



UPDATE

Women in the labour movement

Organized Working Women (Toronto Chapter), 555 Bloor St. W. Toronto M5S 1Y6, (416) 534-7504

THE STORY OF THE WOMEN WHO MAKE HAPPY FOOT SOCKS

200 women and 35 men, working at McGregor Hosiery Mills, 30 Spadina Ave., Toronto, and 45 Jutland, Etobicoke, make men's, women's and boys' socks that carry these names:

HAPPY FOOT
SUPER STAR

ST. MICHAELS (mens, ladies)

CHRISTIAN DIOR (mens)

ALFRED SUNG (mens, ladies)

WEEKENDER

SOFT STEP

BAYCREST (mens, ladies)

FOOTPRINTS

CLUB MONACO

BIRKDALE (mens)

GRIPPER (boys)

HUNT CLUB



AND OTHER SOCKS BY MCGREGOR HOSIERY MILLS

POOR WAGES AT CANADA'S #1 SOCK COMPANY

The majority of McGregor workers earn \$6.06 to \$6.41 an hour. These are the "women's jobs." Over 1/3 of the women earn \$6.06 an hour, about \$12,600 a year.

The production is turned out at top speed on 3 different shifts.

These women work next door to the expensive new Dome and the fancy condominiums on the Railway lands. They know there is a "boom" in Toronto. **BUT THEY ARE NOT SHARING IN IT. THEY ARE PART OF TORONTO'S WORKING POOR.**

JOIN US IN SUPPORTING THESE WOMEN BY:

- calling the Minister of Labour and the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, Greg Sobara, at 965-1155 and ask him to intervene on behalf of these women
- join the support picketline held daily at 30 Spadina between 7 and 8:30 a.m.
- not buying socks for Christmas

- help buy a Christmas Turkey for a McGregor worker by making a donation to Local 590, CTCU, 1331 1/2 St. Clair Av. West, Toronto M6C 1C3

(As we go to press, we are waiting the results of a vote under Section 40 of the Labour Relations Act. The company called for a vote under this section by offering the workers a final offer which is worse than the offer the woman rejected when they went on strike. Under this section the company can also include strikebreakers as employees for the purpose of the vote. This is an tactic the company is using to break the strikers just before Xmas)

December 1987.

COMMITTEE UPDATE

Have you joined a committee yet? If you haven't, why not start off 1988 by getting involved in one of our numerous committees. This has always been a way for our union sisters to get to know one another, a way to improve skills for work in your local union and to keep abreast of issues concerning union women. Opportunities still available are;

Membership Committee

Fun-raising Committee

Education Committee

Pay Equity Committee

Newspaper Committee

We are considering starting a Free Trade Committee to respond to requests for information on this topic. If you are interested in helping out, please call the office at 534-7504, and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

Our NEW INFORMATION KIT from our project "Building an Economy for Equality" will be available soon in the new year and will include information on Free Trade, Privatization, Deregulation, and Social Policies.

WE NEED IMMEDIATE VOLUNTEERS TO ATTEND THE
MARCH 8th COALITION MEETINGS.

The Executive Committee of Organized Working Women would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a safe and happy holiday and hope that the New Year will bring us peace and strenght.

In solidarity and sisterhood,

Organized Working Women

Join OWW!



Organized Working Women was founded in 1975 on the belief that labour's strength depended on unity. Unity means sisters and brothers struggling together for improved working and living conditions for all society. To achieve this women need to become actively involved in their unions, and unions have to take up issues of special concern to women as their own. OWW is part of this process through our skills building workshops, conferences, forums, publications, strike solidarity and more.

Membership is open to all women who are members of a bonafide collective bargaining unit or a bonafide organizing committee of a union. Membership is \$20 a year.

We invite you to join us. Send your name, full address, telephone number and proof of union membership to:

Organized Working Women

Toronto Chapter

555 Bloor St. West

Toronto, M5S 1Y6

(416) 534-7504

UPDATE welcomes articles of concern to trade union women.