet posts. They were stating personal opinions, not government policy or N.D.P. policy. Because of the nature of the abortion issue, it is difficult for a political party to establish a definite policy on it that accurately reflects the views of the party's members.

I trust that I have dealt adequately with the points you raised. Thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely,

  
Allan Blakeney,  
Premier.

