

SISTERHOOD

WOMEN FOR
UNIONISM,
SOLIDARITY



OCTOBER HAS BEEN DESIGNATED BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH!

Breast cancer continues to be one of the diseases that affects an increasing number of women.

Once again we can look back on the lives of those women who have battled this disease. This time is set aside to heighten public awareness of a horrendous disease that strikes down women regardless of age.

In British Columbia this year, over 2,800 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed. Six hundred women will die of this disease.

Women with breast cancer deserve to be heard; in the media, in public forums and the political arena, in all levels of government. They deserve increased monetary support in an effort to find a cure for this disease.

We must fight to make breast cancer a thing of the past. Public awareness shouldn't stop at the end of October. This disease robs women of their dignity, takes mothers from their children, wives from their husbands/partners.

Get involved and support the activities in your communities including:

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- **October 8** - Revlon Kiss for the Cure Awareness Day Breakfast (Victoria). Call 384-3328 for information.
- **October 17** - Revlon Kiss for the Cure Awareness Day Breakfast and Luncheon (Vancouver). Call the Cdn. Breast Cancer Foundation at 875-2020 or 1-800-561-6111.
- **October 20** - Unveiling the first panel of the Life Quilt for Breast Cancer (Vancouver).
- **October 21-28** - Reaching for the Light: A Breast Cancer Art Show (Bellingham). Call 879-2323 or 1-800-663-4242 for information.
- **October 27** - Honda Run for the Cure in (Vancouver, Victoria and Kelowna) and Run for the Cure (Vernon). Call the Cdn. Breast Cancer Foundation at 875-2020 or 1-800-561-6111 for information.

CHILDCARE PILOT PROJECT

On September 30, 1996, the Ministry of Women's Equality announced the opening of an innovative childcare pilot project in Surrey, BC. The project will provide mobile and multilingual childcare services.

This project delivered through the Surrey childcare support program, will test ways to improve services to the multicultural community through a multilingual child care magazine, interpretive and translating services, community outreach and a mobile childcare support program.

Other strategic initiative projects announced today include:

- A regional demonstration project to test new ways of improving the quality and accessibility of childcare in the licence-not-required sector.
- A project to test an in-home model for rural childcare, including seasonal, shift work and emergency childcare services.
- A demonstration project to test ways of reducing costs and improving quality of licenced, licence-not-required and emergency childcare in North Shore, Sea-to-Sky and Sunshine Coast Regions.
- Childcare support programs are funded by the Ministry of Women's Equality and operated by non-profit community groups. They provide support and training for childcare providers and information referral services for parents.
- The Childcare Strategic Initiative is a four-year \$32 million agreement to stabilize and expand childcare in British Columbia.

**For further information, contact:
Linda Jacobsen, Human Resources
Development Canada.**

**Phone: (604) 666-8377
(Vancouver) or Trish Shields,
Ministry of Women's Equality,
Phone: (604) 387-3617 (Victoria).**

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

This October marks the fifth anniversary of the nationally-proclaimed Women's History Month. In commemoration of this event, the Ministry of Women's Equality will be featuring women pioneers who made a difference in their communities and politics. For more information on the above, please write to:

**Communications & Public Education
Division, Ministry of Women's Equality,
756 Fort Street, Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
Ph: 604-387-3600
Fax: 604-356-1396 or visit the
Ministry of Women's Equality on the
web site: <http://www.weg.gov.bc.ca>**

(Excerpts)

"The doors through which we walked when we entered politics were opened for us in large part by women who had the courage to fight for the right to take their place alongside the statesman of their day... We can do no less. We must open doors and we must see to it they remain open, so that others may pass through."

**Rosemary Brown,
Member of the BC Legislature from
1972-1986**

Mattie Gunterman worked the logging, mining and railroad camps of BC with her husband Will, their son Henry and a camera. In 1902, she was head chef for 40 men at the Nettie-L silver mine, one of more than 100 mines in the mountains around Trout Lake and Ferguson in the West Kootenays.

"I will make it the business of my life to see that the doors will be open, that women may have the same opportunities as men."

Dr. Emily Jennings Stowe,
first woman doctor in Canada

"I do not want to be the angel of any home; I want for myself what I want for other women, absolute equality. After that is secured, then men and women can take turns at being angels."

Agnes Macphail
Canada's first woman Member of
Parliament

DID YOU KNOW

- British Columbia women won the right to vote in provincial elections on April 5, 1917 -- but only if they came from a certain heritage.
- Women and men of Chinese and South Asian descent had to wait until after World War II, until 1947, before they were allowed to vote in BC.
- Aboriginal and Japanese people had to wait two years longer -- until 1949 -- before they could vote here.
- Aboriginal people were not allowed to vote in federal elections until 1960.

WOMEN IN CANADIAN HISTORY QUIZ

1. Who was the president of the Canadian Suffrage Association in 1912:
 - a. Emily Stowe
 - b. Nellie McClung
 - c. Flora Denison
2. She is an artist, a 1982 Order of Canada recipient and a tireless volunteer worker for the rights of persons with disabilities. Who is she?
 - a. Marilyn Bell
 - b. Ethel Catherwood
 - c. Elizabeth Semkiw
3. In what year did the Firth twins, Sheila and Sharon, the first aboriginal women to represent Canada at the Olympics, compete in cross-country skiing?
 - a. 1928
 - b. 1954
 - c. 1972
 - d. 1984
4. In 1985, 45 percent of female high school students said their main goal for the future is...
 - a. To get through university and establish a career
 - b. To get married
 - c. Travel
 - d. Go straight to work
5. Who was the first aboriginal woman in Canada to be appointed Justice of the Peace?
 - a. Agnes Semmler
 - b. Thanadelthur
 - c. Ruby Dunstan

6. Which woman attained the highest position in the Canadian Women's Army Corps during WWII?
- a. Willa Walker
 - b. Margaret Eaton
 - c. Adelaide Sinclair
 - d. Nell West
7. During WWII, the Air Force, Army and Navy employed female labour in the ground crews, behind desks and on the shore, in order to release men for combat duty. What were three well-known mottoes of the women's services that reflected the position of women within the Armed Forces?
- a. "We're in the Army now"; "Our aid is vital"; "Women on the front lines."
 - b. "We serve that men may fly"; "We serve that men may fight"; "We are the women behind the men behind the guns."

QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1.c. **Flora Denison**, a white, working-class suffragist in Toronto was the president. She raised money to pay the Association's rent through dressmaking and a feminist vegetarian restaurant she owned and operated.
- 2.c. Disabled since birth, **Elizabeth Semkiw** received the Order of Canada in 1982 for advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities. In the 1970s, she volunteered with such organizations as the Manitoba Chapter of the Muscular Dystrophy Association and the Manitoba Association for Rights and Liberties.
- 3.c. **1972**
- 4.b. **To get married**
- 5.a. **Agnes Semmler**, a Loucheux Metis of Unuvik, Northwest Territories became Canada's first woman aboriginal Justice of the Peace in 1975.
- 6.b. **Colonel Margaret Eaton**, of the Timothy Eaton family, was the Director of the Canadian Women's Army Corps.
- 7.b. **"We serve that men may fly"; "We serve that men may fight"; "We are the women behind the men, behind the guns."**