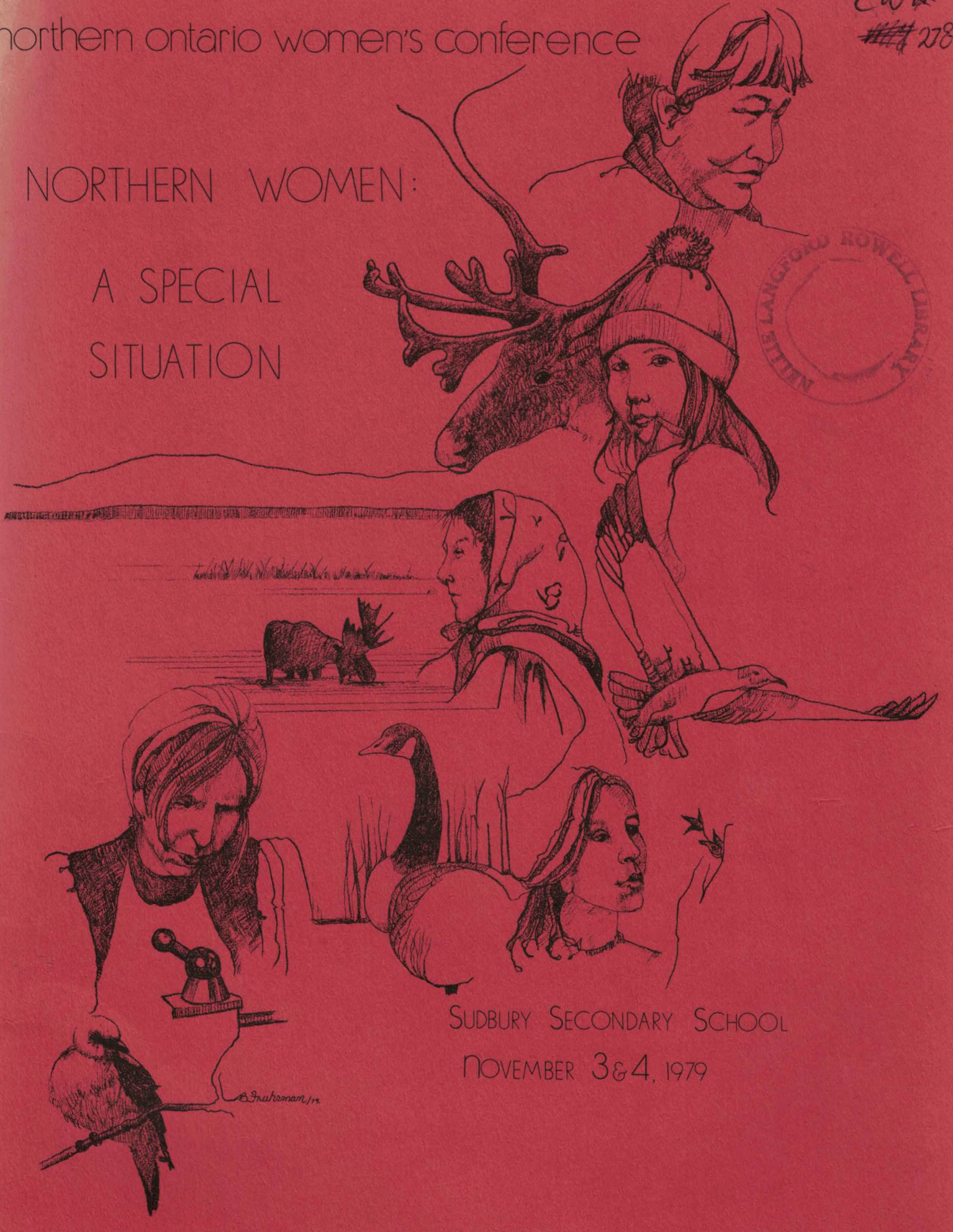


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northern ontario women's conference

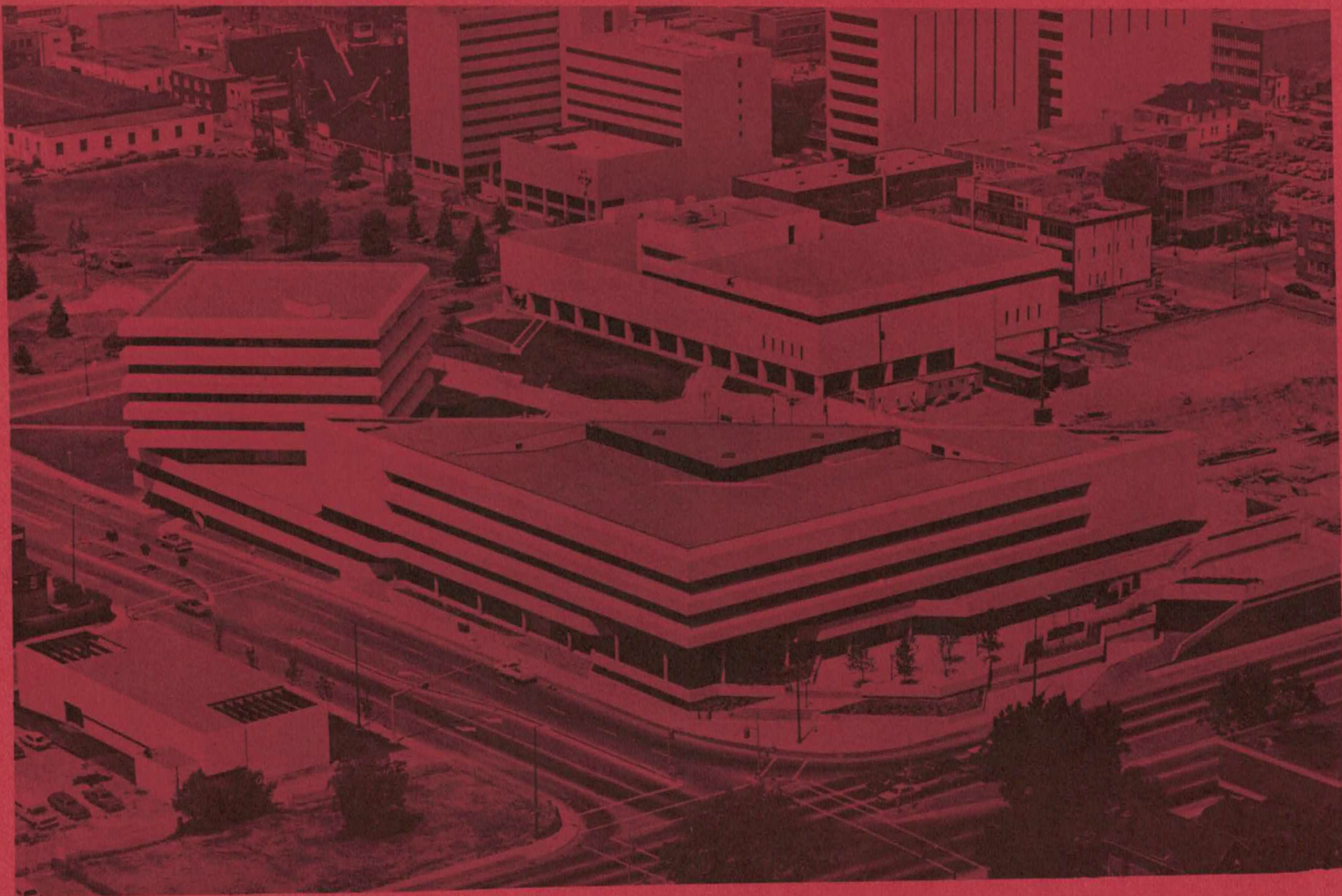
NORTHERN WOMEN:

A SPECIAL
SITUATION



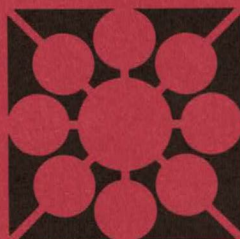
SUDBURY SECONDARY SCHOOL
NOVEMBER 3 & 4, 1979

B. Fuhrman, 1979



SUDBURY *has it all!*
(just ask us)

Il y a tout à **SUDBURY**
(demandez nous)



**Convention & Visitors
Services of Sudbury**

**Bureau des Conférences et
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WOMEN OF THE NORTH A SPECIAL SITUATION

And, what you might ask, makes us so special? Are women in the North more oppressed than our sisters in the South? Are jobs harder to find? Is government harder to reach? Is there less access to resources and information? In most cases, the answer is yes. The reason? Isolation.

The beautiful North. The trees, the bush, the rugged terrain, the lakes -- all the individual things that when put together make Northern Ontario a beautiful place to live, also isolate us from the mainstream. The nature of northern centres as one-industry towns, does not supply enough jobs, especially for women; and this intensifies the isolation that is so typical of Northern Ontario. Then too, there is the question of access to health care, cultural facilities, recreational facilities, schools, day care, vocational training, legal aid and much more.

So, what do we have here in the beautiful North? For one thing, we have women who have come to realize that if there is something to be done, we will have to lead the fight to have it done. We have women who see the necessity of taking risks in order to make a better life for themselves and their families. We have the spirit, determination, and strength.

The Wives Supporting the Strike, of Sudbury, is one group of women that mobilized that strength, and sparked the spirit that turned into a fierce determination to win. For women who started out supporting a union, and ended up fighting a multi-national company, they came a long way. The spirit and strength that was realized through their struggle is just an example of what can be accomplished when women unite to work for a better future.

It is to that spirit, that determination, that strength, that we dedicate this conference.

We can make it happen!



AGENDA

Saturday, November 3, 1979

8:30 Registration

9:00 Opening Remarks

Common Women Players

Panel Discussion

10:30 Workshops

11:30 Workshops

12:30 Lunch

2:00 Workshops

3:00 Workshops

8:00 Coffee House

Sunday, November 4, 1979

9:00 Workshops

10:00 Workshops

11:00 Workshops

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Plenary Session

2:30 Closing

*Note: All delegates will hear all speakers.



PANEL MEMBERS



Marlene James New Liskard

I am assistant project manager for the New Liskard Women's Centre. Some of our projects include awareness groups, discovery groups, stop smoking groups, etc.

We also have groups for children including a drama program and a music appreciation program.

I am a member of the New Liskard skating club and the Alliance club.

Sandra Korpela Councillor, Sudbury

I have been involved in municipal politics for several years. I've participated on planning committees of citizens' groups such as the Minnow Lake Civic Association, the Greenwood Drive Ratepayers Association, Second Avenue Rent Geared to Income Group, and the Library Board. I've also taught.

I'm now an alderperson for Ward 1 in Sudbury. I'm the mother of two year old, Heidi, and I have my pilot's license.

I've travelled quite extensively in Europe, the Middle East, Yukon, and Canada.

Miscellaneous information: I'm single, 31 years young, and am dieting constantly.

Jenny H. Rajput, Ph.D. Sault Ste. Marie

University teaching positions -- I think I've held about 11 in as many years, all but one part-time.

Currently I teach Research Methods for Department of Sociology and Anthropology, at Algoma University College, Sault Ste. Marie, and "Tests and Measurement" for University of Northern Michigan graduate school extension at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Beginning in January, 1980, I will teach "Psychology of Women" at Algoma University College (whoopee).

I'm an active feminist, and belong to the following:

1. Concerned Women, Steering Committee (this is a small feminist organization in Sault Ste. Marie. At present it's the only organization in the Sault affiliated with N.A.C.)
2. Sault Ste. Marie and District Sexual Assault Centre; member, advisory board.
3. Sault Ste. Marie and District Women's Council; president.

Miscellaneous background: Married 13 quite tolerable years; have equitable distribution of children, i.e., one girl and one boy. Many pressing research interests include: a) how to make 24 hours per day equal 48, b) how to find any fit job in Sault Ste. Marie which is relevant to my education and past experience, c) how to keep in touch with sisters outside Sault Ste. Marie for less than \$50 a month long-distance phone charges.

WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

Sudbury Business and Professional Women's Association

The Sudbury B.P.W.A. is part of an international organization which was formed in Switzerland in 1930. Canada was one of the five countries at the founding conference. The purpose of the B.P.W.A. is to work for equality of the status of women, and it does this by speaking directly to the United Nations by presenting bills like equal pay legislation, law reforms, etc., at national conventions.

The Sudbury chapter of B.P.W.A. organized a Business Women Week in 1978 to honour women's different jobs; and plan another such event in 1980. Locally, the Association also helps women who have difficulties with employers, by working closely with the Human Rights Committee, the Labour Board, and Welfare. Any woman who work outside the home can belong to the Sudbury B.P.W.A. For more information, you should contact Susanne Cheyne (past president) or Nellie Lantagne, president.

Sudbury N.D.P.

During the last federal election campaign the N.D.P. established itself as the only political party prepared to deal seriously with issues of concern to women. The N.D.P. fully recognizes the valuable contribution that women make to society and believes that women must be considered as equal partners in today's social, public and economic life. The party will continue to address the question of equal pay for work of equal value, the fact that women at home have no pension plan and no recognition of the contribution they make, the fact that the poorest people in Canada are older women and the fact that the new Human Rights legislation does not protect Indian women. Ed Broadbent, leader of the N.D.P. has stated, "I am committed to fight for equal opportunities for all so that the dreams of Canadian women will count no less than the dreams of the Canadian men."

The Women's Centre Cambrian College, Sudbury

Women are revising their personal and public expectation of their lives, widening their career and vocational options and participating more freely in decision making areas of society. Self-direction and autonomy require encouragement, support and information.

The Women's Centre at Cambrian College offers books, films and materials available on loan on issues related to woman's changing status, her history and future. It provides counselling for individuals with personal or professional concerns, as well as referrals to local and provincial services/agencies.

For information, call 566-8101 and ask for the Women's Centre. Lynda James is the co-ordinator.

The Kirkland Lake Women's Centre Objectives:

1. To provide a place for women where they can be apart from their usual tasks and relationships.
2. To provide a place where children can learn, play and grow together in a creative atmosphere.
3. To provide a supportive atmosphere for building strength and confidence.
4. To provide a place to learn from other women.
5. To provide a place to work together.
6. To provide a place which can be a resource for women wishing to organize and learn together.
7. To offer a typewriter, a library, files, meeting rooms, films, discussion and a variety of 'resource women' with various skills.



Women Helping Women Sudbury

Women Helping Women is a feminist collective of Sudbury women which has been in existence since early 1977. We believe that women in our society are oppressed and that the source of this oppression is not only men, but is woven through the whole fabric of our society and is an integral part of the superstructure of this society. Our intent as a collective is to inform Sudbury women through education, publicity and action of the past and present roles of women in society and of local issues and problems affecting women.

For example: We have produced a handbook on services to women in the Sudbury area called, "Alternatives to Hysteria"; and two video tapes called, "Alternatives to Hysteria, Part 1 and Part 2".

We strive to inform other groups of our work and work towards unity of purpose. We work locally with a perspective towards building our movement here and elsewhere. All our actions and projects are decided collectively and democratically. We believe that we learn and grow through our actions.

During the coming months, we will be working on issues related to women's health and the food industry.

For more information on our group, contact P.O. Box 121, Station B, Sudbury, Ontario.



Sault Ste. Marie and District Women's Council

Purpose: To study and meet the needs of women in Sault Ste. Marie and District; to enable women to help themselves and others; to educate the public.

Major projects (in addition to conferences) since founding in January 1978: production of a reference booklet "Positive Solutions for Women", of which about 9,000 copies have been distributed since printing in early 1979; liaison with community women's groups, (currently producing a women's organization news bulletin); presently working to fulfill mandate to develop a financially viable Women's Resource Centre in the Sault.

North Bay Women's Resource Centre

The N.B. Women's Resource Centre began back in 1972, when women began meeting in a local church to discuss the Women's Movement. By 1976, we had presented films, organized discussion groups and debates and public speaking engagements in our community. Some past accomplishments are: parent co-op, the Mayor's Committee on the Status of Women, the Rape Crisis Centre, Big Sisters, Lamaze classes, the promotion of Bittersweet, which is a display of women's history. In 1976, we began operating as a resource centre with library facilities. Since then, we have offered workshops on singlehood, and women and violence to name a few.

The N.B. Women's Centre has a stable membership of about 40 women. A monthly meeting and a newsletter help to keep members in touch and informed. For more information, write to Box 891, North Bay, Ontario, P1B 8K1. Our office is at 152 Main Street, over the Capitol Theatre.

Sudbury Y.W.C.A.

The purpose of the Y.W.C.A. in Sudbury is:

"enriched by the Christian faith and by world-wide membership; the Young Women's Christian Association seeks to provide opportunities for personal growth, to deepen concern for human needs, and to act responsibly in the world community."

The Sudbury Y.W.C.A. carries out this purpose by providing a crisis centre for women and girls -- with or without children -- who are in need of housing and other help in times of marital or other conflict.

The Sudbury Native Women's Centre Aims and objectives:

1. To provide social activities to involve Native Women and Children in the city and surrounding areas of Sudbury.
2. To provide recreational activities to involve Native Women and Children in the city and surrounding areas of Sudbury.
3. To have regular visits to Native patients and elders in hospitals and homes.
4. To provide a means of communications for persons who are in need of some sort of counselling.
5. To help Native Women increase their feeling of adequacy and their sense of responsibility through planning, developing and managing self projects.
6. To provide an environment in which Native Children can be taught their language and history such as in a day care centre.
7. To provide Native students with summer projects.
8. To provide a means by which the skills in crafts can be developed, e.g., beadwork, crochet, quilt-making, etc.

Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre

Objectives:

1. To improve the quality of the role played by women in Thunder Bay and the surrounding region and to assist women in developing and making use of their own capacities in order to better meet personal and social problems;
2. To facilitate the development of a sense of community among women in Thunder Bay and surrounding region;
3. To provide information to women regarding women's activities and to participate in studies and research connected with women;
4. To provide women with opportunities for involvement in community activities by suggesting ways of initiating collective or individual community action with the aim of improving social conditions;
5. To assist in making available communication links and co-operating with various groups in Thunder Bay and the surrounding region;
6. To provide counselling and referral, extensive resource material, speakers and resource people on request and a place for women to drop in and to sponsor educational programs.

Femmes en mouvement de Sudbury

[FEMS]

Un groupe de femmes francophones se forme. Etant donné que leur conditionnement et leur passé est différent, elles se retrouve d'une différente situation. Fems est née en juillet '79. Fems voudrait se libérer de leur conditionnement et offrir aux futurs femmes un meilleur monde.

Vous pouvez nous contacter à cette address:

Line Jolicoeur
211 Shaughnessy
Sudbury, Ontario
P3E 3E6

MY CHILD

There you sit
singing songs
of liberation
and abandon
voice
lifted high
in celebration:
reminds me of someone
i once was

Up you start again:
your determination amazes me
-- Don't you know that
we can never get it right?

Joan Mulcahy



BETTER WAYS

Where will you be my daughter
When the sun goes down?
I've watched your eyes, I've heard your sighs
I've seen you fret and frown

The streets are no place daughter
To try to understand
Your body's sold - your mind's your own
Come let me take your hand

Why can't your youth be joyful
And your eyes be bright
I want to know, I'm troubled so
Where do you go at night?

I, too, had to grow up in this city
And maybe you have pressures I can't know
I have to fight for you - you will have to fight it too
And daughter - the dawn is breaking now

There are better ways of growing up a woman
And maybe you can't see the problems clear
The struggle will go on until the answers dawn
And daughter, I know our time is here

Yes daughter - our time is really here
Miriam Amsel

WAITING FOR TEAPOT TO BOIL

Waiting for teapot to boil
Your face looms
quasi-menacing
before the mirror
of my mind's eye
Beckoning
Retreating
finally
Out of reach

Joan Mulcahy

HAPPINESS

Happiness is struggle,
in the midst of storm and strife,
I embrace each new tomorrow
in my snakes and ladder life.
Up the stair and down the slide
on the edge of nevermore,
sometimes riding on the rainbow
often lower than the floor.
I'm a Woman, I'm a Woman,
I can crow as well as bleed
and I'll bite the tongue that tells me
sympathy is what I need.
For what I need, I have already
What I want I may not see
But the struggle..God..the struggle
is the breath of life to me.

Common Women Players



PROGRESSION

*I have played with dolls
and learned to sew
and cook*

*I have scrubbed floors
and dusted surfaces
and made beds*

*I have joined in marriage
and have learned to compromise
and to sigh*

*I have been to school
and have the paper proof
and no job*

*I have helped create a life
and looked at him with wonder
and laughed and cried*

*I have found a morsel of love
and felt cared for
and alone*

*I have written a poem
and smiled at a thought
and have grown*

Miriam Amsel

POEM [UNTITLED]

*To license a car, they charge a fee,
Twenty dollars or more it seems to me.
To drive a car, they test your eyes,
But not to tie the "bind that tries".
To enter into wedded bliss,
They charge \$10 if I'm not amiss.*

*You study to get a vocation for life,
But where do you learn to be husband and wife?*

*In a contract that says "til death do us part",
A \$500 licence would do for a start,
Renewable yearly, with eye tests of course,
Closed eyes are par for the matrimonial course,
And if ever the need would come to be,
A \$50 charge for the Final Decree.*

*A car we're licensed to drive, but in marriage,
Who qualifies to drive a baby carriage?*

*Lovers locked in fond embrace will pall,
Disturbed by a wee voice down the hall;
The honeymoon's over, if the two don't share
All the problems that are going to be there;
Cold dinners, dirty dishes, dirty clothes,
Sleepless nights, dirty diapers, runny nose.*

*Measles, mumps, fevers, chicken pox too,
Ear aches, sore throats and the flu.
Broken hearts, broken toys, broken bones,
Broken glass, stitches, shrieks and moans.
"Where's my hat? Where's my coat?"
"Jane's got a new dress, while I do without!"*

*When finally you can sleep a night through,
You find Nature has played a trick on you.
Those kids with whom you walked the floor,
You now wait for at 1 a.m. to come through the door.*

*And in lots of cases when the hard work is done,
A partner in marriage finds there are not two, but one.
I.M. Nickerson*

INCREASE AND MULTIPLY

"The word is flesh! Made Flesh!"

*Celebrate high priests and Pope
Preach peace and love of man;*

*Then ban the Pill
To hungry, fertile peasants
So they will
Increase and Multiply,*

*Give praise to God Almighty,
Starve and Die.*

Josephine Boldt

UNTITLED

*Anger
my nemesis
returned to haunt
it makes me
chainsmoke
drink bitter black coffee
have horrid killing thoughts
pound pillows
hate people
shed countless pointless tears
give up.*

Joan Mulcahy

GNAWING HATES

*Leaves falling, decay,
Old friends bent.
Pneumatic drills outside,
Or in my mouth.*

*Dripping taps, cherry gum breath,
Unfinished meals in restaurants,
Dirty Diapers,
Ice and fog, split garbage,
Castor oil and epsom salts,
Half fried eggs, Boston pie,*

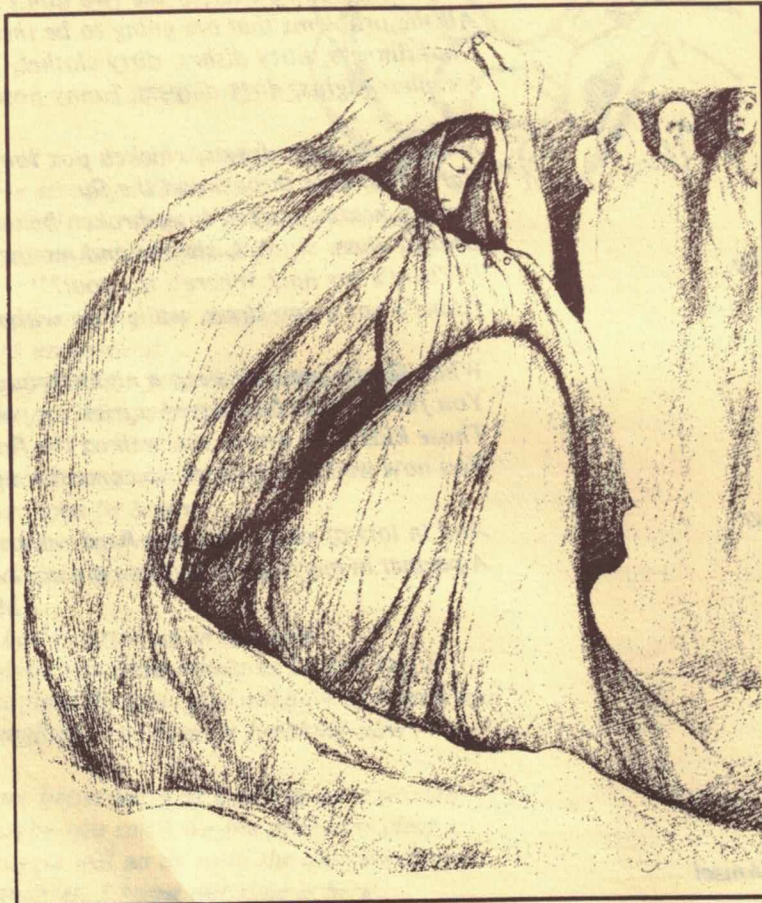
*Burnt roast, weak tea,
Lavender, new shoes.*

*Guinness and filter tips,
Burnt beef and soggy cabbage,
Junk mail, no mail,
Letters unwritten and bills.*

*No male to mind, missing buttons,
Broken zippers, boring T.V.
Steep heights, deep holes.*

*Losing pens and glasses
Keys and phone numbers.
Hearty voices saying "Guess Who"
When I rush to the phone
At dinnertime.
Bitten nails, and bills.
Ironing and dirty dishes
And shopping for clothes.
More letters unwritten and bills
And, hating all this.*

Josephine Boldt



NEWS

adults crowded
babies shrouded
stuffed in corners
of a hold:
cold
rain
wind
sleet
never enough to eat

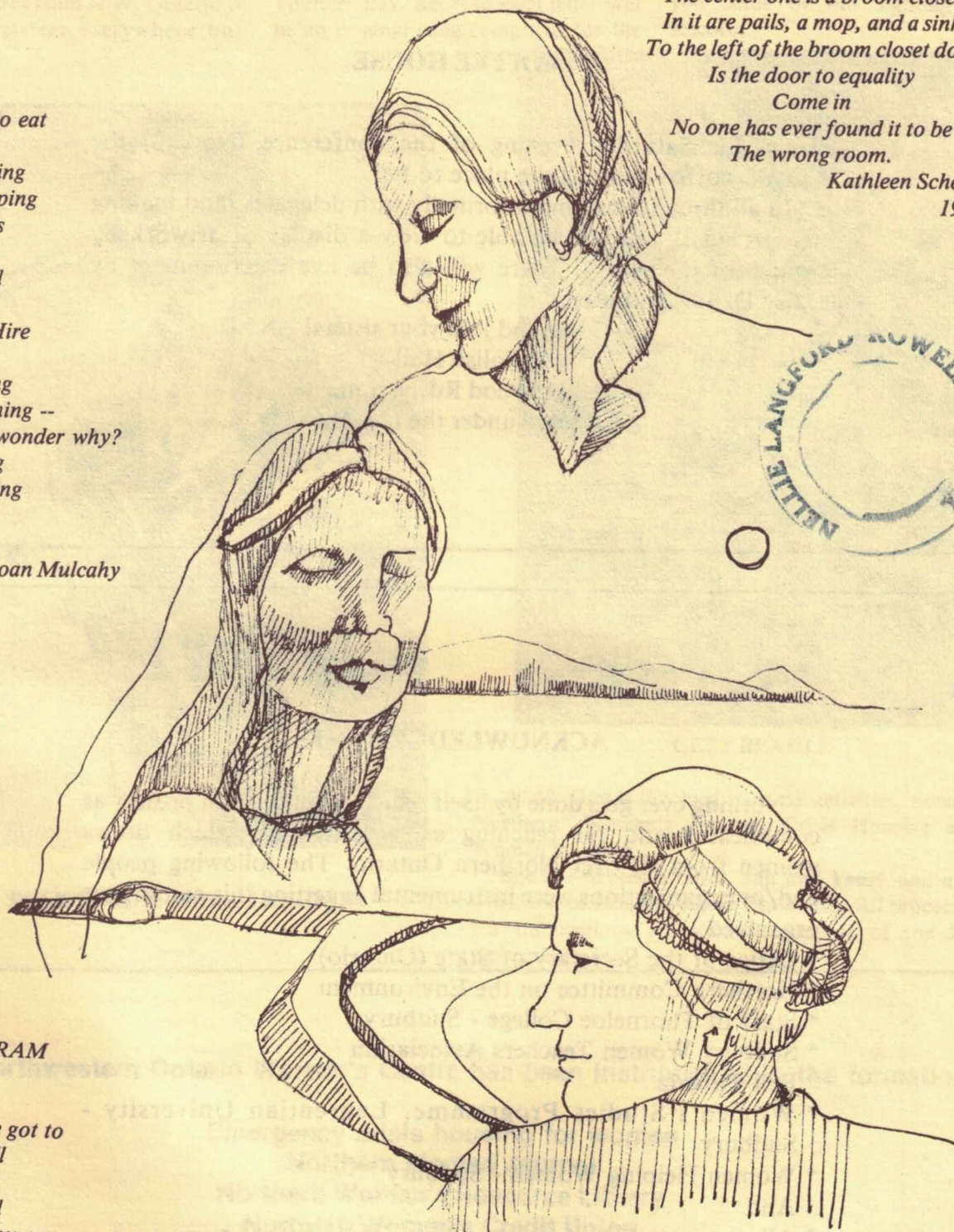
soldiers pounding
tanks are tramping
foreign beaches
are on fire:
we have caused
abomination --
Assassins for Hire

mothers sobbing
children screaming --
who are we to wonder why?
fathers working
gods still shirking
lay us down
to die

Joan Mulcahy

On the right is
The door to the ladies' room
Next to it
Is the door to a classroom
The center one is a broom closet
In it are pails, a mop, and a sink
To the left of the broom closet door
Is the door to equality
Come in
No one has ever found it to be
The wrong room.

Kathleen Schella
1973



EPIGRAM

Sister,
you have got to
stand tall
act tall
think tall
before you can
be tall

Joan Mulcahy

COFFEE HOUSE

On the Saturday evening of the conference (Nov. 3) the NOWC coffee house is the place to be!

In addition to meeting informally with delegates (and making new friends!) you will be able to view a display of artwork by women of the North. There will also be live entertainment by Daisy Debolt and others.

Come and join your sisters!
Polish Hall
212 Frood Rd., 8 p.m.
Licensed under the L.L.B.O.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Nothing ever gets done by itself - and certainly not a project as complicated and far reaching as a conference which draws women from all over Northern Ontario. The following people and/or organizations were instrumental in getting this conference organized:

- * Office of the Secretary of State (Ontario)
- * Northern Committee on the Environment
- * Staff of Thorneloe College - Sudbury
- * Sudbury Women Teachers Association
- * Bell Canada
- * Women's Studies Programme, Laurentian University - Sudbury
- * Women Helping Women - Sudbury
- And
- * All the women who organized participation from centres outside Sudbury

Thanks

Letters from N.W. Ontario

Saturday morning, in the Sheridan Auditorium, the Common Woman Players, a feminist theatre group from Thunder Bay, will be presenting a short play entitled **Letters from N.W. Ontario**. Letters from N.W. Ontario is directed to sisters everywhere but

particularly to those attending the Northern Ontario Women's Conference. The letters are from Pickle Lake (a mining Boom Town), McDermid Indian Reservation, Atikokan and Thunder Bay. Between each letter will be an original song composed for the

preceding letter and sung by Margaret Lanchok. To quote from Gert Beadle, a member of the Common Woman Players, "we are all members of the feminist Sisterhood and hope to bring you some of our fighting spirit".
Encore.



FOLK SINGER MARG LANCHOK



GERT BEADLE

At 64, Gert is involved in many activities, notably the Northern Women's Journal, Crisis Housing and the Women's Centre.

She has written a book, **Salt and Yeast**, and a second work will be released before Christmas. All proceeds from her publications are used in support of the feminist movement.

The Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre has been instrumental in the formation of:

- Emergency crisis housing for women**
- Northern Woman Journal**
- Northern Woman's Resource Library**
- Northern Women's Credit Union**
- Thunder Bay Rape and Sexual Assault Centre**
- Northwestern Ontario International Women's Decade Co-ordinating Council**

GREETINGS from

The Northern Woman

316 Bay Street,
Thunder Bay, Ont.

THE NORTHERN WOMAN JOURNAL IS NOW
IN ITS SIXTH YEAR OF PRINTING!

Subscribe: Six Issues
\$4.50 year
\$2.00 Business
or Institution

"WOMEN,

DON'T AGONIZE,



ORGANIZE!"

**WOMEN HELPING WOMEN
SUDBURY**

UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CLUB of Sudbury meets at Lockerby Composite every third Monday of each month at 8:00 p.m.

The Women's Studies Programme at Laurentian University greets the SECOND NORTHERN ONTARIO WOMEN'S CONFERENCE. Northern Ontario Women are really getting it together, and so is the Women's Studies Programme. If you want to contact us, call 675-1151 ext. 613.

Best Wishes

for a
successful
conference

Sudbury NDP Riding

Association

Congratulations and Best Wishes
Northern Ontario Women's Conference
BUDD GERMA M.P.P.

GREETINGS from
The Kirkland Lake and District
Chamber
of
Commerce

Best Wishes for a
Successful Conference
JOHN RODRIGUEZ
M.P. NICKEL BELT

Greetings from:

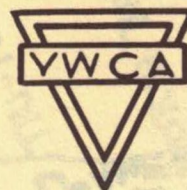


**Local 579
Retail, Wholesale and
Department Store Union**

AFL: CIO: CLC

**19 Regent St. S.,
Sudbury, Ontario**

SUDBURY YWCA



- * Residence provides accommodation and meals for women 16 years of age and over.
- * Provision for those with or without children.
- * Qualified counsellor on staff as needed.
- * Weekly recreational program for women.
- * Nickel creations - the Jewelry we make using local ore is on sale.

**WOMEN'S PROGRAMS
CONFEDERATION COLLEGE
EDUCATION TOWARDS EQUALITY**



WHAT:

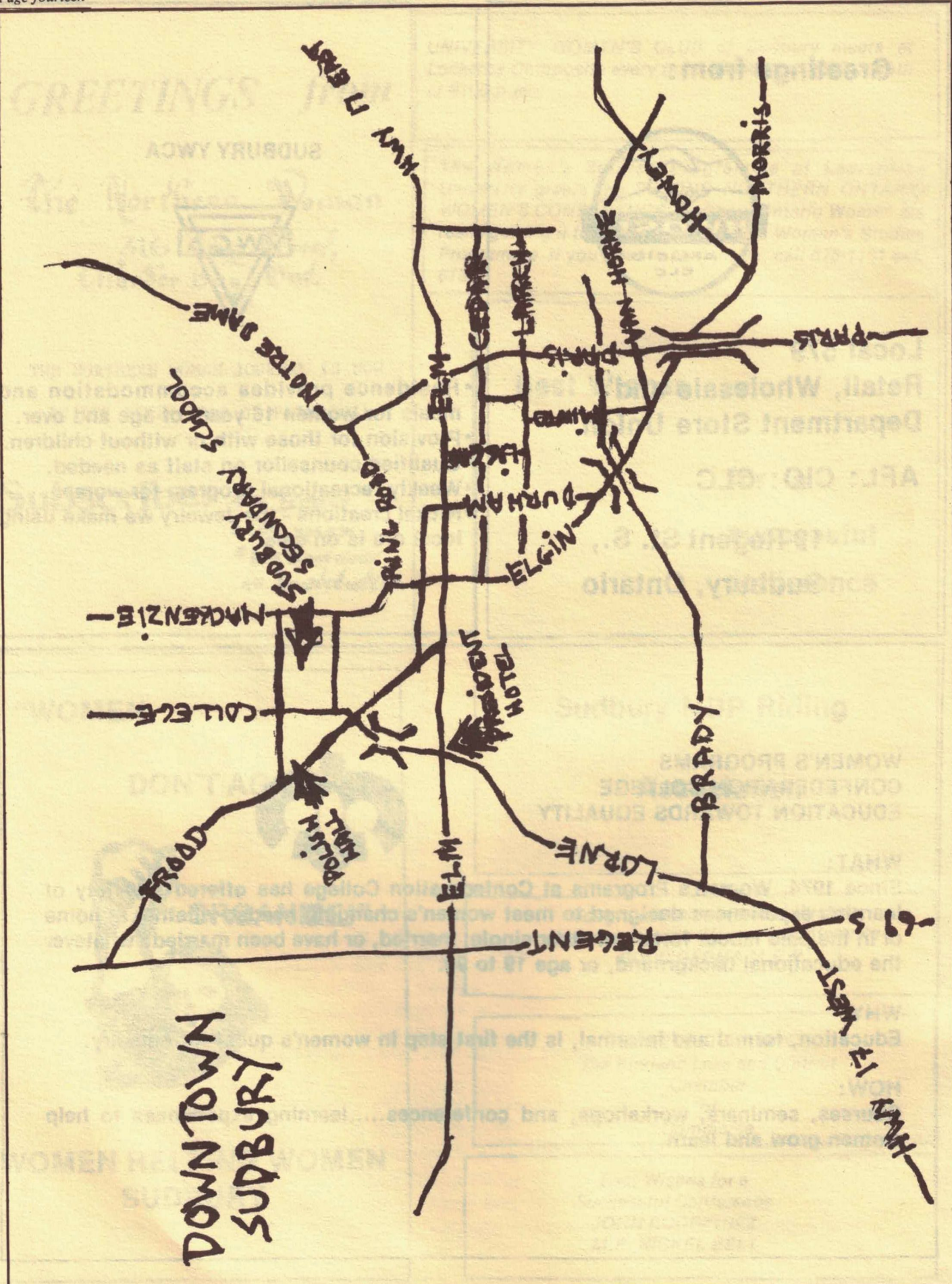
Since 1974, Women's Programs at Confederation College has offered a variety of learning experiences designed to meet women's changing needs; whether at home or in the paid labour force; whether single, married, or have been married; whatever the educational background, or age 19 to 90.

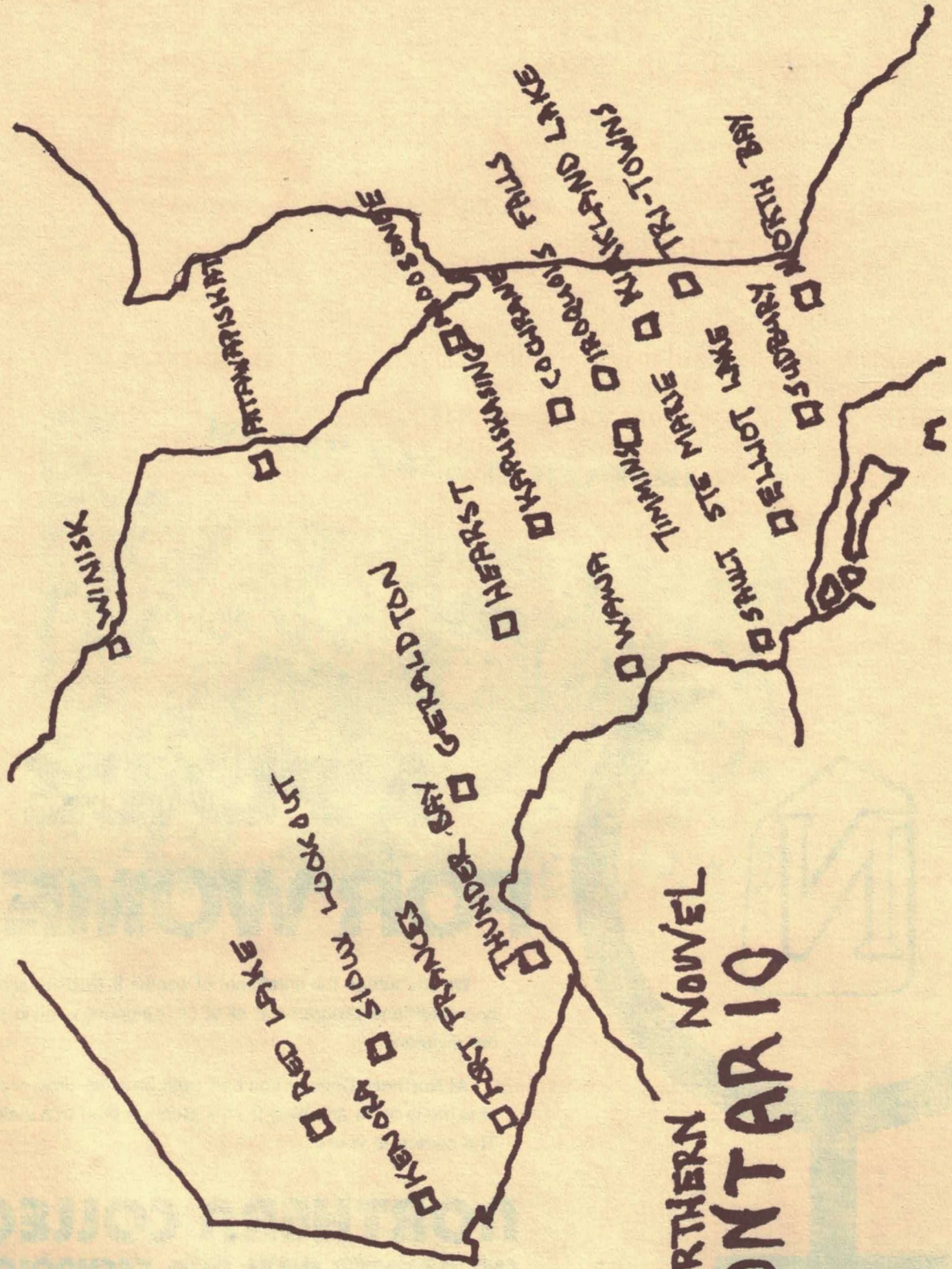
WHY:

Education, formal and informal, is the first step in women's quest for equality.

HOW:

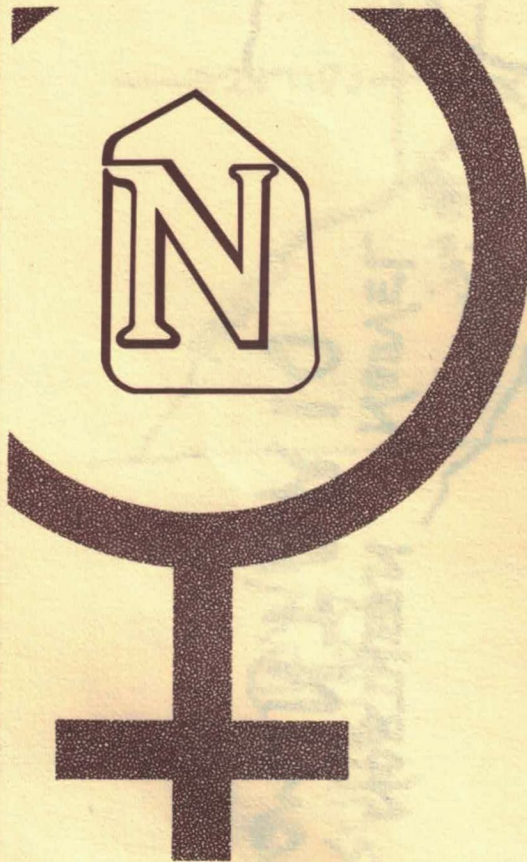
Courses, seminars, workshops, and conferences.....learning experiences to help women grow and learn.





NORTHERN NOUVEL
ONTARIO

NOTES



A PLACE FOR WOMEN

We encourage the enrolment of women in traditional and non-traditional programs at all of our campuses and in all of our divisions.

At Northern College you can train on a full-time or part time basis to be anything from a stenographer to a welder. The choice is yours.

NORTHERN COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY

PORCUPINE CAMPUS
P.O. BOX 2002
SOUTH PORCUPINE, ONTARIO
P0N 1N0

235-3211

HIRKLAND LAKE CAMPUS
140 GOVERNMENT RD. E.
HIRKLAND LAKE, ONTARIO
P2N 3L2

SCHOOL OF MINES
P.O. BOX 849
HALEVURBY, ONTARIO
P0J 1N0

672-3376



