

SISTERHOOD

WOMEN FOR
UNIONISM,
SOLIDARITY



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SEPTEMBER 5, 1996



Together we can be **STRONG!**

As Workers' Worldwide Celebrate Labour Day, let us take a moment to remember the achievements that women now enjoy, and reflect on the economic and social reality that continues to be a roadblock for women.

The International Labour Office states "Women swell ranks of working poor-lower wages and longer hours hinder women's progress."

- Women continue to work longer hours and are paid on average 25 percent less than men, but have made significant gains in entering formerly male-dominated jobs in the labour force. The bottom line is that while more and more women are working, the greater majority of them are simply swelling the ranks of the working poor. Women's economic activities remain highly concentrated in low-wage, low-productivity and precarious employment.
- Women make up nearly 70 percent of the world's poor and 65 percent of the world's illiterate. More than 45 percent of all the world's women (aged

15-64) are now economically active. In industrialized countries, more than half of all women work, compared to roughly 37 percent of Western European women and 30 percent of US women just two decades ago.

- The majority of women earn on average about three-fourths of the male wage for the same work. Outside the agricultural sector in both developed and developing countries, the gap is not decreasing.
- Women's unemployment rates run from 50 to 100 percent greater than for men in many industrialized countries.
- Women hold less than six percent of senior management jobs in the world.
- In the 28 countries of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development, the number of women in the labour force grew by more than twice the rate for men between 1980 and 1990.



unpaid work (in the home), while men spend between 5-15 hours in unpaid work.

- Some women have breached the glass ceiling to occupy top level jobs.
- Women are forming their own businesses at a greater rate than men in the United States.
- Pay equity laws adopted by many countries in both developed and developing regions have made a difference in women's pay.
- Improved working conditions including child care services and family-friendly workplaces and the social protection for some female workers has helped them reconcile work and family responsibilities.
- Collective bargaining has helped promote gender equality in many countries.
- More women are joining unions and unions are increasingly sensitive to gender issues.

Nonetheless, "Equality of opportunity and treatment for women in employment has yet to be achieved anywhere in the world."

TAKE BACK THE NIGHT

Friday, September 20, 1996
RALLY - 6:30 pm, with music, information & speakers
MARCH - 8:00 pm, signs & musical instruments welcome

- Everyone invited to Rally
- Women and Children Only Marching

Meet at Memorial Peace Park Bandstand on 224th St., Maple Ridge.

Sponsored by the Ridge Meadows Women's Centre Society. For more information call 460-0064.

and

Friday, September 20, 1996 at 7:00 pm
Trout Lake, corner of Victoria and East 15th Avenue

- Sign language interpreters and mobility attendants will be available

For more information and to pre-register for childcare, call 872-8212.

Organized by Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter in association with the Canadian Association of Sexual Assault Centres.

The Vancouver Status of Women turns 25!

We plan to celebrate our birthday in style with a gala event at the Vancouver Public Library on Saturday, November 2 at 8:00 pm.

Along with Sawagi Taiko and assorted Vancouver Status of Women alumnae (confirmed speakers include Rosemary Brown, Gene Errington, Susan O'Donnell,

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS ON
THE DRAFT OCCUPATIONAL
HEALTH & SAFETY REGULATIONS**

Hearings to provide for public comment on proposed new health and safety regulations will be conducted by the Workers' Compensation Board of BC.

Public hearings begin in Richmond on September 17 and conclude October 4. You may also make a submission in writing at any time up to October 18. All written submissions will be included in the public hearing record and receive consideration.

Those wishing to make an oral presentation, please notify the Secretariat for Regulation Review before the hearing date. A written copy of the oral submission should be provided at least three calendar days before the hearing.

For hearing locations or to obtain a copy of the proposed regulations from the Secretariat for Regulation Review, or from any WCB office, the Secretariat's mailing address is: **Secretariat for Regulation Review, Worker's Compensation Board, PO Box 5350, Vancouver, BC, V6B 5L5. The telephone number is 604-231-8600 or toll free in BC at 1-888-992-6622. Fax: 604-279-7604.**

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Patty Moore and Agnes Huang), our featured guests will be Judy Rebeck and Kike Roach, who will be launching their new book, **Politically Speaking**. The main event will be preceded by a social hour, from 6:30 to 7:30 pm, where you'll have a chance to catch up with old friends and make some new ones.

Women in the labour movement have given the Vancouver Status of Women much appreciated support over the years, and I'm sure many of you will want to join us on **November 2**. We look forward to seeing you there.

NOTE: If you can help by selling advance tickets or volunteering at the event, please call Audrey Johnson, Vancouver Status of Women administrator and fundraiser, at 255-6554.



On September 9, 1996, Canada Post will be issuing a special family literacy stamp. This semi-postal stamp will sell for .50 cents, and five cents from each stamp will be donated to ABC Canada to support family literacy initiatives. Destined to become a collectors item, it is the first stamp in history with a hole in it!

ABC Canada Literacy Foundation support the development of an educated, flexible and fulfilled workforce through fostering lifelong learning. They raise awareness of literacy issues, encourage workplace literacy programs and support local literacy organizations.

The ABC Canada Board of Directors is composed of labour, business and educational leaders, including B.C. Federation of Labour President Ken Georgetti.

THE NEW WESTMINSTER & DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL

30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

An evening of entertainment
and Special Guests

The Honourable Glen Clark
Premier of B.C.

Saturday, October 5, 1996

6:00 pm Cocktails

7:00 pm Dinner

Operating Engineers Hall
4333 Ledger Avenue, Burnaby

Tickets \$40.00

**Call 524-9311 to order your
tickets**

**Proceeds to go to the Political
Action Fund in support of the
1996 Municipal Elections.**