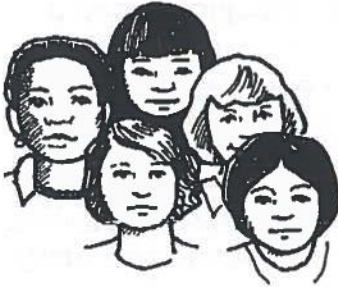


SISTERHOOD

WOMEN FOR
UNIONISM,
SOLIDARITY



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WOMEN'S VOTES IN BC WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN ELECTING AN NDP GOVERNMENT FOR A SECOND TERM

Well sisters, we have managed to stem the swing to the right with the re-election of the NDP in British Columbia. Polls have shown that the NDP had significantly more support among women than men.

Since the margin of victory by the NDP is so narrow, we can be sure that our hard-won gains will be under constant attack by the reactionary right. Witness the call by Gordon Campbell and the Liberals for the movement of the Women's Ministry of Equality to the Premier's office. We now have 4-5 years to build on our past achievements.

The struggle goes on. We must continue to focus and organize around the issues - the improvement to the minimum wage, breaking the cycle of violence against women, increasing the number of transition houses, increasing the number of childcare spaces, etc. We must

impress upon our government that when women's social and economic needs are met, society as a whole benefits.

Our challenge, the government's challenge, is to build on successes that reach out to women. Let us not become complacent. Change at all levels of government is critical. The municipal election is due in the fall. We should make this the next step in our struggle. Get involved. Run for positions on Labour Councils, school and park boards.

Together, working towards the same goals, we will make a difference.

1996 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE: LOCAL LEADERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

A unique initiative called the Community Development Institute (CDI) will take place this summer in Nelson, BC, during the week of

July 29 to August 2. The Institute will provide a forum for people working on any aspect of community development to exchange information and ideas about programs, strategies and tools that can enhance work on relevant issues. Over 70 workshops and activities dealing with topics such as women's labour rights, labour participation at the community level, "debt hysteria", the provincial election, community economic development and childcare will be offered. There will also be many opportunities for fun -- field trips, site visits to community projects, art, theatre and much more. For more information, please contact Shannon Daub, SPARC of BC by phone 736-8118 or by fax 736-8697.



WHAT CAUSES FIBROMYALGIA?

There have been many theories about the possible causes of fibromyalgia symptoms.

Some researchers have suggested that the condition is due to referred pain from underlying neck and back problems. Others think patients are really suffering from hyperalgesia - an exaggerated sensitivity to pain due to unknown physical or emotional factors. Some studies - but not all - have noted a higher-than-average incidence of major depression among fibromyalgia sufferers.

However, the relationship between the pain, fear and disability of fibromyalgia, and psychological problems such as anxiety or depression is still unclear.

"The current drift of evidence is towards some central problem affecting brain chemistry or hormones," says Dr. Jack Reynolds, a rheumatologist at the Toronto Hospital who specializes in treating people with fibromyalgia. For example:

- Researchers have found that levels of a neurochemical called substance P are three times higher in the cerebrospinal fluid of fibromyalgia patients than in the spinal fluid of healthy people.
- Other recent studies have shown evidence of neuroendocrine dysfunction in fibromyalgia sufferers.
- Women diagnosed with fibromyalgia have lower-than-normal levels of magnesium, serotonin and tryptophan, as well as decreased levels of a hormone called IGF I, which is produced in the liver.
- Researchers at the University of Alabama have also found that women with fibromyalgia have abnormal cerebral blood flow in areas of the brain known to play a role in pain.

But while these findings are exciting because they point to a possible pathophysiological basis for fibromyalgia, Dr. Reynold says, "There's still a lot we don't understand."



10th Annual General Meeting of the Vancouver Society of Immigrant and Visible Minority Women
Saturday, June 29, 1996
11:00 am - 1:30 pm
Douglas Park Community Centre, Douglas Room
801 West 22nd Avenue, Vancouver, BC (22nd Ave. & Willow St.) **Please call 731-9108 for more information.**

Annual General Meeting of West Coast LEAF Association (Women's Legal Education and Action Fund)
Wednesday, June 12, 1996
7:00 pm at the H.R. MacMillan Planetarium, 1100 Chestnut Street, Vancouver, BC

Keynote Speaker: Susan Boyd, Chair in Feminist Legal Studies and Associate Professor UBC Faculty of Law. **For more information, please call the West Coast LEAF office at 684-8772.**

**Ministry of Women's Equality
Calendar (Lower Mainland)**

June 14-15 - New Westminster *Children Who Witness Violence*, an introductory course for school counsellors, social workers, childcare workers and other front line staff who are involved with children who witness abuse. \$175 - Justice Institute of BC, 715 McBride Blvd. **For further information (on content) 528-5627 (or to register) 528-5590.**

June 24-27 - New Westminster *Healing the Self, the Other and the Community - Feminist Counseling Institute and Acknowledging the Politics of Grief*. This four-day feminist counselling institute and one-day workshop are directed toward front-line workers, counsellors, women's centre resource workers and others active in working for positive changes for women and children. Justice Institute, 715 McBride Blvd. **For information (on content)-528-5627 or to register 528-5590.**

Fighting for our Rights: Social and Human Rights CLC National Anti-Racism Task Force

Union/Community Meeting
Sunday, June 16, 1996
Hyatt Regency Hotel, 655 Burrard Street, Vancouver, BC
10:00 am - 4:00 pm. **For more details, please contact CLC Pacific Region 524-0391.**