

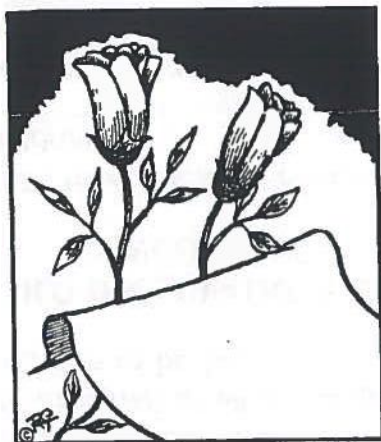
# SISTERHOOD

WOMEN FOR  
UNIONISM,  
SOLIDARITY



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## CONVENTION ISSUE



### DECEMBER 6 REMEMBERED

Friday, December 6, 1996, marks the seventh anniversary of the massacre of 14 women at Montreal's L'Ecole Polytechnique. In 1991, Members of Parliament unanimously approved NDP MP Dawn Black's Private Members Bill declaring December 6 to be a National Day of Remembrance and Action on male violence against women.

For women and men across this country, December 6 has come to symbolize the reality that women live with the fear and threat of violence every day. It has reinforced the message that living with the reality of violence is not acceptable. The message of December 6 is remembrance and action for change. What can you do? Participate in December 6 marches, rallies, vigils, film showings or any activity in your

community. If there are no activities planned, start one.

Ensure that the issue of ending violence against women is kept alive. Issue press releases and posters if you are holding an event. Don't buy violent toys and games for your children. Hundreds of millions of dollars are spent on toy guns, warplanes, violent video games and action figures that feed the image of power through aggression. As long as children are given opportunities to exercise violence, they will grow up thinking that violence is a means to respond to conflict and to solve problems.

As adults, we should know the difference between imagination, fantasy, play and reality. Children undergo a learning process to develop the judgment necessary to differentiate between make believe and reality.

It is adults who have created a world where violence is considered attractive and acceptable, and who own the companies that make profit producing and selling these toys and the advertisements, television shows and movies that tie into them. As parents and responsible adults, we must draw the line and teach that violence has no place in our homes, our lives and our communities.



Use your power as a consumer to send a clear message to manufacturers and retailers that use advertising that demeans women or glorifies violence.

### **CHILD LABOUR UPDATE**

The International Labour Organization (ILO) doctrine on child labour is clear; it should be abolished. International labour standards reflect that conviction, but observance of those standards needs to be reinforced. While ratifications of child labour standards are set to increase, to date only 49 of ILO's 173 member countries have ratified the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138). Of the 49 ratifications, only 21 are from developing countries and none are from Asia, where over half of all working children are to be found.

### **ILO OBSERVATIONS & CONCLUSIONS**

- Child labour affects millions of children.
- Poverty is the main cause, but not the only cause, of child labour.
- Under no circumstances is poverty an excuse for child labour.
- No single agency can solve the problem of child labour on its own.

- Child labour needs to be confronted by all social actors on all fronts.
- National policy needs to attack both the problem and its causes.

### **EMPLOYERS HAVE PLEDGED TO COMBAT CHILD LABOUR**

A resolution was adopted by the International Organization of Employees' (IOE) General Council on June 3 in Geneva to launch its first ever action program against child labour. The focus is to put an end to the most intolerable aspects of child labour, while working towards its eventual total elimination.

This program centers on creating a healthy working environment and education and training opportunities for working children, while compiling examples of members' activities in a handbook which will serve as a guide on best practice.

IOE members will immediately take steps to put an end to slave-like and dangerous forms of child labour, while developing formal policies with a view to its eventual elimination in all sectors.

### **CHILDCARE PROGRAM POSTCARD CAMPAIGN**

If the federal Liberal government really wants to celebrate Canada's children on November 20, it should

implement a **Childcare Program** for Canada, as promised in the Red

Book during the 1993 federal election campaign. The CLC and the Childcare Advocacy Association of Canada have launched a postcard campaign "**Keep a Promise, we need a childcare program for Canada now**". Copies of this postcard will be in the Convention kits.

### **NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND ACTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

On December 6, 1989, fourteen women were killed in the massacre at L'Ecole Polytechnique, Montreal, Quebec. To mark this day, a number of agencies throughout the province will be raising awareness of the continuing violence against women.

- The BC Institute on Family Violence and the BC/Yukon Society of Transition Houses will be holding an information table at 601 West Cordova Street, Vancouver. Call Barbara Sherman at 604-669-7055.

The YWCA of Vancouver is sponsoring **THE CLOTHSLINE PROJECT**, a visual display bearing witness to violence against women. People whose lives have been affected by violence are asked to decorate white T-shirts reflecting their own particular experience. These shirts will be on display at 535 Hornby Street and

unveiled in a public commemoration on December 6 at 12:15 p.m.

- The YWCA is the national distributor of the Rose Button. To get involved, or for more information, contact the Communications Dept. of the YWCA of Canada at 1-416-593-9886, fax 1-416-971-8084 or e-mail: [Kathy@ywcacanada.ca](mailto:Kathy@ywcacanada.ca)



### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**CLC Events - December 6 - Action plan this year by the CLC includes:** postcards which build upon the anti-violence demands of the Women's March Against Poverty. The message is "**We took a Stand Against Poverty and Violence in the Lives of Women.**"

One postcard will be sent to the Prime Minister demanding that the federal government commit \$50 million in core funding to women's services directed against violence, and one card will be a memento for the sender. These postcards will be in the Convention kit.

### **1997 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE DATES!**

The B.C. Federation of Labour will again hold two **Women's Conferences in 1997**. Powell River and Kamloops will be the locations

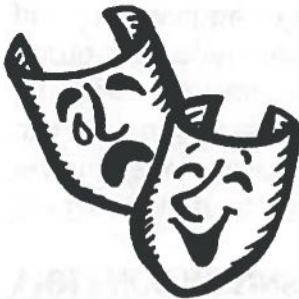
for our fifth set of regional women's weekend events.

Reserve March 21 and 22 for Powell River and April 18 and 19 for Kamloops. Watch for further details in '97.

## **SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR UNION WOMEN**

The sixth Summer Institute for Union Women is scheduled for July 5 - 9, 1997, at Simon Fraser University. More details will be available in the new year.

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## **WOMEN'S SOCIAL EVENING**

Once again the Federation is holding a Women's Social Evening at Convention. Our presentation this year will be a 35-minute Justice Theatre dramatization, put on by the People's Law School, which highlights some of the difficulties faced by women during an organizational drive.

All of the cast members will have Canadian Actors' Equity contracts.

**Date: Monday, November 25, 1996**  
**Time: 7:00 p.m.**  
**Place: Westin Bayshore Hotel**  
**1601 West Georgia Street**

**"STANLEY PARK ROOM"**

## **CONGRATULATIONS!**

Good luck to Director Christine Skrepetz, who is on leave from the Federation beginning immediately after Convention to work with the new Ministry of Children and Families as Ministerial Assistant to the Honourable Penny Priddy. Christine was the Director of Women's Programs for three years and has recently been working on the Health and Safety and Organizing Campaigns.

We also belatedly send congratulations to former Federation Director Mary Rowles, who was Director of Women's Programs, Legislative and Research and Communications during her six years at the Federation. Mary is on leave while working as Assistant to Bob White, President of the CLC.

***We will miss you, Sisters!***

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