

# status of women ews

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**AGNES MACPHAIL  
FIRST WOMAN M.P.**

# QUÉBEC WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION UNDERTAKES MAJOR STUDY

The Association Féminine d'Éducation et d'Action Sociale is a large Québec-based organization dedicated to the study and promotion of women's rights and responsibilities and to the betterment of the family and society. Of its 38,000 members, most are housewives. They come from a wide variety of backgrounds, both rural and urban, representing all social strata.

During International Women's Year, the Association undertook an in-depth study of the legal and financial situation of Québec women who work with their husbands in independent (family) business. The project was supported by grants from both provincial and federal levels of government.

The findings — based upon 672 completed questionnaires — are outlined in a preliminary report, part of which is reprinted below. Over half of the respondents were rural women. The final report — 200 typed pages in length — will be available by mid-April. Following publication of the report, the Association will campaign to press all levels of government to implement its recommendations.

Among the findings:

- wives in independent ("husband-controlled") businesses are generally better educated than their spouses
- only 1/4 of the women responding reported that their education corresponded to the type of work they were doing in the business
- the average female respondent had been married 18 years and had 4 children
- female respondents had been working in the business at least 10 years on average, putting in an average week of 23 hours
- the women functioned in combinations of roles, working as accountants, receptionists, managers, farm workers, domestics, saleswomen, cashiers
- 85% of the female respondents reported that they received no regular salary
- 97.6% of the husbands had life insurance (of those insured, 14.9% carried less than \$5,000; 14.9% carried more than \$50,000)
- 3.6% of the women were contributing to the Unemployment Insurance Fund
- 20% of the women were making contributions to the Quebec Pension Fund

Final recommendations will be based upon certain basic principles:

- women working with their husbands in independent family business should have a right to a salary as well as to the same benefits as other working women (including minimum wage, unemployment insurance, pension plan)
- their right to retraining of their choice (with allowances) at Canada Manpower Centres should be recognized
- their right to participate as a partner or shareholder in the business should be assured under all matrimonial regimes and marriage contracts

## NATIONAL ACTION COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

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other principles were asserted which would ensure equity for the wife in the event of the death of the husband or the purchase or sale of the business (upon the death of the husband)

Cathy Morrison

## L'ASSOCIATION FEMININE D'ÉDUCATION ET D'ACTION SOCIALE

L'Association Féminine d'Éducation et d'Action Sociale (A.F.E.A.S.) est un groupement féminin de 38,000 membres, femmes au foyer en général, d'origine canadienne-française provenant de toute les strates québécoises des milieux rural et urbain. Ces adeptes sont répartis dans 600 cercles locaux et regroupés en 13 fédérations. Ainsi constituée en une structure pyramidale qui assure de la base au sommet et du sommet à la base des communications parfaites, L'AFEAS sollicite la participation active de ses membres qui chaque mois se réunissent pour étudier, analyser et trouver des solutions aux problèmes locaux : féminin, social, etc. ...

Des mémoires concrétisent sa philosophie et ses actions, ils sont acheminés aux différents paliers des gouvernements ou autres associations. Cette expérience acquise depuis plusieurs années en animation sociale intensifie la popularité de l'AFEAS comme corps intermédiaire représentatif.

Ses buts principaux sont : Éducation — par l'éducation, éveiller les membres à leur responsabilités et les engager à faire face aux exigences de la famille et de la société — Action sociale — Réaliser une action sociale en vue de la promotion de la femme et de l'amélioration de la famille et de la société.

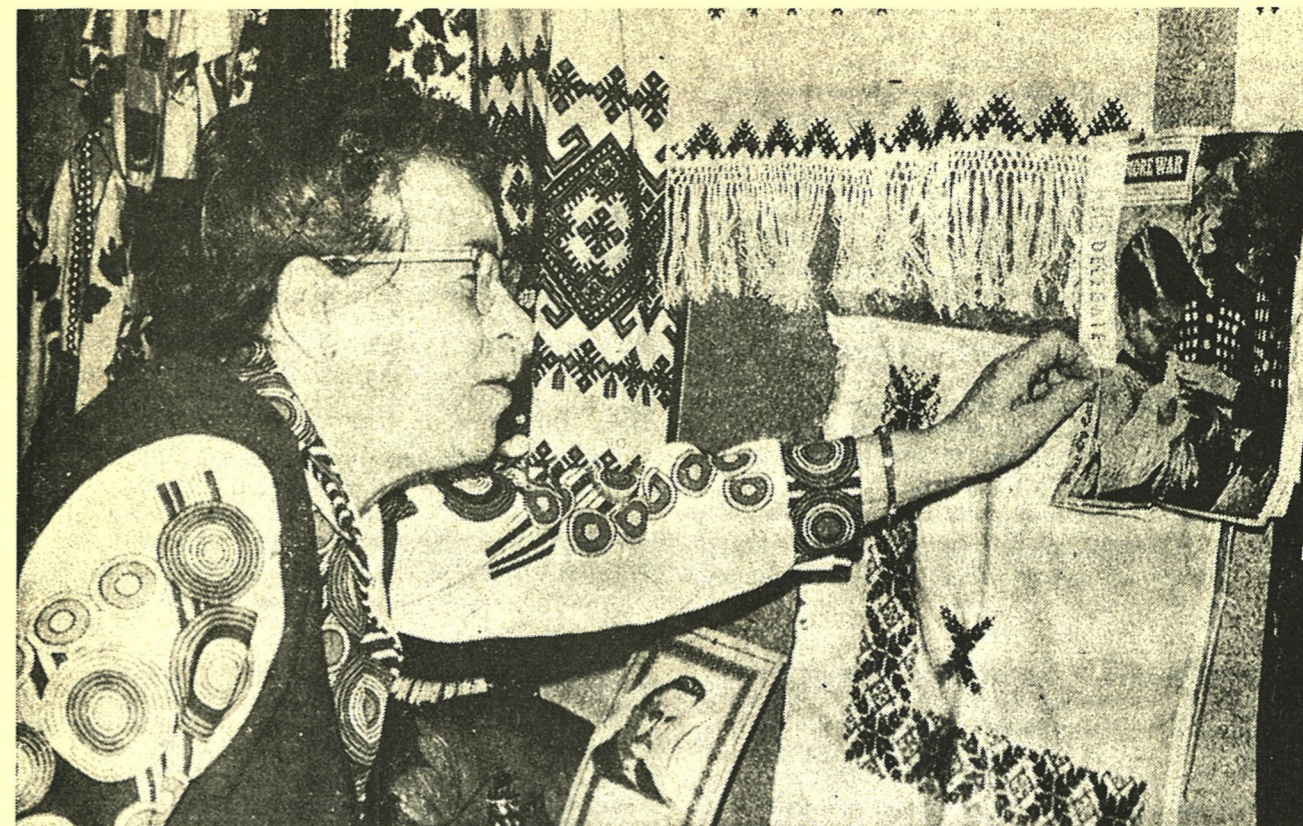
Cette année l'AFEAS a 8 commissions et comités permanents et 3 comités ad hoc. Elle publie une revue et un dossier mensuellement pour aider à la préparation et à la réalisation d'études sociales. En plus de nos réunions statutaires annuelles provinciales, nous préparons ou collaborons à des conférences de presse, colloques, tables rondes, etc. Chaque année des centaines de nos membres bénéficient de cours, sessions, mini-sessions organisés et animés par nos dirigeantes.

Nous sommes affiliés à l'I.C.E.A. — l'Institut Canadien d'Éducation des Adultes; au C.O.F.C.C. — comité des Organisations Féminines Catholiques du Canada et ainsi à l'U.M.O.F.C. — l'Union Mondiale des Organisations Féminines Catholiques. Plusieurs dirigeantes et membres sont nos porte-paroles à des conseils provinciaux régionaux et locaux et même à un comité de l'UNESCO. Notre thème cette année est : "Présente à la société nouvelle!"

— Solange Gervais, Présidente

## LA FEMME COLLABORATRICE DU MARI DANS UNE ENTREPRISE A BUT LUCRATIF RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE DE L'AFEAS JUNE 74 - JANVIER 76

Merci sincère au C.S.F. du Québec de l'opportunité offerte de dévoiler publiquement devant ce si distingué auditoire le résultat de la recherche de l'AFEAS sur "Le statut légal et financier de la femme collaboratrice du mari dans une entreprise à but lucratif". Cet intense travail est notre tributaire aux trois paliers. Le document officiel, l'équivalent de 200 pages dactylographiées, n'est pas encore disponible; il renfermera :



Kate Prokopchuk, Association of United Ukrainian Women, prepares display at International Women's Day Conference, Thunder Bay.  
— Reprinted from *The Chronicle-Journal*

1. le résultat de notre recherche
2. le rapport d'une équipe de quatre étudiantes en sociologie de l'Université du Québec à Montréal qui ont mené une enquête à peu près similaire, à notre demande, dans 4 quartiers de Montréal où l'AFEAS est moins représentée.
3. un rapport d'animation décrivant brièvement la démarche d'information et d'animation faite par l'AFEAS pour ses membres et leur milieu à travers le Québec pendant l'AIF
4. les recommandations, conclusions de ce travail de recherche et d'animation.

Depuis quelques années, l'AFEAS est le témoin de situations difficiles vécues par nombre de femmes qui participent avec leur époux, à la bonne marche d'une entreprise. Ces femmes, lors de la vente de l'entreprise, d'une faillite ou à la mort de leur mari, et maintenant, de plus en plus fréquemment, lors d'une séparation ou d'un divorce, se retrouvent souvent démunies, après avoir travaillé fort et pratiquement sans salaire pendant plusieurs années.

Le cas Murdoch de Nanton, Alberta, a fait éclater cette injustice faite à cette catégorie de femmes. Le Recensement du Canada 1966 révèle que 430,522 femmes rurales sont identifiées comme femmes non-salariées additionnez 50,000 à 60,000 autres travailleuses sans salaire déclarées dans d'autres types d'entreprises familiales (La main-d'oeuvre février 63 — décembre 66, Bureau fédéral de la Statistique) cela devient impressionnant.

Le Rapport Bird avoue : "qu'on n'a guère entrepris de recherches au Canada sur l'emploi non rémunéré des femmes dans des entreprises familiales. . . ." "Les mémoires ne traitent pas non plus de cette question", page 50. Les recherches bibliographiques faites en juin 74 par notre agent de recherche nous ont démontré qu'aucune étude n'avait été réalisée sur ce sujet spécifique.

La Charte québécoise des "Droits et libertés de la personne" adoptée en juin 75 reconnaît l'égalité des époux devant la loi: "Les époux ont dans le mariage, les mêmes droits, obligations et responsabilités". Ils assurent ensemble la direction morale et matérielle de la famille et l'éducation de leur enfants communs.

De plus l'Office de Revision du Code Civil du Québec a produit un volumineux rapport contenant des recommandations d'égalité des époux devant la loi. C'est une fait que la société tout entière doit reconnaître, comme citoyenne à part entière, ces femmes collaboratrices de leur mari, co-artisanes de l'histoire économique du Québec; elles ont contribué à l'établissement de la petite entreprise qui, à un certain moment, a été presque seule existante sur le sol québécois pendant des générations. . . Ce type d'entreprise n'a pas subi de transformations profondes selon la loi, la fiscalité, l'entreprise, etc. . . et la femme dans l'entreprise encore moins! La condition de la femme en général a changé profondément depuis un demi-siècle: statut juridique acquis, évolution académique sociale et professionnelle. on a privilégié la femme au travail à l'extérieur; à travail équivalent — salaire équivalent, avantages marginaux, services, déductions d'impôts pour garde d'enfants, etc. . . Cette femme aussi a moins d'enfants, a une maison équipée et a plus de temps pour aider son mari.

Si la femme collaboratrice fait des comparaisons, elle est clairement désavantagée sauf si, dans l'entreprise même, on la considère à part entière en dépit des lois et des mentalités actuelles. Considérant cette situation, l'AFEAS a donc, dans le cadre de l'A.I.F., déposé un projet de recherche qui vise à établir, de façon non-intuitive, le statut légal et financier de cette femme et ce, avec l'aide de subventions provinciale et fédérale, et en comptant toujours sur le bénévolat de ses membres.

## METHODOLOGIE

Pour répondre à ces trois objectifs, il fallait trouver une méthode de travail qui tienne compte de la participation des membres de l'AFEAS et qui réponde aux critères de validité scientifique.

### (A) Enquête

Une questionnaire d'une certaine de questions et de certaines de

sous-questions fut élaboré de façon à recueillir des données de base relatives à leur participation, à leur statut légal financier et professionnel. Nous avons tenté également de connaître leur motivation et leur satisfaction au travail, de même que les valeurs qui sous-tendent leur action. Ce questionnaire a été conçu par notre agent de recherche, Mme Mireille Leguerrier, conseillée par un consultant en recherche, un notaire et un administrateur de compagnie.

Nos responsables des commissions rurale et urbaine de nos 600 cercles répartis dans toutes les régions administratives du Québec ont recruté 1,700 femmes éligibles à l'enquête et ayant accepté de participer. Parmi celles-ci, 962 ont été choisies au hasard et 70% ont répondu. 672 questionnaires ont été retenus et compilés pour fin d'analyse. Des rencontres avec nos responsables ont eu lieu pour les informer et une mécanique avait été prévue pour contrôler les critères d'éligibilité dont les principaux sont:

1. des femmes actuellement mariées
2. des femmes travaillant avec leur mari dans ce type d'entreprise
3. des femmes de toutes les catégories d'âge
4. des femmes de milieu rural et urbain

#### (B) Le portrait de notre répondante

Statut civil, elle est mariée depuis 18 ans et a 4 enfants. Scolarité: 76% ont fait des études secondaires; elles sont généralement plus instruites que leur mari. Milieu de provenance: 54% habitent en milieu rural alors que 44% en milieu urbain.

#### (C) Rôle économique et professionnel dans l'entreprise

Elle travaille dans l'entreprise depuis plus de 10 ans: elle cumule plusieurs fonctions comme comptable, réceptionniste et gérante. Elle remplit également des tâches de travail de ferme, ménagère (à l'intérieur de l'exploitation) vendeuse ou caissière, etc. ... Dans leurs responsabilités 87.5% de ces femmes ont la possibilité de prendre seules des décisions.

Dans plus de la moitié des cas, il y a des aspects de leur travail dont elles sont seules responsables, 18% supervisent des employés. Le nombre moyen d'heures consacrées à l'entreprise par semaine est de 23. Parmi elles, 85% n'ont pas de salaire régulier. Elles se disent satisfaites de leur travail actuel; elles travaillent avec leur mari parce que c'est le rôle de la femme, qu'elle l'aime et qu'elle a l'avantage d'être près de ses enfants et de son foyer.

#### (D) Sécurité professionnelle

Aléatoire à la bonne marche du ménage et de l'exploitation, 82% d'entre elles avaient travaillé avant leur mariage. Plus de la moitié n'ont pas travaillé tout de suite dans l'exploitation après leur mariage. Le quart seulement avoue que leur préparation académique répondait à leur tâche professionnelle actuelle. Un autre quart a été initié par les maris, l'autre moitié a appris en travaillant.

#### (E) Recyclage, prolongement des études

- 18.8% désiraient ou poursuivent des cours académiques;
- 15.2% désiraient ou poursuivent des cours de formation professionnelle;
- 17.9% désiraient ou poursuivent des cours d'éducation populaire.

#### (F) Sécurité financière

- Régime matrimonial: elle est mariée en séparation de biens dans 54% des cas; en communauté de biens dans 40% et seulement 2% le sont sous le régime de la société d'acquêts.
- Forme d'entreprise: 84% des entreprises ont un propriétaire unique

(see page 22)



**A Women's Studies Journal**  
ACADIA UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE  
WOLFVILLE, NOVA SCOTIA

# AGNES MACPHAIL FIRST WOMAN M.P.

Young women were supposed to do their share of farm chores, help their mothers with the younger children and await a suitable marriage. In 1904 rural Ontario, Agnes Macphail (age 14) was lucky to have had eight years of school. When she passed her high school entrance exam, she was so excited she ran home and hid in the cellar where she could privately gloat over her success and make great plans for her future — she was going to be a teacher!

But her parents had other ideas. They told her that her school career was over, that she was needed at home. She was crushed; she could see the whole picture: helping with things at home, marriage to some young farmer, the children and a lifetime of cooking, housekeeping and raising children.

Later Agnes wrote: "In my very early teens I did a lot of thinking on the subject: men, women, and marriage. I saw that men did a job in the world outside their home and women did not. At fourteen I turned it around in my mind this way; a woman has children, the boys do things and the girls marry and have other children, of which the boys do a job in the world of affairs and the girls do not, but in turn have other children in which family the boys do — and I asked myself: 'Does this thing ever end in a woman being a person and making a contribution, in addition to, or in place of having children?'"

"At this time I read and re-read Lives of Famous Men and Women, by Sarah K. Bolton, a book in the school library. As I read I thought I could learn to do many of the things that these famous men did; but the women who were philanthropists, musicians and artists, were, I knew, what I could never be. This reading strengthened in me the resolve which I always seem to have had of doing some work as a person."

In two years the opportunity came and Agnes packed her bags and was off to high school in Owen Sound. Although it was only thirty miles from the family farm, she had to go by train and only come home for major holidays. Her teacher enjoyed bullying the students — especially the ones from the farms; but Agnes didn't put up with it meekly. Once as he was walking down the aisle, the teacher tripped over Agnes' foot. He stopped and looked at her. "Now, Miss Macphail, I wonder why I should fall over your feet?" To the horrified delight of her class, she replied, "Probably because your own are so big."

Agnes got good marks in high school and was amazed when the snobbish town girls would ask her for help on homework. She said, "I guess I thought that the possession of a bathtub meant the possession of brains too."

At normal school in Stratford she at last realized her dream of becoming a teacher! Agnes easily received teaching posts in rural schools and, as was the custom, boarded in the homes of farm families. Evenings were a special time on the farm, sitting around the wood stove or fireplace with neighbours. The men discussed agricultural problems and politics, and the women talked about children and domestic things. Agnes found herself more often involved in the men's discussions. Because she had a good speaking voice and was well read, she was always listened to when she spoke.



Agnes Macphail at the CCF national convention in 1948:

## PUBLIC ARCHIVES — VOICES OF WOMEN

The Sound Archives Section of the Public Archives have a collection of tapes examining the role of women.

1. The Regional hearings of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women held from April to October 1968.
2. The Strategy for Change Conference sponsored by the Ontario Committee on the Status of Women held in Toronto April 7-8, 1972.
3. The Queen's University Dunning Trust Lectures on Human Dignity, which took place in Kingston, January 13-15, 1975.

One of the most recent acquisitions of the Sound Archives is "an exhaustive study of World War I and its aftermath", offering "a fascinating glimpse into the changing role of Canadian women during the period when universal suffrage finally came into being."

Public meetings were like an extension of the gatherings around the wood stove, and were the best way of knowing what was going on. Times were hard for the farmers, just making enough money to survive. They often talked about forming cooperatives, pooling their resources, and dealing with the markets as an organized group, instead of individually.

The United Farmers of Ontario were becoming an important organization. Agnes, who was eligible to join because she was a teacher in a rural school became an active member. She was frequently asked to speak at meetings about the idea of cooperatives (which she found very exciting), about the need for change in tax and tariff arrangements, and about the effects of government policies on the farm (especially the Draft during World War I).

The farmers were becoming angry because of the hardships they were suffering. They petitioned the government and sent delegations. Finally they realized that if the government wouldn't listen to their needs, they would have to go into politics themselves. The U.F.O. and other farm-based organizations throughout Canada nominated candidates in provincial elections and federal by-elections. On October 20, 1919, the U.F.O. won the provincial election and formed the government of Ontario. Unfortunately, most of the policies which had the greatest effect on the farmers were controlled by the federal government.

The farmers in Agnes Macphail's home county were well organized and decided to run a candidate for the federal election in 1921. Four hundred people attended the meeting which nominated eleven people: ten men and Agnes Macphail. When the long meeting was over, it had elected Agnes as federal candidate for South-East Grey. "One old farmer in Osprey township voiced the thoughts of many when he said: 'A woman as candidate! Are there no men left in South-East Grey?'"

Women had only been given the right to vote in 1917, and Agnes had a hard battle. It would not be easy to convince the electorate to take her seriously; but as Agnes campaigned and drew increasingly larger crowds to her meetings, it became obvious that the people liked her and liked what she had to say about politics.

On election day, December 6, 1921, friends and neighbours gathered in the Macphail home to await the results. When Agnes Macphail's lead was strong, a friend said solemnly, "Friends, we have made history in South-East Grey; we have elected the first woman to the Parliament of Canada!"

Agnes knew that she was in a unique position, that she owed a great deal to the suffragettes, and that she was in a position to make things easier for future women Members. She wrote later that the first time she walked the traditional length of corridor to attend the Opening of Parliament that she was so aware of leading the way for other women that "I could almost hear them coming."

The Press, the public, and the other Members did not make life easy for her in the beginning. The Press would often report on what she was wearing when making a speech and totally ignore the text. She wrote, "The misery of being under observation and being unduly criticized is what I remember most about those first months. Visitors in the Gallery couldn't help seeing one woman among so many men, but they made no effort to disguise the fact that I was a curiosity, and stared whenever I could be seen, in the House, the corridors or the dining room. Eating was the worst; it may be they thought I would eat peas with my knife or cool my tea in my saucer, but for whatever reason I was observed closely."

It did not take long in Parliament for Agnes Macphail to

win the respect (if not always the love) of her fellow members. She was well informed, an eloquent speaker, and not at all reserved in taking her place as a very active backbencher. She was the champion of the farmers, as well as a strong worker for economic and social reforms — pensions for the aged and disabled, labour laws which would give workers a decent wage and tolerable working conditions. She personally took up the struggle for the improvement of conditions in the penitentiaries and treatment of ex-convicts. She often toured the penitentiaries and became a familiar (if unwelcome) person to the wardens and a familiar (and very welcome) visitor to the inmates. She raised such a row in Parliament about the conditions in penal institutions that the government was embarrassed into establishing an investigation, which resulted in many significant reforms.

She was a democratic socialist and greatly admired the economic and social structures in the Scandinavian countries. She was a pacifist and repeatedly introduced bills to reduce military spending and to remove cadet training from public schools.

The United Farmers of Ontario did not last long as a political organization, but South-East Grey continued to elect Agnes Macphail as an independent. In Parliament she worked closely with the members of the Progressives, the Labour Party from Manitoba, and later with the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation (C.C.F. — fore-runner of the N.D.P.). But she strongly believed that a Member of Parliament could serve best if the first obligation was to the constituency instead of to a Party.

Her constituency returned her to office, election after election, until the year 1940. Canada had just entered World War II; the voters wanted a strong government; the farmers wanted a strong government opposed to conscription; an independent had little chance. South-East Grey elected a Liberal to join the newly elected Liberal majority government. It was a bitter time for Agnes — to have her beloved country at war and "her folks" reject her at the polls.

After a few years of teaching, writing a farm column for a Toronto paper, and public speaking tours, Agnes was elected to the Ontario legislature, where she continued the battle for social reforms. But her health was not good.

Among the many tributes paid to her after her death, the one that would have been the most important to Agnes Macphail was written by the editor of "The Telescope", a magazine written by the inmates of the Kingston Penitentiary. He wrote: "As inmates, most of us are prone to take for granted the privileges we have today, without remembering that it was not always so in this penitentiary. However, those of us who suffered from day to day and lifted our eyes to "Aggie," as she fought for humane treatment of inmates, know that it was not always so and quietly revere and bless her memory. . . ."

"Aggie is dead, but lives on in the hearts of countless prison inmates who knew her and loved her. When the bell tolled for Aggie on February 13, 1954, it tolled for the inmates of every Canadian penitentiary." — by Becky Kane for Women's Kit, Toronto

## YUKON WOMEN

As their IWY project, the Yukon Status of Women Council sponsored the writing of a book entitled *Yukon Women*. Many aspects of life in the Yukon, both past and present are presented. The five chapters deal with the history, laws, foods, and health care of the women in the Yukon. Copies may be obtained for \$2.00 plus 64 cents postage from: Tracey Read, Box 4456, Whitehorse, Yukon

## CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS CONFERENCE ON WOMEN TRADE UNIONISTS

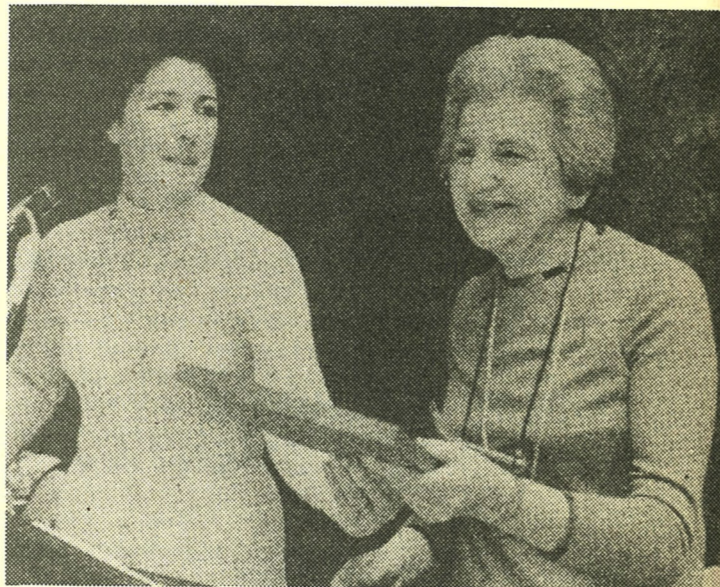
A successful conference on Women Trade Unionists was held recently in Ottawa. Organized by the women of the Canadian Labour Congress, enrollment was originally planned for 250, but the enthusiastic response brought 325 women together. The delegates from union locals in every province included some women new to the trade union movement, and others with many years of experience.

The Conference heard from Laura Sabia, who chairs the Ontario Status of Women Council, and from May-Britt Carlson, the Swedish Ombudsman, who gave a detailed paper on the organization of the Swedish government's Equality Council, and the progress being made in that country towards equality for women.

The delegates heard also from speakers on the four workshop topics: Collective Bargaining (Vivian Zachon, OPEIU); Affirmative Action (Mary Eady, Manitoba Women's Bureau); Women and the Law (Ed Ryan, Law Reform Commission); and Women's Committees (Joy Langen, B.C. Federation of Labour). The workshops following these panelists' developed resolutions which were discussed at the final plenary session with a view to presenting them at the forthcoming C.L.C. Convention.

The delighted reaction of the young woman who only recently joined her union, and who discovered that there were hundreds of other women faced with discrimination like herslef, and who would support her in actions to try to improve conditions for women, was perhaps a typical example of the enthusiasm and commitment that a conference of this kind can generate for women everywhere.

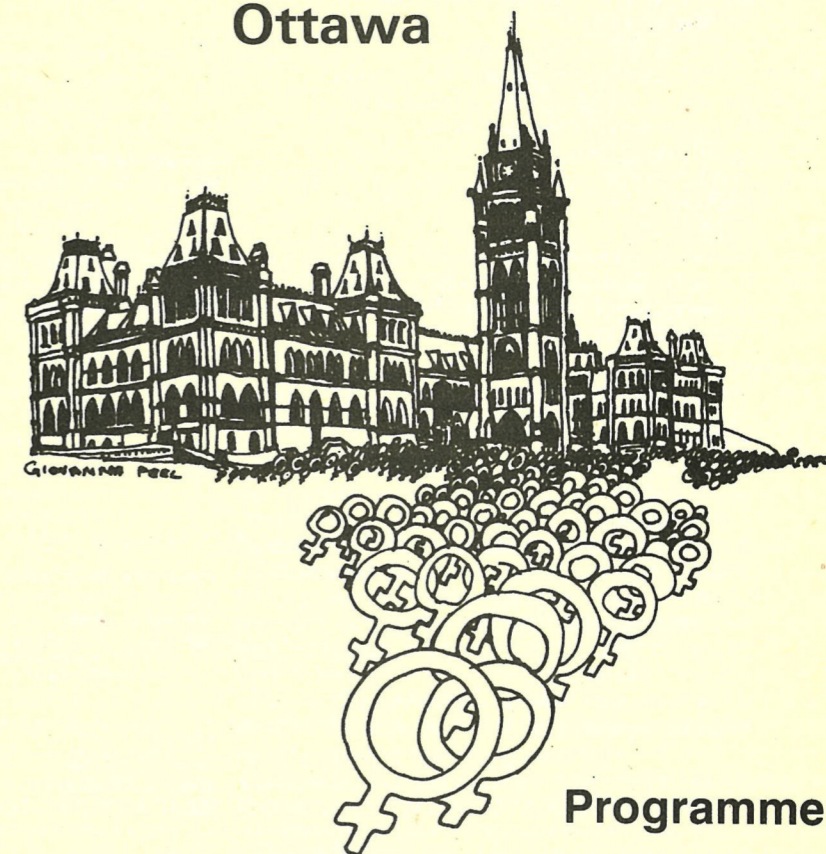
— Kay Macpherson



CLC Executive vice-President Shirley Carr (left) presented Sylva Gelber who retired last December as director of the Women's Bureau of the federal labour department with a plaque on behalf of the workers of Canada and the Congress at the banquet of the CLC Women's Conference. The plaque said in part: "To Sylva Gelber, in recognition of her outstanding service to the working women of Canada."

## Special pull-out section

**NAC  
Annual Meeting  
April 23-26  
Ottawa**



**Programme  
President's Report  
Background materials**

National Action Committee  
Annual Meeting and Conference  
April 23 — 26, 1976

**AFTER I.W.Y. — WHAT NEXT?**

**Friday, April 23:**

- 7:00 p.m. Registration  
Coffee  
8:00 p.m. Welcome — Lorna Marsden, President NAC  
Panel: — A group of Canadian women; — Hon. Marc Lalonde, Hon. Ron Basford, Hon. John Munro — answering questions on IWY and the future  
Wine & Cheese

**Saturday, April 24:**

- 9:00 a.m. Plenary Session:  
Reports from Evaluations: Audrey Shepherd  
9:30 a.m. Workshops (A) — What are priorities for 1976-77  
10:15 a.m. Coffee  
11:45 a.m. Plenary Sessions:  
Reports from Workshops and determination of Priorities  
Sign up for Workshop of choice  
12:30 Lunch: Presentation re Status of Women News  
2:30 p.m. Workshops (B): To consider priorities as to:  
— the situation and needs of women  
— action for 1976-1977  
— NAC  
— Other  
3:30 p.m. Tea  
4:00 p.m. Workshops continued (B)  
7:00 p.m. Dinner: Dr. Katie Cooke, Chairperson, Federal Advisory Council on the Status of Women  
"Women Hold Up Half the Sky".

**Sunday, April 25:**

- 9:00 a.m. Workshops continued (B)  
10:15 a.m.  
10:45 a.m. Plenary Session:  
Report from workshops with recommendations re:  
1. NAC Action  
2. Action referred to organizations  
3. Other  
12:15 Lunch  
2:30 p.m. NAC ANNUAL MEETING  
Tea  
6:00 Dinner — Presentations  
8:00-9:30 Lobby Workshop: "How to Win Friends and Influence Legislators"

**Monday, April 26:**

- 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. LOBBY OF M.P.s

- N.B. 1. Workshops (A) — Consider possible priorities for 1976-77; — Delegates will be assigned  
2. Workshops (B) — When priorities have been determined in the Plenary Session «following Workshops (A)», delegates will sign up in Workshops (B) and will continue in the same Workshop for 3 sessions. Each of these Workshops will consider 3 of the priorities — e.g. equal pay, day care, law reform, as to the situation in each area and recommended action.  
3. The Sunday p.m. Lobby Workshop and the Monday Lobby are an important part of the total weekend. We urge all delegates to remain for this.

Your suggestions and advice will be appreciated.

**COMITÉ NATIONAL D'ACTION  
RÉUNION ANNUELLE ET CONGRÈS  
du 23 au 26 avril 1976**

**A LA SUITE DE L'AIF  
— PROCHAINE ETAPE**

**vendredi, le 23 avril:**

- 19h. Inscription  
Café  
20h. Accueil — Lorna Marsden, président du CNA  
Table ronde: — l'hon. Marc Lalonde, l'hon. Ron Basford, l'hon. John Munro — répondant aux questions sur l'AIF et l'avenir; — Un groupe de femmes canadiennes  
Vin et fromage

**samedi, le 24 avril:**

- 9h. Séance plénière: Comptes rendus des évaluations: Audrey Shepherd  
Ateliers (A) — Quelles sont les priorités pour 1976-1977?  
Café  
10h.15  
11h.45 Séance plénière: Rapports des ateliers et mise au point des priorités  
Inscription dans un atelier au choix  
12h.30 Déjeuner: Communication sur le Bulletin du statut de la femme  
14h.30 Ateliers (B): Mise en perspective des priorités:  
— la situation et les besoins de la femme  
— action pour 1976-1977  
— CNA  
15h.30 Thé  
16h. Suite des ateliers (B)  
19h. Dîner: le docteur Katie Cooke, présidente, Conseil consultatif fédéral du Statut de la femme; "La femme soutient la moitié du ciel." Courts métrages de Jo McFadden

**dimanche, le 25 avril:**

- 9h. Ateliers — suite (B)  
10h.15 Café  
10h.45 Séance plénière: Rapports des ateliers avec des recommandations à l'égard de:  
1. l'Action du CNA  
2. l'Action assignée aux organismes affiliés  
3. autres considérations  
12h.15 RÉUNION ANNUELLE DU CNA  
Thé  
18h. Dîner  
20h.-21h.30 Atelier sur les interventions parlementaires: "Comment gagner des amis et influencer des législateurs"

**lundi, le 26 avril:**

- 9h. au 16 h. Intervention auprès des députés au Parlement

**Nota bene:**

1. Ateliers (A) — Mise en perspective des priorités possible pour 1976-1977; Affectations des délégués.  
2. Ateliers (B) — Après avoir mis au point les priorités au cours de la séance plénière, à la suite des Ateliers (A), les délégués s'inscriront à un Atelier (B) au choix et participeront au même atelier pendant 3 séances. Dans chaque atelier, on prendra en considération 3 des priorités — i.e. rétribution égale, garderies, réforme de la loi, en ce qui concerne la situation dans chaque domaine et l'action à suivre.  
3. L'Atelier de dimanche après midi sur les interventions auprès des députés et les interventions de lundi constituent une partie vitale de la fin de semaine. Nous faisons appel à toutes les participantes de ne pas manquer à ces deux rendez-vous.

Vos suggestions et vos conseils seraient très appréciés.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Welcome to the National Action Committee annual meeting, 1976. Last year (May 9-11) we were in Winnipeg, where well over a hundred people came to the YWCA to discuss major issues and to renew friendships with women from across the country and from many member organizations. That meeting set the priorities for International Women's Year and gave us the impetus to press for action on these priorities: equal remuneration, child care, birth control and abortion, and family and property law.

Since then the member organizations of NAC across the country have been working very hard. International Women's Year called for a special effort to try and change our position in Canadian society, and the activity is impressive. The *Status of Women News* only summarizes the letters we get daily telling us of action in Yellowknife, Saskatoon, Halifax, Quebec City, St. John's, Victoria, and indeed, all over Canada.

We have sent several of our members to special meetings. For example, Lillian Bouzane, Ghislaine Patry-Brisson, Maria Erickson, Julie Bubnick and Aline Wainwright were the NAC delegates to the International Women's Year Tribune in Mexico. Their report was in the *Status of Women News* and, from across Canada, we have reports of their speeches on Canada's role in the international women's movement. Although the Tribune was not judged to be a universal success, it has had a very important impact in that we have been able to put our own work in perspective. The same is true of the reports from the women who attended the International Women's Year Congress in Berlin. Their views, while quite different from those of the women who went to Mexico, provide an alternative explanation of the role of women in society. In addition, many NAC members, some we know about and some we do not, have attended the Secretary of State's meetings on voluntarism, the media, politics, and many others throughout the year. A number of NAC people, including myself, attended the Privy Council's "Action '75" Conference on October 15th.

How do we evaluate our participation in these meetings? The National Action Committee priorities have been raised and debated. We have strengthened our links with other women, other organizations and with the legislators whose cooperation we need to fulfil our goals.

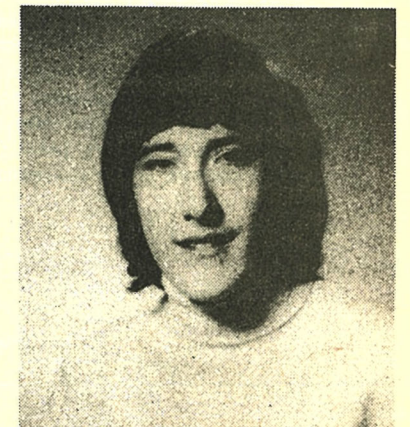
At the last annual meeting we determined that we must have more impact on the Canadian government. The NAC executive have worked very hard on this problem. We have had many visits with cabinet ministers this year, beginning July 3-4 with a five-member delegation (from Vancouver, Winnipeg, St. John's, rural Ontario and Toronto) to the Hon. Hugh Faulkner, Secretary of State, the Hon. Marc Lalonde, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, and many Members of Parliament, including opposition critics, Gordon Fairweather and Stanley Knowles, where we put forward the four priorities arising out of the annual meeting. This fall we continued with further meetings with the Hon. Ron Basford, Minister of Justice, the Hon. John Munro, Minister of Labour, and, once again, with the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women. At each meeting we learned a lot and made some progress. In addition, we launched a parliamentary lobby across the country, asking every member to visit her MP. I am happy to say that many of you took up that challenge and went to visit your MPs. We didn't reach them all by any means. But that we'll do on Monday.

Have the visits with Members of Parliament been worthwhile? In some ways they certainly have. Because of them we get letters from MPs telling us of legislation they are introducing in our favour; we have been asked to participate in the Social Security review; we are sufficiently well-known that our opinion has been asked on other issues. Officials from the Minister of Justice spent half a day with members of our sub-committee on the Human Rights Commission to talk about possible amendments to that Bill. We feel that the time has been well spent.

Has it changed any legislation? That's difficult to assess. For one thing, legislation is a long time in the making, and an even longer time in getting through the House in many cases. Our entry into the legislative process is often too late. In order to make our visits to MPs more

effective we must be more aware of the pace of parliamentary life and legislative change. Since we are not a huge organization, we must be a small, effective one, and apply pressure where and when we can. I think that in the coming year, we should make an assessment of the impact we are having, and try to improve our strategy.

We have worked hard on critiquing current legislation and policy: citizenship; the Criminal Code; Social Security; Human Rights; and other legislation. We have sent telegrams, we have sent letters, we have sent briefs, we have met with officials, we have talked to assistants, we have tried in every way possible to get the Human Rights legislation strengthened and to get several bills passed. Very often, our actions supported that of the Federal Advisory Council on the Status of Women. On the other hand, they have sometimes modified their position to reflect ours. A good working relationship exists between the two groups. While we are not the same in mandate or composition, nonetheless we add our strength to each other to press for change.



**Lorna R. Marsden**

This past year has seen two women run for party leadership, Rosemary Brown for the NDP in July and Flora MacDonald for the Conservatives in February. It was a wonderful thing for the women of Canada to see two well-qualified women, superbly organized, giving excellent speeches, and it was also good for us (although not pleasant for us) to see the results. What does it mean? Certainly the way has now been paved for many women and the road smoothed by the hard work, dedication and courage of Rosemary Brown and Flora MacDonald. Perhaps it has injected a note of realism into the political ambitions of women. It has certainly served notice to all Canadians about what is going on. Any of you who talked to the party presidents after the Secretary of State's seminar on political action will know how shaken they were by the strength of the women's protest from within their own party. The question is, can we keep up the pressure?

I want to tell you something about the NAC Executive and the things we do. We have an extraordinarily fine group of women on the Executive of NAC this year. All have made contributions to the work of NAC. But I want to mention particularly the work of Cathleen Morrison, our Secretary, and Kay Macpherson, our Vice-President. Both of them are in our poky office at 121 Avenue Road every day. They contribute at least one full day a week to the National Action Committee, and are extremely important to the continuing work of the organization. Cathleen has prepared the new brochure which is now available and updates the original one from 1973. In addition to this, Executive members have gone to conferences, written for *Status of Women News*, and been extremely helpful in all ways. We meet on the third Monday evening of each month and sometimes in between. (All NAC members are welcome to our monthly meetings.)

Pearl Blazer, in our office, joined us in September after Ruth Chyod entered law school. Pearl has not had time to draw breath since. She

is there early in the morning and late at night and we all appreciate her hard work and her welcoming smile.

On November 2, 1975, we held a general meeting at Hart House, where over 30 representatives from 18 member organizations met together to discuss issues and business. Deep in the discussion of the Human Rights legislation, we were presented with a Human Rights skit, wherein Ms. IWY revealed her utter dependency on the Government; women were seen to be underpaid and overworked; and we all recognized a Great Canadian Tragedy. We also saw Moira Armour's new film, "A Matter of Choice" and the film on the history of the women's movement, "The Visible Woman". Hazel Wigdor organized a book table so successfully that we asked her to do it again for our Annual Meeting.

I want to thank two members of the Executive who, because of the pressure of other responsibilities, are no longer able to work with us: Judy Lawrence and Rosie Abella. Each has given much time and talent over the last few years. We are grateful and we look forward to their continued participation as advisors and members of NAC.

You have all read *Status of Women News*. This year there have been five issues, this one being the fifth. Moira Armour, our editor, has collected material from across the country and always needs more. Can you send her more in the coming year? Send her your articles, send her new and original material, send her reports of the events which you attend with your interpretation of them. Send photographs. The *Status of Women News* now circulates to several thousand people and, while many newsletters are folding because of financial problems or lack of interest, the *Status of Women News* keeps on. We hope to keep it going for many years. One highly-placed member of government has told us that she reads it from cover to cover every

time it comes out, the only publication about which she can say that. We hope that many more politicians and executives do as well. We are all grateful to the Editor for her hard work.

For me, personally, this has been a hard and exciting year. NAC is such a diverse organization that to respond in the way one would like to do to all the issues, questions and points of view that are raised would be a full-time job. And there is never enough time. But I have read all of your letters which keep us informed and aware of points of solidarity and points of divergence across the country; I have read all your newsletters, from Coastline to Kinesis and all those in between. This year I have spoken at many meetings across Ontario. The press thought NAC important enough to give us lots of coverage (thanks especially to June Callwood and Christina Newman who provided me with forums) and we are answering questionnaires for several surveys on pressure groups and women's organizations.

What of the coming year? This year, as last, the important issue for me is the continuing solidarity of our organization. We know that a national organization in Canada is always subject to splits, to competing local and regional interests and to the appeal of narrow points of view. In NAC, we must not let this happen. If we are to have legislative, policy, and social change, we must find our points of agreement, discuss them, understand them fully, and then act on them. We cannot afford narrow partisanship, intolerance or divisiveness. The women of Canada are not yet equal, economically, legally, socially or psychologically. As long as that is true, NAC needs to grow and be more effective. This weekend, let's renew our purpose and renew our strength for another year.

—Lorna Marsden



Women hold up half the sky.

—Mao Tse-Tung

Canadian Women's Educational Press

## NAC POLICY ON CHILD CARE

At the Annual Meeting of the National Action Committee in May, 1975, resolutions were adopted urging the federal government to take a number of steps which would lead to the universal accessibility of good-quality child care services in Canada. These steps included the establishment of a capital support programme for day care facilities and the loosening of eligibility criteria under present federal legislation to bring the cost of services within the reach of all Canadian families. Currently in Canada, only families with very low incomes are entitled to fully subsidized child care help.

NAC further urged that federal funds to the provinces be made contingent upon the establishment and enforcement of child care standards "adequate to the situation", including standards relating to adequate staff ratios, adequate staff training, development, continuity and to "adequate remuneration for all child care workers". The meeting urged that all levels of government take joint action to "develop a comprehensive programme of support services to families ... not only in times of crisis, but as ongoing resources to the family and the community."

Finally, NAC urged the Government of Canada to take "immediate and interim action to develop the present Family Allowances system into a comprehensive programme of fully adequate taxable child care allowances in order to provide more realistic assistance to families in meeting their child care costs."

Since last May, two delegations from the National Action Committee have met in Ottawa with the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Reports of these meetings have been circulated in *Status of Women News*. Briefly, the Minister told NAC representatives of his support for loosening the present income criteria permitting access to subsidized day care. He indicated, on the other hand, that the idea of a capital start-up programme for day care is out of the question — at least for the next "two or three years." He said that Family Allowances, which have been frozen for the 1976 fiscal year, may be allowed to rise again in 1977.

In the past, as at the Annual Meeting in Winnipeg last May, the National Action Committee has urged adoption of substantially increased (taxable) child care allowance as a major feature of a reformed tax system. NAC supporters have agreed that our present taxable Family Allowance — at an annual per-child average of approximately \$265.00 — together with the present child care deductions and exemptions permitted under the Income Tax Act do not fairly reflect the high costs of caring for children. Moreover, exemptions and deductions are of least benefit to those taxpayers — including sole-support mothers — who earn the lowest incomes.

The Annual Meeting last May referred the following resolution to the incoming Executive for consideration as a priority before the 1976 Annual Meeting:

WHEREAS deductions from taxable income in respect of dependent children and/or child care expenses provide net benefits which are nil or negligible for poor parents but increase with increased in parental income and

WHEREAS taxable cash payments in respect of dependent children and/or child care provide net benefits which are maximal for poor parents and decrease with increases in parental income and

WHEREAS the latter pattern is much more effective than the former in meeting the varying real needs of parents with dependent children,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT NAC adopt as policy to give preference to programs which provide taxable cash payments to parents with dependent children rather than those which provide deductions from taxable income and in particular that NAC advocate increases in taxable family allowances and/or the introduction of cash child care payments rather than increases in deductions for dependent children and/or child care expenses.

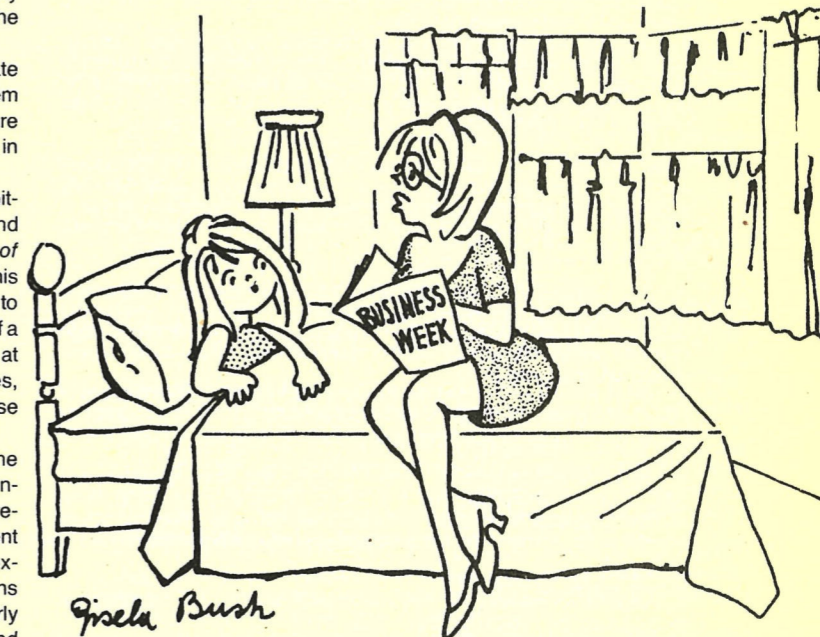
The Executive has considered the above motion and will bring it before the Annual Meeting in Ottawa for consideration.

—Elizabeth Burrows and Cathy Morrison

## FREEZE ON FAMILY ALLOWANCES

At the February 20 meeting with the Honourable Marc Lalonde, representatives of the National Action Committee expressed discontent with the federal government's decision to hold 1976 Family Allowances at 1975 levels. Previously, Allowances had been indexed to increases in the cost of living.

The current freezing of Family Allowances, which constitutes a major feature of the federal government's anti-inflation programme, will cause increased financial hardship for many families and result in an effective reduction in the only independent income which many mothers working in the home receive. Mr. Lalonde indicated that Family Allowances may rise again in 1977 but suggested that NAC and other interested bodies should write to the Prime Minister on the issue.



## BAD NEWS FOR SOLE-SUPPORT MOTHERS IN ONTARIO

While there is bad news in the wind for anyone needing social services or income maintenance in Ontario, the news is especially bad for single mothers. To date mother with inadequate income have been eligible for General Welfare Assistance or Family Benefits if they remained at home to care for their children.

At the time of this printing, the Ontario government was proposing forcing able-bodied mothers on welfare to work at full-time, part-time and seasonal jobs (as these became available), according to the discretion of municipal welfare officers. Mothers refusing the jobs assigned to them would risk losing all or part of their benefits.

Meanwhile, for the 1976 fiscal year, the Ontario government has established a limit of 5.5% in the increase of its own contributions to municipal welfare and social service budgets. This limit will mean an effective cutback in the level of service to children needing day care, among others.

All people concerned with the needs and rights of women and children — and particularly of poor women and children — should be alert to ensure that other provinces do not move to follow Ontario's example.

# POLICY RESOLUTIONS

## Passed by the Second Annual Meeting

### NATIONAL ACTION COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

#### Winnipeg — May, 1975

#### NOTES

##### EQUAL REMUNERATION

1. WHEREAS Canada as a member of the International Labour Organization passed in 1951 ILO Convention 100 which called for equal remuneration for work of equal value, and

WHEREAS the Canadian government in conjunction with the provinces ratified this convention in November 1972, thereby undertaking to uphold the standard established by it, and

WHEREAS the standards established in Convention 100 are not incorporated in any federal, provincial or territorial statutes relating to equal remuneration.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board and the participating organizations of NAC mount a national campaign to have federal, provincial and territorial governments amend existing equal pay laws to bring them into line with the intent of ILO Convention 100; to introduce equal remuneration legislation incorporation for the purposes of job evaluation the criteria of skill, effort, responsibility and working conditions.

2. BE IT RESOLVED THAT NAC urge all governments — federal, provincial and territorial — to adopt legislation making it unlawful for employers to discriminate against any of their employees with respect to remuneration and with respect to any other terms or conditions of work on the basis of sex or marital status and that such legislation be vigorously enforced.

\* Remuneration — The term 'remuneration' as defined in the ILO Convention 100 includes "the ordinary, basic or minimum wage or salary and any additional emoluments whatsoever payable directly or indirectly, whether in cash or in kind, by the employer to the worker and arising out of the worker's employment."

3. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board and participating organizations of NAC press for initiatory powers to be included in legislation to ensure the enforcement of existing laws and to expand the basis for government action beyond individual complaints. For example, this could take the form of spot checks on employers.

4. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board and participating organizations of NAC press governments to publish regular official reports of all equal pay cases and complaints submitted, just as Labour Boards publish all of their cases.

5. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board and participating organizations of NAC develop, where possible, test cases on existing equal pay laws, encouraging local legal groups interested in women's issues to act as advocates for women who are prepared to pursue test cases.

##### CHILD CARE SERVICES

6. WHEREAS the need for child care assistance to Canadian families has far outpaced the availability of services, and

WHEREAS the cost of placing a child in licensed care far exceeds the ability of most families in Canada to pay,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

(i) NAC impress upon the federal government the importance of introducing legislation to broaden the present auspices of services to young children; and, specifically, that NAC urge the federal government to undertake with the provinces and territories discussions leading to the elimination of social need criteria for subsidized child care, in order that good quality licensed services be made universally available to families;

(ii) NAC urge the federal government in conjunction with the provinces and territories to launch a broad programme of capital support for child-care services; and

(iii) NAC urge the government of Canada to take immediate and interim action to develop the present Family Allowances system into a comprehensive programme of fully adequate taxable child-care allowances in order to provide more realistic assistance to families in meeting their child-care costs.

7. WHEREAS quality of personnel is generally considered to be the most important variable in child care,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT NAC urge the federal government to alter its criteria for the provision of funds to the provinces and territories, with a view of requiring and enabling the provinces and territories to establish good quality child care services by making federal funds contingent upon the establishment and enforcement of child care standards adequate to the situation, including those relating to

— adequate staff training and continuing development

— adequate staff ratios

— adequate staffing continuity and

— adequate remuneration for all child care workers

8. BE IT RESOLVED THAT NAC urge all levels of government to take joint action, according to their respective jurisdictions, to develop a comprehensive programme of support services to families (such as: nutrition, prenatal care, child care information, opportunities for development of child care ability and family counselling), not only in times of family crisis, but also as ongoing resources to the family and the community.

##### BIRTH CONTROL SERVICES

9. WHEREAS

(a) Birth control is basic to the improvement of the status of women and increased opportunities for women directly influence the acceptance of birth control; and

(b) Birth control information is not yet easily available to all who want it; and

(c) Private physicians are not yet generally providing information and services; and

(d) Many Canadians are ignorant about their own sexuality, the physiology of reproduction, birth control methods and population issues, because: — Government commitment at all levels to family planning is insufficient; — Public education programmes for parents and young people are inadequate;

— Training programmes for those involved in counselling are insufficient; — Special barriers are created by geographical location, language, religion, physical and mental handicaps, and misinformation, and (e) A growing number of adolescents in Canada are sexually active at an earlier age.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT NAC

(i) Urge all Canadian organizations and individuals to support the provisions of responsible sex information and birth control services for all who want it in this country regardless of age; to promote within their own organization the understanding that birth control is basic to the status of women, and that there is need to raise the status of women to insure the success of birth control programmes;

(ii) Urge all organizations and individuals to advise the federal government to remove the section dealing with abortion from the Canadian Criminal Code;

(iii) Reconfirms its previously stated position requesting removal of the section dealing with abortion from the Canadian Criminal Code; that the federal government be so informed at the earliest opportunity; and that women in all parts of Canada be guaranteed access to adequate medical abortion facilities and counselling;

(iv) Call for a greater financial commitment on the part of all levels of government for research leading to improved birth control methods for both males and females.

##### FAMILY AND PROPERTY LAW

10. BE IT RESOLVED THAT

(i) Legislation be enacted immediately at provincial, territorial and federal levels to remedy the inequities in existing matrimonial and property laws; and

(ii) This legislation reflect the concept of marriage as an economic and social partnership of equals; and

(iii) This legislation further reflect that a contribution to the marriage relationship should not be assessed solely in terms of direct financial contribution, but should take into account contributions in the form of services, prudent management, and care for the home and family, so that the functions of home management and wage earning be credited equally.

##### Bills Before the House of Commons

11. BE IT RESOLVED THAT NAC organizations and members be urged to respond to the appeal of the Federal Advisory Council on the Status of Women in urging speedy passage of Bills C20, C16, C52 which are currently before Parliament. In brief, the bills include these provisions: BILL C-20, given first reading on October 10, 1974, will give Canadian mothers an equal right with Canadian fathers to confer citizenship on their children.

BILL C-16, re-introduced on October 8, 1974, the "Omnibus Bill" on the Status of Women, will give women equal status with men under the Canada Elections Act; will remove rigid requirements for maternity leave benefits under the Unemployment Insurance Act; will give women equal status as 'Breadwinner' under the Immigration Act.

BILL C-52, tabled for first reading on February 17, 1975, will give working women equal pension rights in the Federal Public Service, in the Armed Forces, in the RCMP and as Members of Parliament.

##### Canada Pension Plan

12. WHEREAS NAC endorses the concept of marriage as an economic and social partnership of equals, and

WHEREAS this concept is not recognized in the Canada Pension Plan, BE IT RESOLVED THAT NAC support, as an immediate and interim objective, the concept of introducing housewives into the Canada Pension Plan, through the splitting of past accumulated credits on the breakdown of marriage, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT since splitting pension credits is only a recognition of the principle of equality between the spouses — not the principle that work performed in the home should entitle the person performing it to benefits to which other workers are entitled;

THAT NAC further study the changes needed to the Canada Pension Plan to provide equal access to all persons in their own right.

##### Organizational Resolutions

13. WHEREAS governments at all levels have undertaken to address themselves to women's needs during International Women's Year; and

WHEREAS NAC's priorities have been agreed upon and are being documented and given specific focus in the coming months,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT NAC and its participating organizations and members organize a national campaign which will culminate in the late fall, in lobbies and meetings with all federal, provincial, territorial and municipal elected representatives, requiring two things:

(i) A report of action accomplished personally and by his/her government towards implementing the Recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women in the priority areas, and on other urgent matters,

(ii) Specific commitments to further action. (Note: This campaign might possibly coincide in Ottawa with the final conference of I.W.Y. planned by the federal government. Every effort should go towards focussing national attention on the action and the issues involved. NAC might apply for funding to enable women across the country to participate in this campaign. All participating organizations will undertake to report on their campaign before the next NAC general meeting.)

##### IWY Congress

14. WHEREAS the World Congress for IWY is being called for October 20-24 in Berlin, with 2000 women from all continents, and

WHEREAS a Canadian delegation of at least 10 women will have the opportunity to make a contribution there, and to bring back findings of benefit to Canadian women,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT NAC help provide information about the World Congress for IWY to our members and other women, and invite participation through briefs and research materials for the Canadian delegation, and encourage the Canadian delegates to report back to Canadian women about the World Congress for IWY.

# NAC MEETS WITH MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE TO DISCUSS NEW SOCIAL SERVICES ACT

On February 20th representatives of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women met with the Honourable Marc Lalonde, Minister of National Health and Welfare, to discuss the proposed new Social Service Act. This new legislation, which is being developed by the federal government in consultation with the provinces, will provide the basis for federal participation in the funding of social services in Canada.

While responsibility for the delivery of social services in Canada rests primarily within the jurisdiction of the provincial governments, the willingness of the federal government to fund some services and not others, and to enable certain groups to receive subsidized services, plays a crucial role in determining the scope and pace of service development in Canada.

In the meeting with Mr. Lalonde, NAC urged federal leadership in developing more generous programs to meet the social service needs of children and of sole-support parents.

With regard to day care, NAC representatives stressed the importance of bringing the cost of supervised programs within the reach of all children and families in Canada. At present, only families with very low incomes qualify for subsidized services. NAC further recommended that the federal government establish a program of capital support for day care, to ensure a more adequate rate of growth in the level of service as well as a more equitable distribution of services across the country.

Emphasizing the urgent needs of single parents (most of whom are women), NAC advocated that the new Social Services Act provide special financial incentives to the provinces to stimulate the development of training, education, employment and counselling services. Such programs are essential to enable single parents — and especially single mothers — to extricate themselves and their children from poverty and economic dependent on government. The delegation from the National Action Committee underscored the importance of child care services in this context.



NAC also stressed the importance of cooperation among the provinces, Health and Welfare Canada and Statistics Canada in the gathering and publishing of basic social data and of up-to-date statistics related to personal social services. NAC recommended an expansion in the information and consultation service offered by the National Day Care Information Centre.

NAC representatives were gratified to learn from Mr. Lalonde that eligibility criteria for child care services will be altered to permit broader access to publicly-sponsored programs. However, they were distressed to hear that the federal government does not intend to provide direct capital funding to day care within the new Social Services Act. The National Action Committee holds the view that capital support is an essential precondition for an adequate rate of growth in children's services.

Mr. Lalonde told the delegation that he will be meeting with provincial social service ministers in June to finalize agreements in respect to the new Social Services Act and to set guidelines for user fees. Once the basic terms of the new Act have been settled, emphasis will shift to the revision of provincial statutes. Now is the time to exert pressure on the province to design and implement legislation which take full advantage of the proposed new federal Act.

# HUMAN RIGHTS BILL CRITICIZED

The proposed Canadian Human Rights Act — the Federal Government's tidbit for women during 1975 — has met with much criticism.

NAC Past President Laura Sabia has called it a "disgrace". Others have said it is nothing more than an insult to the women of Canada.

On July 21, 1975, the then Justice Minister, Otto Lang, introduced Bill C-172 in the House of Commons. It was to be a piece of legislation that would "extend the present laws in Canada that proscribe discrimination and that protect the privacy of individuals."

The bill, known as the proposed "Canadian Human Rights Act", provides for the establishment of a Canadian Human Rights Commission as enforcement body for the Act.

NAC, taking a keen interest in the bill, set up a sub-committee to examine the bill and to make recommendations as to what NAC's position should be.

The sub-committee, made up of lawyers, trade unionists and NAC Board members, prepared a set of critical notes on the various sections of the Act and circulated a proposed position paper for discussion.

Very basically, the sub-committee said that the bill was a "bit of legislative hocus-pocus", that the women of Canada who have fought for many years to strengthen anti-discriminatory legislation are being offered nothing of substance.

For example, the bill, which borrows heavily and almost directly from the Canada Labour Code, does not include any improvements in the equal pay area and does not introduce the equal pay for work of equal value concept from the International Labour Organization convention that was ratified by the Canadian government in 1972.

Further, the new sections on pensions and benefits contain far too many loopholes for employers.

The sub-committee maintained that in the long run, what is probably

most useful is an entrenched and enforced Bill of Rights that would bring protection of a much broader scope to all Canadians.

The formal position of NAC, adopted at its annual fall meeting, reads as follows:

That NAC:

1. Give strong support to the establishment of a Canadian Human Rights Commission with broader scope and strong powers.
2. Give support to section 4 and 5, which for the first time promise some protection from discrimination in services, facilities and accommodation; and call for greater protection of individual privacy;
3. Give strong recommendation that sections 6 to 16 inclusive, which relate to employment practices, be removed from Bill C-72 and be retained instead in the Canada Labour Code, which Code should be amended in a number of areas. In particular, we recommend that the section on Equal Pay be amended to provide for Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value, and that the sections on pensions and benefits be improved and strengthened;
4. Give strong recommendation that the aforementioned Code, in its improved form, should be extended to cover all public employees under Federal Government jurisdiction; and that NAC
5. Recommend the deletion of Sections 49 and 28(4c) which sections deny protection to Indians and certain immigrants.

The National Action Committee has made presentations to the present Minister of Justice, Ronald Basford, and separately, to officials of the Justice Department who are preparing amendments for 2nd reading.

The bill itself will not be amended at 2nd reading, but the government will indicate at that time the amendments they intend to introduce to the Justice Committee examining the bill after 2nd reading.

It is NAC's intention to make its position known and understood by the government and members of the opposition parties. We will also make formal presentations to the Justice Committee and 2nd reading. We want some real changes.

— Laurell Ritchie

## Bills In The Mill (On Parliament Hill)

This run-down of Bills in — or not in — passage is reprinted from *The Newsletter of the Saskatchewan Action Committee on the Status of Women*.

### BILLS PASSED:

**OMNIBUS BILL - (C-16)** gives women equal status with men under the Canada Elections Act. It removes the rigid requirements for maternity leave benefits under the Unemployment Insurance Act. The Bill gives women equal status as head of the household under the Immigration Act. It substitutes the term "persons" for the word "boys" in the National Defence Act. It also stipulates that both spouses have equal obligations to each other, in Criminal Code amendments which now state that a "married person must provide the necessaries of life to his spouse."

### CANADA PENSION PLAN AMENDMENTS - (C-22)

The surviving spouse and children of a deceased or disabled female contributor now qualify for the same benefits, under the same conditions, as those of a deceased or disabled male contributor. "Survivor's pension" is the term now used instead of the former "widow's pension".

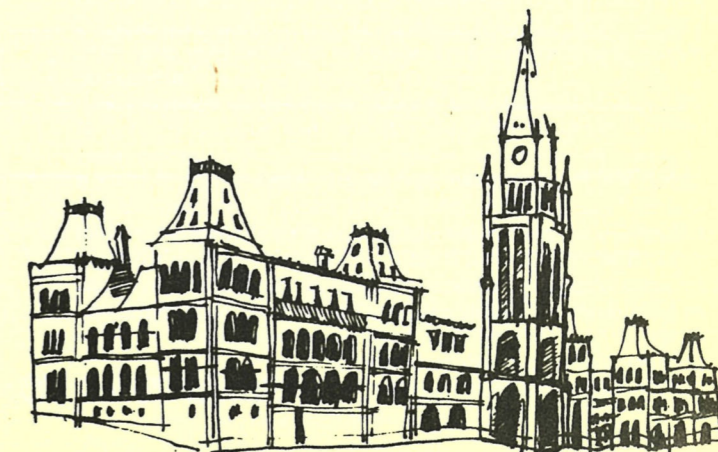
### CIVIL SERVICE INSURANCE ACT AMENDMENTS — (C-26)

as it relates to children and unmarried women, removes a difference in terms of their status in law, between married and unmarried women public servants, which had existed previously.

**OLD AGE PENSION ACT - (C-62)** gives spouses between 60 and 65 years of age the CPP benefits if the other spouse is receiving a pension, and thus permits couples to retire together.

### BILLS NOT PASSED:

**CITIZENSHIP BILL - (C-20)** This Bill, which is into the second reading stage, will give Canadian mothers an equal right with Canadian fathers to confer citizenship on their children.





**EQUAL PENSION RIGHTS BILL - (C-52)** This Bill, which has received first reading, specifies that working women will have equal pension rights with men in the federal Public Service, the Canadian Armed Forces, the RCMP, and as Members of Parliament.

**CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENTS BILL - (C-71)** Among other things, amendments to the Criminal Code which received first reading on July 17/75, provide more protection in court for victims of rape and related sexual offences. The need for special corroboration of a rape victim's sexual conduct with a person other than the accused will be permitted only if reasonable notice is given in writing. Other sections deal with the publication of the victim's identity, change of venue and exclusion of the public from all or parts of the trial.

**HUMAN RIGHTS LEGISLATION - (C-72)** The most sweeping changes deal with the repeal of Part 1 of the

Labour Code. At present it includes race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, age, sex, marital status and criminal convictions which have been granted pardons. Where is the Human Rights Commission as recommended by the Royal Commission on the Status of Women? "Indeed the section on privacy bears no relation whatever to the rest of the bill." — Leader Post 2/8/75. "It is a bill, in short, that protects the rights of the government, and discriminates against the governed." — Toronto Star. This bill is one that we should watch closely — it is not good legislation as it is now written.

Both the Federal Advisory Council on the Status of Women and the National Action Committee have requested that all women lobby further with regard to bills presently before the House of Commons. PLEASE CABLE OR WRITE YOUR M.P., the Prime Minister, the Minister of Justice (Hon. R. Basford), the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women (Hon. Marc Lalonde), to express your feelings about the lack of legislative action for equal rights in IWY.

## PARLIAMENTARY LOBBY REPORT ON VISIT TO MP:

Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date Visited \_\_\_\_\_ Riding Name \_\_\_\_\_

Was your MP:

- sympathetic  sympathetic and informed  committed to action on our behalf  
 unsympathetic but informed  unsympathetic and ignorant

What issues did you discuss?

- Child Care  Equal Remuneration  Birth Control and Abortion  Marital Legislation

Others \_\_\_\_\_

How well received? \_\_\_\_\_ Action promised \_\_\_\_\_

Are you going to make a return visit:  yes  no  don't know

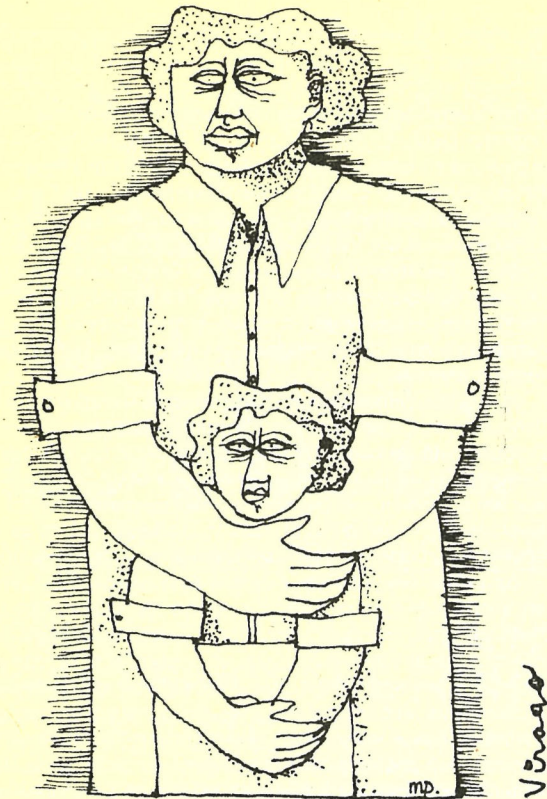
Other issues which arose as a result of this meeting that you would like discussed at our next Annual Meeting:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**SEND THIS TO: PARLIAMENTARY LOBBY  
c / o NAC, 121 Avenue Road  
Toronto M5R 2G3, Ontario**



## RAPPORT de la PRÉSIDENTE LE COMITÉ NATIONAL D'ACTION SUR LE STATUT DE LA FEMME

Bienvenue à la réunion annuelle 1976 du Comité national d'action (CNA). L'an dernier (du 9 au 11 mai) nous avons été à Winnipeg, où bien plus de cent personnes se sont réunies à l'Association des jeunes femmes chrétiennes (la YWCA) pour discuter des questions principales et pour renouer des contacts chaleureux avec des femmes venant de tous les coins du pays et représentant des organismes affiliés nombreux. A cette réunion, on a fixé les priorités pour l'Année internationale de la femme. On y a trouvé également l'impulsion à exiger de l'action à l'endroit de ces priorités: rémunération égale, garderies, contrôle de naissances et avortement, et droit de famille et de propriété.

A partir de ce moment-là, les organismes affiliés du CNA d'à travers le pays travaillent fort dur. Au cours de l'Année internationale de la femme, des efforts poussés ont été demandés pour essayer de changer la situation de la femme dans la société canadienne. Ces initiatives sont impressionnantes. *Le Bulletin du statut de la femme* (Status of Women News), n'offre qu'un résumé des lettres que nous recevons quotidiennement et qui racontent les initiatives à Yellowknife, à Saskatoon, à Halifax, à Québec, à St. John's, à Victoria, effectivement, partout au pays.

Nous avons envoyé plusieurs de nos membres à des réunions spéciales. Par exemple, Lillian Bouzane, Ghislaine Patry-Brison, Maria Erickson, Julie Bubnik et Aline Wainwright nous ont représentées à la Tribune de l'Année internationale de la femme à Mexico. Leur rapport a paru dans le *Le Bulletin du statut de la femme* et, de tous les coins du Canada, nous recevons des rapports sur les communications de ces femmes au sujet du rôle canadien dans le mouvement international de la femme. Bien que l'on n'ait pas jugé la Tribune une réussite globale, elle a donné comme résultat très positif la possibilité d'une mise en perspective de nos propres travaux. On peut dire la même chose à propos des rapports des femmes qui ont

participé au Congrès de l'Année internationale de la femme à Berlin. Leurs points de vue, tout en étant assez différents de ceux des femmes qui se sont rendues à Mexico, fournissent une explication alternative du rôle de la femme dans la société. D'ailleurs, un bon nombre des membres du CNA, certaines dont nous sommes au courant, d'autres dont nous ne le sommes pas, ont assisté au fil de l'année aux réunions du Secrétaire d'Etat sur le volontariat, les médias, la politique, etc. etc. ... Beaucoup de nos collègues, moi-même entre autres, ont assisté le 15 octobre au Congrès "Action 75" du Conseil privé.

Comment évaluer notre participation à ces rencontres. Les priorités du Comité national d'action ont été soulevées et discutées. Nous avons renforcé nos liens avec d'autres femmes, d'autres organisations et avec les législateurs dont la collaboration est essentielle pour atteindre à nos objectifs.

A la dernière réunion annuelle, nous avons conclu qu'il fallait exercer un impact plus important sur le gouvernement canadien. Le comité administratif ont travaillé dur à ce propos. Cette année, nous avons eu de nombreuses rencontres avec des ministres, en commençant par celle du 3 au 4 juillet à laquelle une délégation à cinq membres (de Vancouver, de Winnipeg, de Saint John's, de l'Ontario rural et de Toronto) se sont réunies avec l'hon. Marc Lalonde, ministre responsable du statut de la femme et avec de nombreux députés au Parlement, y inclus les critiques des partis de l'Opposition, Gordon Fairweather et Stanley Knowles. A cette réunion, nous avons mis sur le tapis les quatre priorités suscitées à la réunion annuelle. Au fil de cet automne, nous avons poursuivi ces initiatives en reconstruisant l'hon. Ron Basford, ministre de la justice, l'hon. John Munro, ministre du travail, et encore une fois, le ministre responsable du statut de la femme. A chaque rencontre, nous avons beaucoup appris et réalisé des progrès. En outre, nous avons mis en marche le procédé des interventions parlementaires, en demandant à chaque membre de rendre visite à son député au Parlement à Ottawa. Je constate avec plaisir que beaucoup d'entre vous ont relevé le défi et ont rendu visite à votre représentant à Ottawa. Nous n'avons pas contacté tous les députés, loin de là. Mais lundi cela va se réaliser.

Ces visites avec des membres du Parlement ont-elles valu la peine? A certains égards, elles ont été bien valables. Grâce à elles, nous recevons des lettres des députés qui nous signalent la législation qu'ils présentent aux Communes et qui nous donnent gain de cause. Nous avons demandé une participation active à la révision de la Sécurité sociale. Notre renommée est suffisamment répandue pour que l'on demande notre avis sur d'autres questions. Des autorités du Ministère de la justice ont passé une demi-journée avec des membres de notre sous-comité sur la Commission des droits de l'homme pour discuter des amendements possibles au projet de loi. A notre avis, cette rencontre a été bien fructueuse.

Est-ce qu'elle a suscité des changements de législation? Evaluer cela est difficile. D'abord, la rédaction de la législation se veut très lente et, dans bien des cas, les débats parlementaires durent même plus longtemps. Notre mot arrive souvent trop tard pour être mis en valeur dans la procédure législative. Pour rendre plus efficaces nos visites aux députés, nous devons nous renseigner davantage sur l'allure de la vie parlementaire et du changement législatif. En n'étant pas une organisation à grande échelle, il nous faut accepter notre petite taille, viser l'efficacité et exercer des pressions dans la mesure du possible.

Nous avons travaillé fort pour faire une critique de la législation et de la politique actuelle dans les domaines: de la citoyenneté, du code criminel, de la sécurité sociale, des droits de l'homme, etc. . . . Nous avons envoyé des télégrammes, des lettres, des dossiers. Nous avons rencontré des autorités, des administrateurs. Nous avons parlé aux adjoints. Nous avons essayé par tous les moyens possibles de faire renforcer la législation sur les droits de l'homme et de faire adopter plusieurs projets de loi. Nos initiatives ont très souvent appuyé celles du Conseil consultatif fédéral du statut de la femme. D'autre part, les membres du Conseil ont des fois modifié leur position pour refléter la nôtre. Une entente fructueuse existe entre les deux groupes. Tout en étant différent de mandat et de composition, néanmoins nous combinons nos forces pour réclamer des changements.



Lone Christensen a fourth generation Yukoner and first woman Mayor of Whitehorse.

On a vu au fil de cette année deux femmes poser leur candidature à la chefferie de leur parti: Rosemary Brown du NDP en juillet et Flora MacDonald du Parti progressiste-conservateur en février. Cela a été un événement merveilleux pour les femmes canadiennes de voir deux femmes fort qualifiées, magnifiquement organisées, prononçant des discours excellents. Il nous était également utile d'en voir les résultats. Que signifie cela? Le travail acharné, le dévouement et le courage de Rosemary Brown et de Flora MacDonald ont certainement préparé le terrain pour bien des femmes. Il se peut que les gestes de ces deux femmes et les résultats obtenus aient injecté une petite dose de réalisme dans les ambitions politiques des femmes. Certainement cela a signalé à tous les Canadiens cette nouvelle réalité. N'importe qui d'entre vous qui a parlé aux présidents des partis après le séminaire du secrétaire d'Etat sur l'action politique saura la secousse que ces hommes ont subi à voir la force de la protestation déminine au sein de leur propre parti. On pose la question: est-ce que l'on peut soutenir le niveau de ces pressions?

Je voudrais vous parler du Comité administratif du CNA et de nos activités. Cette année nous avons une équipe de femmes extraordinaire qui s'occupe de la gestion du CNA. Mais je voudrais faire mention plus particulièrement du travail de Cathleen Morrison, notre secrétaire et de Kay MacPherson, notre vice-présidente. Les deux se retrouvent tous les jours dans notre bureau exigü à 121 Avenue Road. Elles contribuent au moins une journée entière de la semaine au Comité national d'action, et se font extrêmement importantes à la continuité du travail de l'organisation. Cathleen a préparé la nouvelle brochure qui est maintenant disponible et qui met à jour la première édition de 1973. En outre, des membres du Comité administratif ont participé à des congrès, ont écrit pour le *Le Bulletin du statut de la femme* et ont été en tout et pour tout serviables. Nous nous réunissons le troisième lundi soir de chaque mois et, des fois, entre ces réunions régulières. (Tous les membres du CNA sont bienvenue à nos réunions mensuelles.) Pearl Blazer s'est jointe à nous au mois de septembre après que Ruth Chud s'est inscrite à la Faculté de droit. Pearl n'a pas eu de répit depuis! Elle arrive au bureau tôt le matin et

quitte tard le soir. Nous apprécions tous son travail d'arrachepied et son bon sourire.

Le 2 novembre 1975, nous avons convoqué une réunion générale à Hart House à laquelle plus de 30 représentantes de 18 organismes affiliés se sont réunies pour discuter des questions et des affaires. Au moment où nous avons été plongé dans la discussion sur les droits de l'homme, on nous a présenté un sketch sur les droits de l'homme dans lequel une certaine Mlle AIF a révélé comment elle dépendait tout à fait du gouvernement. Les femmes y étaient représentées comme mal rétribuées et surmenées; nous y avons reconnu une grande tragédie canadienne. Nous avons vu également le nouveau film de Moira Armour, "Question de choix" (Matter of Choice) et le film à propos de l'histoire du mouvement de la femme, "La Femme visible" (The Visible Woman). Hazel Wigdor a monté un étalage de livres avec tant de succès que nous lui avons demandé de le faire de nouveau pour la réunion annuelle.

Je voudrais remercier quelques membres de notre équipe de gestion qui, à cause d'autres responsabilités, se trouvent dans l'impossibilité de continuer leur travail avec nous. Il s'agit de Judy Lawrence et de Rosie Abella. Chacune a offert généreusement de son temps et de ses capacités au fil des dernières années. Nous sommes reconnaissantes et nous nous attendons à ce qu'elles continuent à participer en tant que conseillères et membres du CNA.

Vous avez tous le *Bulletin du statut de la femme*. Cette année, nous en avons publié 5 numéros: En voici le cinquième. Moira Armour, l'éditrice, a recueilli des contributions de tous les coins du Canada et elle en a toujours besoin. Pourriez-vous lui en faire parvenir encore au cours de l'année qui vient. Faites-lui parvenir vos articles; faites-lui parvenir des rapports sur des événements auxquels vous avez été participante avec votre interprétation de ces manifestations. Faites-lui parvenir des photographies. Le Bulletin du statut de la femme est actuellement distribué à plusieurs milliers de personnes et cela au moment où beaucoup d'éditeurs sont obligés d'arrêter la publication de leurs bulletins à cause d'ennuis pécuniers ou de manque d'intérêt. Nous espérons pouvoir continuer à publier notre bulletin pour bien des années encore. Un membre haut placé du parlement nous a expliqué qu'elle lit chaque numéro du Bulletin d'un bout à l'autre; c'est la seule publication à propos de laquelle elle puisse dire cela. C'est à espérer que beaucoup d'autres politiciens et d'autres administrateurs ont cette même habitude. Nous sommes toutes reconnaissantes à l'éditrice pour son travail dévoué.

Pour moi, personnellement, cette année a été dure mais passionnante. Le CNA est une organisation tellement diverse que répondre comme je le voudrais à toutes les questions et points de vue soulevés serait un emploi à temps plein. Il n'y a jamais suffisamment de temps. Pourtant j'ai lu toutes vos lettres qui nous renseignent et nous avisent des points de solidarité et de divergence chez les femmes canadiennes; j'ai lu tous vos bulletins, de "Coastline" (Nouvelle Ecosse) à "Kinesis" (Colombie britannique), tous sans aucune exception. Cette année, j'ai pris la parole a estimé que le CNA méritait une place considérable (grâce surtout à June Callwood et Christina Newman qui m'ont fourni des occasions pour prendre la parole devant le public) et nous répondons aux questionnaires de plusieurs enquêtes menées par des groupes de pression et par des organisations féminines.

Et pour l'année qui vient? A mon avis, cette année, enfin, la question clé est de bien garantir que persiste la solidarité de notre organisation. Nous savons bien qu'une organisation nationale au Canada est toujours sujet à des divisions, aux intérêts municipaux et régionaux que se font concurrence et à l'attrait des points de vue étroits. Au sein du CNA, il nous faut empêcher ces éventualités. Pour atteindre à nos objectifs dans le domaine de la législation, de la politique, du changement social, il nous faut trouver un terrain d'entente, en discuter, le comprendre pleinement et par la suite, prendre des mesures concrètes. Nous ne sommes pas en mesure d'accepter une partialité bornée, de l'intolérance, des tendances à la désunion. Les femmes du Canada ne sont pas encore égales sur le plan économique, judiciaire, sociale ou psychologique. Tant que cela est vrai, le CNA a besoin de grandir et de se faire plus efficace. Cette fin de semaine, renouvelons notre objectif; renouvelons notre force pour une autre année.

— Lorna Marsden

# WOMEN! RALLY FOR ACTION MARCH 22 VICTORIA

## WOMEN'S ACTION RALLY: BIGGEST SINCE THE FIGHT FOR THE VOTE

What has been described as possibly the most important political action by B.C. women since the suffragettes fought for the vote 50 years ago, took place in Victoria, March 22, when 500 women gathered to tell legislators what they need and want now that International Women's Year 1975, is over. Approximately 240 of the participants were delegates from each and every political party and riding in the province, who met with all 55 MLAs to lobby for legislation and funding to integrate women into the province's political and economic power structure. The massive lobby, superbly organized, consisted of teams of women presenting their MLAs with a 25 page brief making 85 recommendations to government, on issues of major and immediate concern to women both in the home and at work. Only status of women issues under provincial jurisdiction were discussed.

Action was prompted by outrage over recent cutbacks in women's programs by the new Social Credit government:

- abolishment of provincial status of women coordinator's office
- abolishment of the provincial adviser and committee on sexism in education
- refusal to raise daycare worker's salaries from \$700 per month
- discontinuation of funding for battered women's transition houses
- scrapping plans for child and maternal care complex at Shaughnessy hospital

However, participants repeatedly expressed anger over insignificant women's right legislation during IWY by the former NDP government and over inaction by all political parties on the recommendations of the Royal Commission Report on the Status of Women tabled six years ago. Each lobbying team publicly evaluated politicians' consciousness of and commitment to status of women matters, reporting to a microphone on an agenda covering every minute from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Responses were also tabulated on a huge billboard. Many MLAs were described as out of touch, unaware, defensive, non-committal and ill-informed on women's issues despite the fact they had been presented with a brief outlining these matters well in advance. Generally, Socred cabinet ministers fared worst in the evaluations of women.

After two months of arrangements, a number of MLAs still had not confirmed appointments with their female electors, until the day of the rally. Pat McGeer, Minister of Education and Don Phillips, Minister of Economic Development, both did not accept interviews with their own constituents until the end of the rally, and then only under pressure.

Rosemary Brown, NDP/MLA Vancouver-Burrard, moved that the House hold an immediate emergency debate of women's issues but the motion was over-ruled by Speaker Ed Smith, while demonstrators marched, sang, chanted in front of the Parliament buildings. Premier Bill Bennett was complimentary of the lobby saying it was well-organized, business-like and educational in contrast to other demonstrations.

Members of each political women's caucus were invited to address the rally: Rosemary Brown, NDP Women's Committee; Kitty Maracle, a native woman for the B.C. Women's Liberal Commission; Zonzabel Sather, Social CREDIT Ladies' Auxiliary; and Sharon Charles for the Women's Progressive Conservative Association. Speeches were also made to the rally by supportive community groups: B.C. Teachers' Federation; Municipal Employees Union; Vancouver People's Law School; National Farmers Union; Rights of Women Prisoners Committees. A speech by the former Provincial Status of Women Coordinator, Gene Errington drew much applause and was one of the high points of the day.

A coalition of the 200 status of women groups in B.C. organized and participated in the lobby but many more traditional women's groups were also active in the event. A number of new feminist groups in remote areas were formed after involvement in the action. Planning the event took several months of intensive work by a dozen large committees with little funding and many difficulties to overcome: child care, political affiliations, long distances. Ralliers raised some \$5,000 to help pay for costs through sales of posters, ribbons and buttons. They still need money. The women expressed satisfaction that a measure of solidarity now exists among women because a province-wide communications network between them is finally effective. The women's movement in B.C. has silently grown exponentially in recent years contrary to the public myth that feminism is a dying fad. Recent political and economic factors have prompted a sense of urgency in B.C. feminists and new commitments from many women previously not involved in the women's movement.

Women travelled at great personal expense and some at risk of their jobs, from the Peace River area and the Kootenays, to prove to legislators that the women's movement is not a small core of radicals resident in the big city, realizing they must participate in politics in order to substantially change government decisions-making affecting women. This was the first time that feminists and non-feminists alike have worked together, regardless of the political affiliations, to agree on most of the issues. The day was spent in raising the consciousness of the politicians on status of women issues. Legislators got the feminist viewpoint and women began their political education. Not professional lobbyists, but women from every walk of life, they prepared themselves in advance by attending lobbying workshops in assertiveness training and what to expect from MLAs and how to counter their evasions.

To keep the pressure on, women's groups in every constituency plan to keep meeting with their own Members of the Legislative Assembly in home riding offices, sending lots of letters and briefs to legislators and by doing even more public education on the issues. The women do not expect that the Social Credit government will act immediately on their concerns and view the rally as only the beginning of a more intensive and continuing dialogue between women and politicians in B.C. A feminist lobbying kit will be produced by the coalition of women for the benefit of women who want to organize media campaigns and political rallies around women's issues. For further information contact Johanna Den Hertog, Vancouver Status of Women, 2029 West 4 Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. or call 736-3746.

— reprinted from *Western Canadian Women's News*

## PRESS CLIPPING

From the *Globe and Mail*, March 4, 1976.

Oakville (CP) — The Ford Motor Co. of Canada Ltd. has established a \$40,000 university fellowship program for women. President Roy F. Bennett said the fellowships would be awarded to women enrolled in master of business administration courses at Laval University in Quebec City, York University in Toronto, University of Western Ontario at London, and McGill University, Montreal.

— contributed by Eleanor Reesor, Toronto.



Rosemary Brown, MLA (NDP) speaking at an International Women's Day meeting in Vancouver

—Mike Gidora photos

### KATIE COOKE SAYS:

My recent experience as Canada's delegate to the United Nations regional seminar in Argentina on the participation of women in social, economic and political development left me impressed with the positive actions being taken in many countries to eliminate discrimination on the grounds of sex.

International Women's Year legitimized our right as women to demand equal access to opportunity in today's society. I am convinced that our participation in the political process is of increasing and enormous importance. We must inform ourselves of today's issues and take part at all levels of political life from local neighbourhood zoning decisions to standing for federal Parliament.

Politics is everybody's game. It's time we learned to play it effectively.

(Dr. Cooke is Chairperson of the Federal Advisory Council on the Status of Women.)



## "Getting to Know You, Getting To Know All About You"

IS ONLY POSSIBLE IF

- ... You send us advance notice of the dates of your meetings, conferences, seminars etc.,
- ... You send us short, factual reports of events, major decisions, public statements, publications etc.,
- ... You send us requests for support or additional information,
- ... You send us photos, line drawings, cartoons, logos and poetry,
- ... You send us material from other publications which you think needs wider circulation,
- ... You send us useful program material to be shared with other women's groups.

Please send material to:  
The Editor  
Status of Women News  
121 Avenue Road  
Toronto M5R 2G3 Ontario

# Recommended Reading

— Reprinted from Sheridan College Women's News

- Women in Sexist Society**  
ed. by Vivian Gornick, Barbara K. Moran.  
New York: Basic Books 1971.
- Sisterhood is Powerful**  
ed. by Robin Morgan.  
New York: Vintage, 1970.
- Feminism: The Essential Historical Writings**  
ed. by Miriam Schneir.  
New York: Vintage, 1972.
- Women's Liberation and Literature**  
ed. by Elaine Showalter.  
New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1971.
- The Subjection of Women**  
John Stuart Mill.  
Cambridge: The MIT Press, 1970.  
(Original edition published in 1869).
- A Room of One's Own**  
Virginia Woolf.  
New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich  
(Harbinger paperback) 1963.  
(Original edition published in 1929.)
- The Second Sex**  
Simone de Beauvoir  
New York: Knopf, 1957.  
(Original edition published in 1949).
- Voices from Women's Liberation**  
ed. by Leslie B. Tanner.  
New York: Signet, 1970.
- The Feminine Mystique**  
Betty Friedan.  
New York: Norton, 1963.
- The Female Eunuch**  
Germaine Greer.  
London: Paladin, 1970.
- Patriarchal Attitudes**  
Eva Figes.  
Greenwich, Conn.: Fawcett, 1970
- Man's World, Woman's Place:  
A Study in Social Mythology**  
Elizabeth Janeway.  
New York: Morrow, 1971.
- Born Female**  
Caroline Bird.  
New York: Pocket Books, 1971.
- Ascent of Woman**  
Elisabeth Mann Borgese.  
London: MacGibbon & Kee Ltd., 1963.
- "Reflections on Womanhood"**  
Erik Erikson.  
In Woman in America. Boston: Beacon.  
(Also in Daedalus, Spring, 1964).
- "Equality Between the Sexes: An Immodest Proposal"**  
Alice S. Rossi.  
In Woman in America. Boston: Beacon.  
(Also in Daedalus, Spring, 1964).



(from page 4)

- Assurance chômage: 3.6% ont droit à l'assurance chômage
- Régime des rentes du Québec: 20% contribuent au régime des rentes du Québec
- Dispositions testamentaires du mari: Au dernier vivant les biens.
- Assurances sur la vie du mari: 97.6% des maris ont des assurances sur la vie  
Montant approximatif: 14.9% — \$5,000-moins; 14.9% — \$50,000-plus

## PRINCIPES DE BASE

Nos recommandations se regroupent en éléments distincts mais qui se tiennent pour former un ensemble de sigles susceptibles d'améliorer le sort des femmes concernées par notre recherche. Nous demandons en outre la reconnaissance des principes de base suivants:

- Le droit de la femme au travail et à la participation dans l'entreprise à propriétaire unique contrôlée par le mari;
- le droit d'être rémunérée pour ce travail doit être sanctionnée par une correction au système fiscal;
- l'assurance à la femme collaboratrice des avantages marginaux que la loi accorde aux salariés (assurance-chômage, régie des rentes, salaire minimum, caisses de retraite, assurance-salaire, etc. ...)
- la sanction légale conférant le droit pour l'épouse, sous tous les régimes matrimoniaux, d'assurer à leur bénéfice la vie de leur mari;
- le droit à l'épouse d'être partie à une convention d'achat/vente au décès de son mari, sanctionnée par assurance; cette convention

de même que l'assurance seraient soustraites à toute application des régimes matrimoniaux;

- l'assurance à l'épouse, sous tous les régimes matrimoniaux, du droit de détenir une participation dans l'entreprise, sous forme d'actions ou de société avec le mari qui ne soit pas sujet à l'application des conventions matrimoniales résultant du contrat de mariage ou de la loi;
- la reconnaissance à l'épouse du droit à tout recyclage rémunéré par les centres de main-d'oeuvre;
- enfin, le droit à l'information nous semble également un principe de base; il serait important que soient diffusées sous forme de cours ou par le truchement des associations féminines, toutes les informations d'ordre juridique et fiscal de nature à éclairer les épouses.

L'AFEAS considère que cette recherche n'est en fait qu'une amorce de la lutte entreprise pour la reconnaissance du travail de ces collaboratrices. Nous comptons bien, à tous les niveaux d'autorité, exercer les pressions nécessaires pour la mise en application des nombreuses recommandations de ce rapport. Nous avons déjà l'assurance que le Conseil du Statut de la Femme du Québec nous aidera dans cette lutte à finir et nous osons croire que tous les média d'information soutiendront nos efforts. Nous comptons également faire appel à d'autres organismes intéressés par le sujet pour, possiblement, former un front commun pour la revendication des droits de ces travailleuses.

Demain, qui n'est pas trop loin, si l'on s'y mettait, toutes nos femmes collaboratrices deviendront des partenaires à part entière dans leur famille, la société et leur entreprise.

— Solange Gervais, présidente générale,  
515 Avenue Viger, Montreal

## Women's Centres

N.F.L.D.:  
Women's Centre\*  
P.O. Box 6072  
St. John's 753-0220

P.E.I.:  
Women's Travelling  
Resource Centre,  
285 Kent Street,  
Charlottetown, P.E.I.

N.S.:  
Women's Centre (Halifax)\*  
5683 Brentan Place  
Halifax 423-0643  
Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 5052  
Armdale, N.S.

Women's Centre,  
P.O. Box 894,  
Wolfville, N.S.

N.B.  
c/o Hilary Prince  
Y.W.C.A.  
Women's Information &  
Referral Centre  
27 Wellington Row  
St. John

Fredericton Women's  
Centre  
28 Saunders St.  
Fredericton, N.B. E3B 1N1

Women's Information  
Centre  
St. John YWCA  
27 Wellington Row  
St. John, N.B. E2L 3H4

QUEBEC:  
Women's Info. & Referral  
Centre  
3595 St. Urbain  
Montreal H2X 2N6  
842-4781

La Place des Femmes  
3764 Boul. St. Laurent  
Montreal 845-7146

YWCA Women's Centre  
1355 Dorchester Blvd. W.  
Montreal, P.Q.

ONTARIO:  
Women's Centre\*  
821 Somerset St. W.  
Ottawa 233-2560

North Bay Women's  
Centre  
2 - 236 Worthington St.  
West,  
North Bay

The Women's Place  
968 University Ave. W.  
Windsor, Ont.

Women's Place\*  
25 Dupont St.  
Kitchener-Waterloo, Ont.

Women's Resource Centre\*  
27 Cedar St. N.  
Timmins 267-5417

Women's Resource Centre\*  
322 Queens Ave.  
London, Ont. 432-8693

Women's Resource Centre\*  
Y.W.C.A.  
56 Queen St.  
St. Catharines, Ont.

Women's Place  
262 Rubidge St.  
Peterborough, Ont.

Toronto Women's  
Bookstore  
85 Harbord St.  
Toronto, Ont.

Women's Development  
Centre  
15 Birch Ave.  
Toronto, Ont. 925-1154

Northern Women's Centre\*  
c/o Y.W.C.A.  
350 Arthur St.  
Thunder Bay, Ont.

MANITOBA:  
A Woman's Place  
143 Walnut St.  
Winnipeg 786-4581

Women's Liberation  
c/o Millie Lamb  
Ste. 10, 812 Wolseley  
Winnipeg

Women's Place  
300 Victor St.  
Winnipeg

Women's Centre\*  
Y.W.C.A.  
447 Webb Place  
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Women's Information  
Centre  
Y.W.C.A.

148 11th St.,  
Brandon, Manitoba  
727-1130

SASKATCHEWAN:  
Saskatoon Women's  
Centre\*  
124A 2nd Ave. North  
Saskatoon

Women's Centre  
1 Angus St.  
Regina

ALBERTA:  
Women's Centre  
11812 - 95 St.  
Edmonton

Edmonton Women's Place  
9917 - 116 St.  
Edmonton, Alta.

Y.W.C.A. Women's Centre  
320 5th Ave.  
Calgary

Women's Centre  
Old Red Cross Bldg.  
Lethbridge

Women's Information  
Centre  
9904 - 100th St.  
Grande Prairie, Alberta

B.C.  
Women's Centre &  
Bookstore  
804 Richards St.  
Vancouver 684-0523

Women's Centre  
490 Baker Street  
Nelson

Women's Centre  
522 Pandora Ave.  
Victoria, B.C.

Women's Resource  
Centre  
2961 - 272nd St.  
Aldergrrove

Vernon Women's Centre,  
Suite 6,  
3000 - 30th St.,  
Vernon 545-6552

N.W.T.  
c/o Nellie Cournoyer  
Inuvik

YUKON:  
Women's Centre\*  
4051 - 4th Ave.  
Whitehorse

## Women's Newspapers

P.E.I.:  
A Woman's Newsletter  
Box 1816  
Charlottetown

N.B.:  
Equal Times  
Cathedral Hall  
Church St.  
Fredericton, N.B.

QUEBEC:  
Quebecoises Deboutte  
4319 St. Denis  
Montreal, P.Q.  
\$3 per year

Feminist Communication  
Collective  
P.O. Box 455  
Montreal

BULLETIN de la Fédération  
des femmes du Québec  
1600 rue Berri, bureau 3113  
Montreal, P.Q.

ONTARIO:  
Status of Women News  
121 Avenue Rd.  
Toronto  
\$3 per year

The Other Woman  
Box 928 Station Q  
Toronto  
\$2 per year

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766 Monterey Ave., Victoria  
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B.C. Federation of Labour  
210 - 517 E. Broadway, Vancouver  
West Kootenay Status of Women Council  
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B.C. Federation of Women  
c / o Joy Bradbury  
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4211 Kingsway, Burnaby

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Provincial Council of Women  
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9214 - 117 St., Edmonton  
Calgary Status of Women Council  
223 - 12th Ave. S.W., Calgary

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Marj Woloshyn, Vice-Chair.  
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S9A 0P9 445-5407  
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Fran Alexson, NAC Representative

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Saskatoon, Sask., S7K ET5

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Manitoba Committee on the Status of Women  
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Manitoba Action Committee (Brandon)  
Women's Information Centre  
Y.W.C.A., Brandon

Ontario  
Ontario Committee on Status of Women  
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Toronto, Ont. M5S 1B5

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Judith Wouk  
6299 Yale St., Halifax  
Dr. Lois Valley  
Dept. of History, Acadia University  
Wolfville, N.S.

Quebec  
La Fédération des Femmes du Québec  
Ghislaine Patry-Buisson  
75 est, 12 avenue Vimont  
Laval Québec

Centre de renseignements  
et de documentation, FFG  
1600 rue Berri, bureau 315  
Montreal, P.Q.

The Native Sisterhood  
P.O. Box 515  
Kingston

Tightwire  
(Women's Penitentiary  
Newspaper)  
Box 515  
Kingston  
\$2 per year

Clearing House for  
Feminist Media  
P.O. Box 207  
Ancaster, Ont.

Canadian Newsletter of  
Research on Women,  
Dept. of Sociology,  
O.I.S.E.,  
252 Bloor St. West,  
Toronto, Ont.

Strength  
The Women's Place  
42B King Street South  
Waterloo

The Northern Woman  
P.O. Box 314  
132 N. Archibald St.  
Thunder Bay

Windsor Woman  
76 University Ave. W.  
Room 603  
Windsor

MANITOBA:  
Emergency Librarian  
c/o Barbara Clubb  
32 - 351 River Avenue  
Winnipeg

SASKATCHEWAN:  
Network of Saskatchewan  
Women,  
Box 1525,  
Rosetown, Sask.

ALBERTA:  
Branching Out  
Box 4098  
Edmonton  
\$5 per year  
\$9.50 for 2 yrs.

Source  
The Alberta Women's  
Newsletter  
9917 116 th St.  
Edmonton

Calgary Women's Newspaper  
No. 206, 223 - 12th Ave. S.W.  
Calgary, Alta.

B.C.  
Women Can  
704 Richards  
Vancouver  
\$3 per year

Kinesis and Western  
Canadian Women's Newservice  
2029 West 4th Avenue  
Vancouver

Priorities  
3485 West 15th Ave.,  
Vancouver  
\$3 per year

B.C. Federation of Women  
Newsletter  
1240 Doran Rd.  
North Vancouver

Images  
Kootenay Women's Council  
Box 1200  
Castelgar, B.C.

YUKON:  
The Opti ms t  
4051 - 4th Ave.  
Whitehorse, Yukon.

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R.R. 1, Charlottetown.

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Yukon Status of Women Council  
4051 - 4th Ave., Whitehorse

\*Has a newsletter.

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