

ACTION

MANITOBA ACTION COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN NEWSLETTER

December 1991

Volume 18 Number 10



IN MEMORY OF DECEMBER 6TH

Plus:

- Horizons to Relaunch
- The 52% Solution

About



MACSW

The Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women is a volunteer, non-profit feminist organization working through political action, public education and personal growth in order to improve attitudes, raise issues and remove inequalities affecting women today.

MACSW was formed in 1971 by a group of women who presented a brief to the Royal Commission on the Status of Women in 1967. As well as a Winnipeg Branch, MACSW has branches in Brandon, Dauphin and Thompson.

About ACTION

ACTION is published 10 times a year by the Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women, with the assistance of the Secretary of State Women's Program. The purpose of *ACTION* is to inform MACSW members about MACSW initiatives, to encourage members to take action on a personal and political level, and to serve as a forum to discuss all issues affecting the changing status of women. Articles express the views of individual writers and do not necessarily reflect MACSW policy.

Submission Policy

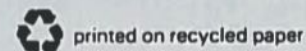
News and feature-style articles, profiles, reviews, essays, letters to the editor, illustrations, cartoons and photographs are all welcome! Written submissions should be double spaced and typed (2 pages max.) Material may be edited. Sorry, submissions will not be returned unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. **The deadline for the Jan./Feb. issue is January 15, 1992.**

Send submissions to:

ACTION Newsletter
MACSW
16-222 Osborne St. S.
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3L 1Z3
Phone 453-3879

This issue brought to you by MACSW staff and Marion Foster, Marjorie Turton, Pat Sadowy, Doreen Wuckert, Gaia Hashimoto, Juliet Schafer and Newsletter Co-ordinator Penni Mitchell. Cover illustration by Lori Broadfoot. *ACTION* is available on audiotape. Call MACSW 453-3879.

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New & Renewed Members!

Meg & David McConkey
Louise Hodder
Bemy Jacob

Nelle Oosterom
Barbara Abramchuk
Barbara Sherriff

Rochelle Risman
Janet Smith
Gladys Worthington

IN MEMORY OF DECEMBER 6TH

circle dance

then he bursts into the room
machine gun cocked black
menacing eyes like bullets
about to fly among the women
sitting quietly at their desks

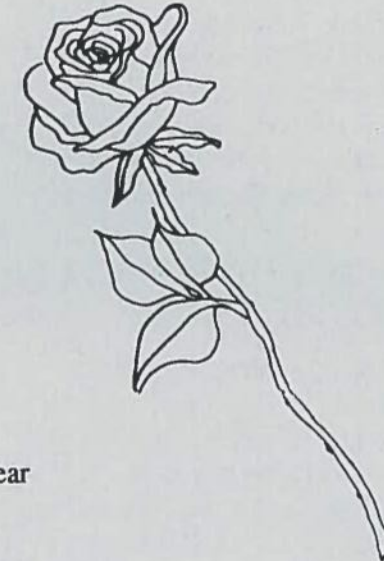
he glares poised to shoot
but suddenly he stiffens
for the women rise as one
join hands in a semi-circle
advance upon the man

the curving line moves close
he drops the gun
it crashes through the floor

the women close the circle round him
seal him in his fear his violent angry fear
their eyes like beams of fire
melt his bullet-eyes to hot black tears
melt his hard fierce body to a pool of tar
that trickles through the gun-shaped hole in the floor
after his disempowered gun
both gone
their evil vanished

now the women in their circle
begin
a slow
triumphant
dance

©Juliet Schafer



*Juliet Schafer teaches French in Winnipeg.
This poem came out of Women Writing 2, a workshop facilitated by Di Brandt.*

This issue of *ACTION* is dedicated to the following Manitoba women, who died at the hands of their partners in 1991:

Carla Caldwell, Karen Rosemary Cameron, Victoria Irene Cook, Diana Marie Hamm, Clara Jane Harper, Dorothy Bernice James, Marilyn Jensen, Glenda Morriseau, Sarah Phillips, Elizabeth Anne Siemens, Marilyn Swampy, Sylvia Anne McKay.

BRANCH REPORTS

Winnipeg Branch

by Andrea James
Administrative Coordinator

Well, it's hard to believe a month has gone by since the last time I sat down to write a report. And what a month it's been.

Jenny and I attended a meeting with the Executive Director of L.E.A.F., the Women's Legal and Education Fund, hosted by the North End Women's Centre. We were part of a large group which discussed issues such as strategies for lobbying around the Rape Shield decision, and individual cases.

When Heather Dootoff from the Parkland Branch was in town the three of us attended an Open House for Evolve in their new location at Clinic, then moved on to a celebration at Bold Print in conjunction with the Herstory Collective.

Jenny and I, along with Keith Louise Fulton, MACSW member and Margaret Laurence Chair of Women's Studies, spent an evening discussing the "Backlash Against Feminism and Women's Art" with members of M.A.W.A., Mentoring Artists for Women's Art.

During the Women's Research Conference titled "Sharing Our Work" at the University of Manitoba I staffed a booth, distributed information on MACSW, and met many interesting women.

We had a very successful branch meeting this month with a high attendance and lots of participation. Thank you to those members who came out and are taking on new tasks. We are all gearing up in preparation for the Provincial Coordinating Committee meeting which will take place on December 7th and 8th. Our New Member meeting was quite small, but we had a good conversation and enjoyed meeting new people. Thanks to the women from Carman who took the time to attend.

And of course our big news is that we finally got the office painted! My apologies for some general confusion and disarray as the office has been turned upside down for this procedure and we've gone through two broken answering machines!



It will be a while before we're completely organized again what with all the other things going on.

Less than a week before the arrival of the Constitutional Committee, we heard a rumour that they might be on their way and set to work trying to get our voices heard. This turned out to be next to impossible. Jenny spoke during the five-minute walk-on session after we spent the better part of the day at the Legislative Building listening to others and waiting for our turn. It was a scramble, and I want to thank Jenny for devoting her weekend to researching the proposals. We will be submitting a brief to the Committee (if it still exists) in order to expand and clarify our position. *This will be a big task and your help would be greatly appreciated. If you are interested in researching or writing or typing please let us know. You do not have to be an expert on the Constitution -- you just need to be interested and willing. Please call (453-3879) if you can help.*

I've been attending too many vigils lately for women murdered at the hands of their partners and I think that its time to do more than mourn. Many of you are taking individual steps toward ending the violence in your own lives and/or in those of others. Together our voices are louder and our actions more visible. *I'd like to see the MACSW Sub-Committee on Violence Against Women start up again.* Those of you have checked off Violence Against Women on your membership forms will be receiving a letter from me in the next little while asking you to attend a meeting, where we will decide what course of action we'd like to pursue. If you're interested, please call me about the time and location. The Winnipeg Branch has both *The War Against Women* (federal) report on violence against women, and the *Pedlar Review* (provincial) on the legal system and how it deals with battering.

I don't want to end on a down note. I wish each of you all the best during this holiday season. Whatever you're celebrating, enjoy this time with friends and loved ones and remember that you are part of a larger family. **Peace.**



BRANCH REPORTS

Brandon Branch

by Kathy Prendergast
Administrative Coordinator

Seasons' Greetings, women--a short and sweet branch report this month, as it's essay time for this perpetual student. The two main events coming up in December are the December 6th Memorial, at noon at the Knowles-Douglas Student Union foyer at Brandon University, and our Christmas potluck, Friday, December 13th, at Inga Bjornson's place, 160 McDiarmid Drive. Please take note of these events!

We had a great branch meeting in October with women from different organizations in the city, including the Friendship Centre, Planned Parenthood, Tools for Peace and the Brandon and District Labour Council talking about their organization's activities. I spoke to a university journalism class about violence against women and the history of transition houses, and to a group of Canada World Youth students about women in the workforce. We showed "The Burning Times" at Brandon University on October 31st and 35 people attended and participated in a discussion afterward. Thanks to Religion Professor Susan Medd for facilitating.

The highlight of the past month was a visit from Vilma Castillo, a Nicaraguan feminist who is touring Canada for CUSO. Along with Tools for Peace, CUSO and the Marquis Project, we co-sponsored a public meeting at which Vilma spoke on the issue of "Women, Poverty and Organizing." Several members had the chance to meet Vilma at a potluck the day before the meeting and found out about the struggles of women in Nicaragua and the ways we can show our solidarity. Vilma also appeared on the CKX talk show and spoke to a Brandon University economics class. All events were most successful and highly educational and it was a pleasure meeting and learning from Vilma.

On the negative side, we had a rather non-constructive meeting with the Assistant Deputy Minister on the Status of Women, Theresa Harvey, to discuss (yet again) of provincial funding

for a women's resource centre in Brandon.

As most of you probably know by now, this will be my last branch report as I will be leaving MACSW at the end of December, and Brandon sometime in January. I will likely be going to Victoria, B.C. for a while, but I may be coming back next fall to go to university in Winnipeg, so I promise to renew my membership!

This job made me feel I can do anything, except perhaps chair a constitutional task force but who knows?

Take Care.

ARE YOU THE PERSON WE'RE LOOKING FOR?

The
Manitoba Action Committee
on the Status of Women
Brandon Branch

is looking for an
ADMINISTRATIVE
CO-ORDINATOR

Qualifications: Strong administrative, communication, organizational and writing skills; understanding of and familiarity with the media; understanding of issues affecting women; understanding of political process and commitment to feminism. Previous experience with volunteer organizations would be an asset, but is not essential.

20 Hours per week

Salary: \$11.47 per hour

Starting Date: January 2, 1992

Please submit resume with covering letter by December 7, 1991 to: Personnel Committee, MACSW #202-107-7th St. Brandon, Manitoba R7A 3S5.

HURRY IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN THIS POSITION!
RESUME DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 7TH

BRANCH REPORTS



Parkland Branch

by Heather Dootoff and Rachel Thompson

The play "Everybody's Business" was performed in Dauphin November 12th by Popular Theatre Alliance of Manitoba. It was a great success--only one complaint so far! Congratulations to MACSW member Rachel Thompson for her performance as Ms. Right in the skit presented by local students as an introduction to the play.

Parkland Status of Women members enjoyed an evening of reminiscing at the 10th Anniversary/Persons' Day Celebration on October 18th. Special thanks to Helen Warner for sharing her memories and to Virginia Jamieson for a scrumptious cake.

In mid October, it was brought to the attention of the Parkland Branch that discriminatory practices were reported at the Dauphin Regional High School's intramural hockey league. Young women who wished to join the league encountered the same male opposition they had experienced over the past few years. We supported the female students and phoned the principal and sent a letter to the school board. The female students were eventually allowed to form their own team and participate in the previously male-only league. Here's to a successful season!

A vigil was held November 6th for Sylvia McKay, a woman murdered in Winnipeg.

Plans are underway for the Angel Tree in Dauphin, a project held in cooperation with the Salvation Army that will bring gifts to 350 children this Christmas Season. This is the fourth year the Angel Tree has operated.

Heather attended workshops and meetings in Winnipeg at the end of October. Fundraising, planning and proposal writing were the workshop topics. Thanks to the organizers and funders for this valuable opportunity. In addition to the workshops, Heather attended a meeting of The Committee on Unplanned Pregnancy and was pleased to have Rachel Thompson join her as a youth representative.

The Parkland Branch made a brief presentation to the Unity committee when it finally

arrived, which was just before it headed home! The committee will hear from us again when we've had appropriate time to prepare.

As part of the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, the Parkland Branch will hold a vigil December 6th at the courthouse. Call the Parkland office for the time.

A potluck Christmas party will be held at the home of Will Fisher December 12th at 6:30 p.m. Members and guests welcome. Call the office for directions.

Thompson Branch

by Leah Passler and Debra McVittie

Seasons Greetings. Since the last report, Thompson office has been busy participating in Community events. On November 5th, Hari Dimitrakopoulou-Ashton acted as spokesperson on behalf of the Branch at the local committee hearings on constitutional changes. Although the meetings was not a success, Hari's brief was well received and was recognized as being valuable.

On November 6th the play "Everybody's Business" was in Thompson to emphasize awareness of AIDS and AIDS-related issues. We set up a display table providing additional information specific to women and AIDS. The audience took advantage of this opportunity and snagged the pamphlets available.

On November 30th, the Thompson Branch held an afternoon of "Coffee and Conversation" to make plans for the December 6th Anniversary as well as other topics of interest.

Another video night was held on November 22nd. These events have proven to be beneficial to creating an awareness of women's issues. We'd like to emphasize the importance of these evenings and hope they will continue... and they're fun too!

Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday season!

COORDINATORS' REPORTS

Provincial Coordinator

by Jenny Robinson

This has been a very challenging and interesting month --meetings with the National Chair of L.E.A.F., the Thompson Branch, the National Director of the Secretary of State Women's Program Denise Boudrias and the Constitutional Committee on a Renewed Canada. I'm still reeling; when it rains it pours.

I would like to thank the women of Thompson for their hospitality and wish them well with their upcoming projects. I really enjoyed my visit. I hope to see you all again very soon.

Congratulations to all the women across the province who worked on briefs and presentations for the Joint Constitutional Committee.

The surprise of the month was an invitation from the Secretary of State to join representatives from the Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan in Calgary for a meeting concerning the evaluation and renewal of the Secretary of State Women's Program. The Secretary of State Women's Program, which funds the Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women, contains within the program guidelines a sunset clause. This means every five years the program essentially ends and must go through a renewal process.

To renew, the program must go through an evaluation which is orchestrated through the Evaluation Directorate of the Secretary of State. Out of this evaluation, recommendations are formed and presented to the Minister of the Secretary of State. The Minister may choose to heed the recommendations or disregard them. The program may be reinstated or not, or it may be reinstated in a very different form; it is up to the government and the Minister of the Secretary of State. Essentially the evaluation and the recommendations are only a part of what is a very political decision. The evaluation is to be completed by June, 1992.

The meeting in Calgary was not part of the actual evaluation but was a "client group consul-

tation". The Secretary of State and the Evaluation Directorate selected 35 of the 600 organizations that receive Secretary of State Women's Program funding to participate in this process. There were meetings in Halifax, Toronto and Montreal too. We met for four hours and discussed the process of evaluation which the Women's Program will undergo in the next six months. The evaluation will involve five sub-studies: (The following text is taken from documents provided by the Secretary of State).

1. In-depth interviews with program managers and officers at the national and regional offices as well with a representatives from organizations working in the area and institutions affected by the program.

2. Documentary analysis which includes a critical review of existing government documentation, experience with and application of similar programs conducted in Canada and elsewhere, and analysis of public opinion polls describing the attitudes of Canadian women and men towards the equality of women.

3. A mail survey of all organizations receiving operational funding (like MACSW) and a sampling of 25% of the total number of projects funded in 1991-92.

4. Case studies or monographs of typical organizations and projects funded by the program.

5. Focus group interviews with a random sample of Canadians to determine the overall relevancy of the program.

Many common concerns were raised regarding the participation of women's groups in the actual evaluation. The desires to be full partners in the evaluation process was expressed, and some promises for continued consultation were made by both Denise Boudrias, the National Director of the Women's Program and Raymond D'Aoust, Analyst with the Evaluation Directorate.

It is critical that organizations that rely on the Sec State Women's Program funding remain informed and involved in this process. It's also important to continually remind the government of Canada that \$10 million a year is not enough!

COORDINATORS' REPORTS

Rural Coordinator

by Sheila Doig

We thought we had won; we believed that women's equality was secured when clause 28, the equality of male and female persons, was entrenched in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms in 1981.

1987-- barely 6 years later -- the Meech Lake Accord threatens those hard won rights. Manitoba women fought again; first to have the issue of equality rights -- at risk in the Charter -- placed

on the national agenda, and then to preserve those rights so that nothing could abrogate or derogate from those rights in the Charter. We lost. It was a gentle native man with an eagle feather in his hand who gave back the Charter to Canadians.

1991 is within the decade of the Charter and enormous forces are moving to engulf a country with an agenda that will separate Canadians from the country they now know. This time, not only women's equality rights, but the democratic principles of individual rights are at stake.

Once again we read the government proposals, research the political agendas, gather our forces and appear before the Commissions to articulate our position. The Spicer Commission, the Manitoba Constitutional Task Force and now the Special Joint Committee on the Constitution consume our energies and forge our awareness of the politics of power.

"Power" is an oft-used word in the women's movement and one that sifts through my mind almost daily. We are witnesses to the political arrogance of power that holds people in contempt. It manifests itself in the lack of access to information -- written proposals, useless 800 numbers, last minute ads advertising the committee's arrival, deciding to appear or not to appear, discussing procedures and process. It belies all political parties. The NDP walks out on the Brandon presenters to grandstand for the media. Liberal and PC members of the Committee stand up and talk with each other while a member of the Brandon Women's Study Group speaks on the proposed property rights clause. Committee members who sat through morning presentations, like that of the Chamber of Commerce (which was given extra time when it was obvious that it had not even read the proposals it was supposed to address) get up and walk out as the Westman Coalition for Equality Rights begins to present. The Liberals toss aside the voices of Canadians to score political points against the PCs. The PCs move into artificial time lines to bludgeon Canadians into a massive, passive malaise with a self-blame for failure.

So once again, women are prepared to articulate and fight for issues such as social justice and equality for women. We understand the business agenda that is interwoven throughout all these proposals that will impoverish families and will continue globally to leave women and children "in the dust". These are proposals that must never ever be placed in the constitution of any country, let alone Canada's.

Let us take time to support and celebrate the women today who are continuing the centuries of struggles, and in their own way are the herstory of tomorrow.

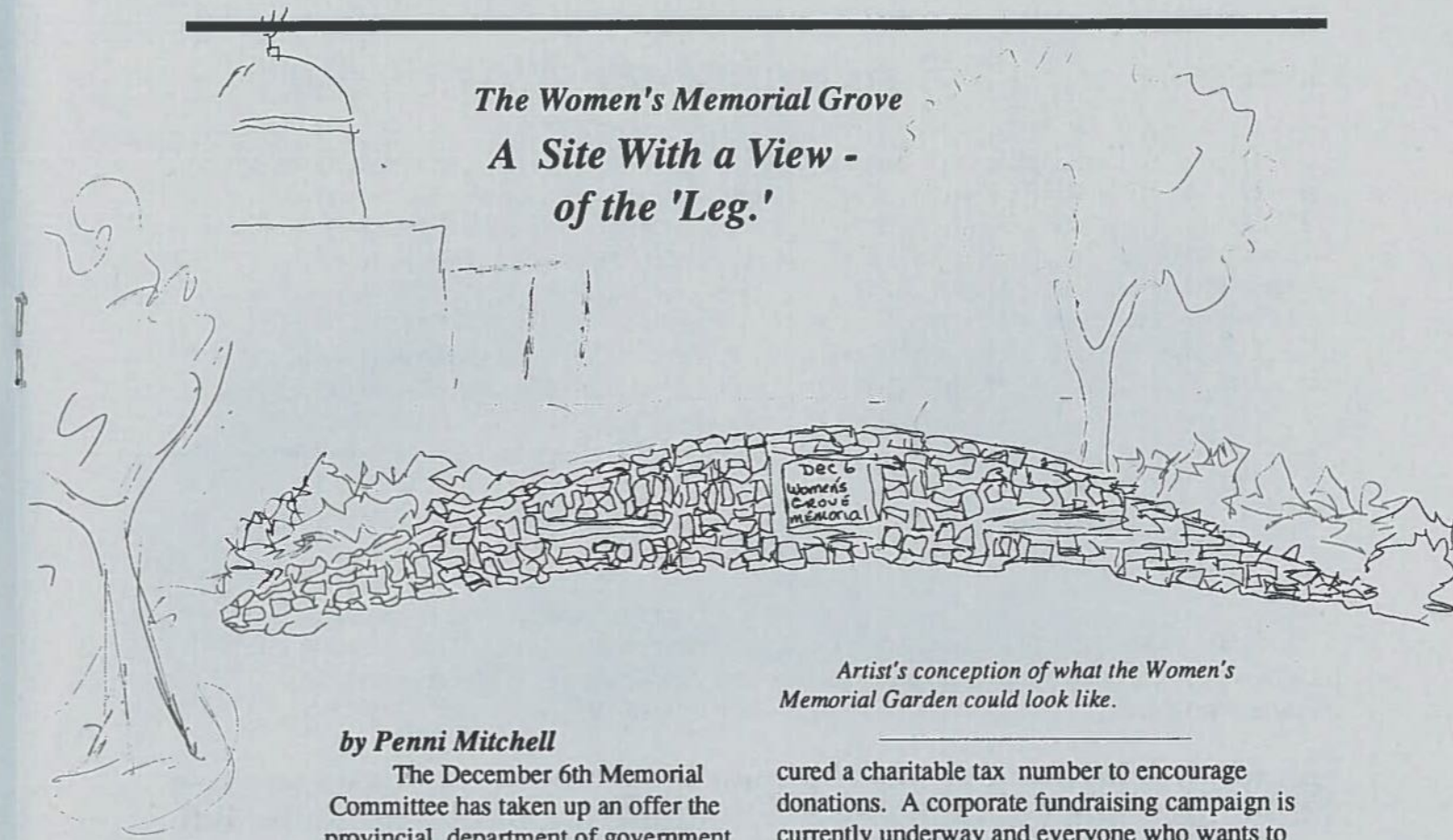
Note: Copies of the submissions of the Brandon Women's Studies Group (Equality Rights and Property Rights) and the Westman Coalition for Equality Rights (Opting out of Future Shared-Cost Programs and the proposed Economic Union) are available at MACSW.

It's Gift Giving Time!
Join Us for
Midnight Madness
December 19th 6-Midnight!



**BOLD
PRINT** Inc.
THE WOMEN'S BOOKSTORE
478 River Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3L 0C8
452-9682

The Women's Memorial Grove A Site With a View - of the 'Leg.'



Artist's conception of what the Women's Memorial Garden could look like.

by Penni Mitchell

The December 6th Memorial Committee has taken up an offer the provincial department of government services to move its memorial site to the front of the Legislative grounds.

The Committee had been granted space in Memorial Park along Osborne Street to create a memorial garden as a place to honour women victims of male violence. However, some legionnaires objected to the December 6th committee having space in Memorial Park -- a space they wanted to see used exclusively for war memorials. While the committee defended its right to share the ground to mark the "war" against women, committee spokesperson Diane McGifford says the decision to take up the offer of the alternative space on the Legislative grounds was "completely left up the committee."

The new site, just east of the front of the Leg building on the Kennedy St. Side, is a better location for the women's memorial according to McGifford.

"It's an open, green space closer to the centre of government," she says. "It's a place of dignity."

The Women's Memorial Grove could begin as soon as this spring, but progress, as always, depends on the success of fundraising. The estimated cost is \$65,000 and the Committee has se-

cured a charitable tax number to encourage donations. A corporate fundraising campaign is currently underway and everyone who wants to make a donation to this historic and important memorial is encouraged to do so now.

Donations should be made payable to: The December 6th Women's Memorial Committee, Sherbrook-Westminister P.O. Box 26033, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 2B0. For further information contact Diane McGifford at 477-4498.

Women's Memorial Service

In memory of the women who were murdered two years ago in Montreal and their sisters in Manitoba.

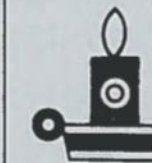
When: Friday December 6, 1991

Where: Legislative Grounds

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Reminder: Please bring a Candle.

Everyone Welcome



December 6th: "Mourning and Moving On"

Women will be gathering in Carman to discuss the topic of violence against women on Thursday, December 5th, beginning at 5 o'clock at the Legion Auxiliary Hall. The theme of the discussions, book display and talks will be "Mourning and Moving on".

Last year about 70 women came out and organizers Audrey and Gustine say there is a strong need for women to grieve and discuss actions for change.

The following is the agenda for the evening. See you there!

Agenda:

5:00 - 6:30 Gather, visit book display and sale by BOLD PRINT, socialize with old and new friends. Enjoy a buffet dinner.

6:30 - 7:00 Theme Talks - several women will give short addresses on what they found important in the book *Boys will be Boys: Breaking the Link between Masculinity and Violence*, by Myriam Miedzian.

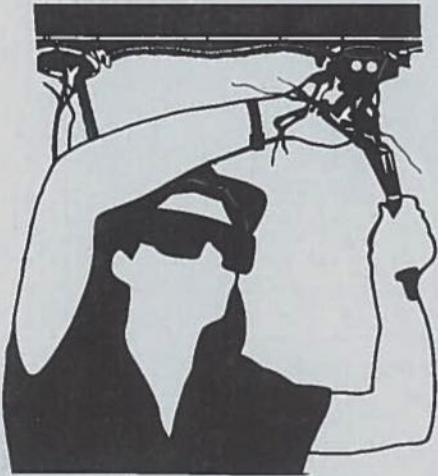
7:00 - 8:30 Small Group discussions and feedback will continue the theme: What factors in our society permit and/or promote violence against women and what can we do about it?

8:30 Vigil. Stay on the browse at book table and visit.

Organizers want to have an idea beforehand how many people will be coming (to make sure there's enough food!) so please contact either Audrey (745-2989) or Gustine (745-3434).

WOMEN IN TRADES AND TECHNOLOGY NATIONAL NETWORK AND PRAIRIE WITT

present:



Surviving and Thriving II...The Sequel a national conference

February 2-5, 1992
Ottawa, Ontario

Conference registration is \$195 (Pre-registration & GST) and doesn't include meals or travel costs.

Double occupancy is \$79 per night.

Costs may be covered by:

- 1) sponsorship by an employer, union or other organization
- 2) fundraising,
- 3) self-payment,
- 4) a limited number of full/partial subsidies are available.

WITT National Network has been working in many fields to increase and enhance the experiences of women training or working in trades, technology, operations and blue collar occupations. This founding conference will include the election of a National Coordinator, adoption of a structure and by-laws, as well as a variety of workshops focussing on training and employment.

Regional representation is crucial at this conference to ensure that the realities of employment and training in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories are voiced.

For more information, please contact: Janis McKeag, 656 Kingsway Ave. Winnipeg, Manitoba R3N 0H2 (204) 489-5404 FAX (204) 783-4262

Sure, they hold HEARings, but is anyone LISTENing?

MACSW Provincial Coordinator Jenny Robinson criticized the Tory government's proposed constitutional amendments and the process under which they are conducting their so-called hearings.

Jenny told the Committee, co-chaired by Winnipeg MP Dorothy Dobbie, that entrenching property rights in the constitution would erode women's rights and benefit only the rich. (For instance, if business owners perceived that their "right" to enjoy their property was being compromised by pay equity legislation "imposed" on them by government, they could make a case for a charter challenge, and the Supreme Court would have to decide whose rights were tantamount — business owners' or women's.)

To rousing cheers of support from people in attendance, Jenny criticized the federal government's constitutional hearing process (the Action Committee had booked time in advance yet didn't appear on the final agenda and was limited to a 5-minute walk-on presentation) and told the commissioners: "As a woman in Canada, these re-



forms don't speak to me."

Citing the government's proposed decentralization of the federal government and increase of provincial responsibilities, Jenny said women have much to fear if the Mulroney constitutional reforms are implemented.

"These reforms would change the course of Canada's future radically," she said. "Most women are economically disadvantaged, so entrenching Mulroney's political agenda in the constitution will not benefit women."

Herizons Magazine to Rise Again!

Herizons magazine is planning a comeback with a national subscription campaign underway and the first new issue due out in February.

You'll find a subscription brochure in this month's ACTION — MACSW's way to support *Herizons'* relaunch. The new *Herizons* will pick up where the old left off, offering national news and features on women's issues from a feminist perspective. As a subscriber-driven publication, over 90% of *Herizons'* revenue will come from subscriptions. No more long-term reliance on short-lived government grants!

Financial co-ordinator Patricia Rawson is convinced that a financially independent *Herizons* will mean the magazine will be stronger than ever.

"*Herizons* will be accountable only to readers and that's an important feminist statement. I think feminists are ready to make a com-

mitment to support a national magazine like *Herizons* that's easy to read and relevant to their lives."

Women's groups, bookstores, like-minded periodicals, volunteers and other progressive organizations across the country are all helping to spread the word. The women organizing the first issue include former *Herizons* staff members Patricia Rawson, Heidi Eigenkind and Penni Mitchell as well as Randa Stewart, Jane Casey, Keith Fulton and Amanda LeRougetel.

You can send your subscription cheque for \$21.40 (\$20 plus GST) to: *Herizons* P.O. Box 128, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 2G1. For more information or for more subscription brochures, call (204) 774-6225.



A Women's Charter: NAC's 52% Solution

Are you in favour of a feminist alternative to the federal government's wrangling over constitutional reform? Well, someone's grandmother once said if you want something done right you have to do it yourself and NAC (on behalf of women who make up 52% of the Canadian population) is doing just that.

Frustrated with the Mulroney government's attempts to destroy Canada and replace it with a new right wing political, economic and social agenda, NAC's charter is sort of like a manifesto for women. It just says in straightforward terms all of the things women need in order to be full and equal members of society. It also states clearly that an alternative feminist vision must include the elimination of all forms of racism.

NAC's women's charter was developed at its Annual General Meeting last summer, where members began to develop their own vision of what a constitution for women would look like.

Here's a synopsis of the Women's Charter. NAC is seeking input from individuals as well as groups, so if you want a copy of the entire document, call your nearest MACSW branch office.

Introduction

NAC believes that there is enough wealth in Canada to ensure economic equality for all women, so that no one should have to live in poverty.

As feminists, we stand for the democratization of social, economic and political institutions. We aim to empower all women to speak on their own behalf and to participate fully in the decisions which affect them. As feminists, we recognize that market forces alone cannot provide us with sufficient jobs and social services and eliminate the grossly unfair ways we are treated.

Employment

We believe that all women must be guaranteed equal pay for work of equal value; mandatory employment equity including affirmative action and recognition of credentials and skills from outside Canada; accessible workplaces for people with disabilities; freedom from harassment; and access to job sharing and leave for family responsibilities for lesbians and heterosexual women.

Political Representation

We support the development of a new political relationship among aboriginal peoples, Quebec and the rest of Canada which enables each community to develop its own proposals for a new political relationship and involves negotiation on the basis of equality by the representatives of each of the aboriginal peoples, Quebec, and the rest of Canada.

We support the democratization of federal political institutions. We oppose proposals which would decentralize and provincialize Canada outside of Quebec by extending to all provincial governments the powers uniquely required by Quebec.

Our electoral and governmental institutions should be redesigned to accommodate proportional representation of women and minorities.

Violence

All people have a right to live without fear of abuse. We will work towards a society which will not tolerate woman battering, rape, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, incest, child abuse, elder abuse and violent pornography. We believe the following are some of the changes needed: mandatory judicial education, the removal from the bench of judges who display sexist bias in their treatment of women, replacement of legislation protecting the rights and privacy of sexual assault victims, changes to the statute of limitations in incest cases; legislation governing pornographic hate literature; increased training concerning issues of violence against women for medical, legal, judicial and educational professionals.

Aboriginal rights

Aboriginal peoples must be recognized as distinct and be allowed to continue development of a viable economy, political and social structures with the resources necessary to achieve them. We support the immediate resolution of outstanding land claims.

Lesbian rights

We believe that lesbians have the right to equal benefits in social programs, equal access to employment without discrimination and political representation, including representation in organizations within the women's movement.

Rights of Visible Minority Women

Women who are members of visible minorities have the right to equal access to culturally sensitive government services and programs, to practice their skills and professions, to representation in government and to form their own autonomous organizations.

Rights of Women with Disabilities

Women with disabilities have the right to independent living, to physical accessibility, to consent to enter health institutions and to equal benefits in social programs, employment and political representation, including participation in organizations within the women's movement.

Reproductive Rights

Women have the right to access to birth control and birth control information in all languages and to full access to legal abortion and access to services in freestanding services provided in a supportive environment. Women also have the right to decide to bear children and have the right to social and economic supports to support that choice.

We believe that a higher priority must be placed on the prevention of infertility rather than procedures under the umbrella of new reproductive technologies which could be used for full-scale genetic engineering and eugenic selection.

Social Programs

We believe in a society in which everyone is guaranteed a minimum level of social security and government resources are directed toward ensuring greater equality. The public sector must assume responsibility and operate social programs and universality must be maintained or achieved. We believe in a strong federal government support for social programs to ensure common minimum program standards for women in all regions, and funding to ensure the maintenance of universally accessible programs for health care, housing, income maintenance, education, child care and social services.

Health Care

We must have access not only to acute care hospitals but also to the full range of holistic and non-physician centred therapies, support services, and community based clinics.

Education

We call for active anti-sexist, anti-racist, anti-classist, anti-ageist, anti-homophobic pro-

grams which promote peace and environmentalist values. We also call for programs to support girls and women such as bias-free guidance. We also support policies for educational institutions such as employment equity, affirmative action and sexual harassment policies and procedures.

Child Care

We believe that a child care system must be developed that is equitable and universal. All children in all regions of Canada should have equivalent access to appropriate child care services. Services should reflect the racial, linguistic, and ethnic composition of the community they serve. A child care system must be high quality and should receive substantial public funding so as not to be dependent on user fees. Child care workers, including foreign domestic workers, should receive wages that are reflective of their training and experience.

Peace

We believe that global demilitarization must be achieved. This means an end to Canadian support for companies producing military goods and technology; an end to military testing in Canadian territories; identification of Canada as a nuclear-free zone; the withdrawal of Canada from NATO, NORAD and the "Defence-production Sharing Agreements"; the reallocation of the military budget to social services, economic development and environmental programs.

Environment

We are committed to new policies that promote peace and respect for the planet. We believe in the right of workers to safe working conditions; in new strategies for economic development which incorporate the need to respect and maintain our environment. We also believe that women must be an equal part of the decision-making bodies at all levels for setting policies for a safer and cleaner environment.

TESIA BROOKS

CERTIFIED GENERAL ACCOUNTANT

Completing BA (University of Winnipeg)
Business Computing & Women's Studies

Accounting, Income Tax, Data Processing

475-2171

113 Academy Road, Winnipeg, Man., R3M 0E4

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GET COOKIN' WITH M.A.P.O. Stretch your food dollars. Community Kitchen Information Meeting, **Wednesday, January 8, 1992** 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. 365 McGee St. Call 786-3323.



COME TO A BOOK LAUNCHING, *She Who was Lost is Remembered*, edited by Louise Wischild. **Thursday, January 16, 1992 at 7:30** Bold Print Bookstore 478 River Avenue, Winnipeg. The book includes a contribution from Heidi Eigenkind of Winnipeg, who will read at the book launch.

CALL FOR PAPERS Sororal Publishing is seeking essays for a proposed women's studies/psychology text book, *Groundwork II*, to be edited by Chris Kolba, Box 2041, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 3R3. The book will focus on women's experiences in university. Contributors will try to determine how women cope with this experience. **DEADLINE December 31, 1991.**

HERSTORY Women's Calendars are being sold by Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre as a fundraiser. Weekly Calendar pages, phases of the moon, "year-at-a-glance" page markers, important dates in women's history and biographies of Canadian women. Call Glenda at 269-6836 or drop by at 1910 Pembina Hwy (Southwood Mall).

MANITOBA ACTION COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN is looking for volunteers. Is it time for you to become actively involved with a supportive group of women working to create positive change? MACSW needs volunteers to organize special events, provide public education and write briefs or start up a new subcommittee. What interests you? Call Andrea James at MACSW, 453-3879.

MACSW WINNIPEG is looking for a volunteer to represent MACSW on the Coalition for the Education and Training of Women. Contact Andrea at 453-3879 if you're interested. The group meets quarterly and the next meeting is February 20th.

TAPESTRY OF CARING A conference sponsored by the Manitoba Child Care Association January 23-25 1992. Featuring NDP Child care Critic Dawn Black, Lloyd Axworthy, Jack London, Winnie Giesbrecht. For information contact: MCCA 586-8587

FACES OF FEMINISM If you missed the photography exhibit by Pamela Harris, you can order your high quality coffee-table book in hard cover now. Second Story Press, a women's publishing house in Toronto must receive at least 300 orders before the book can be printed. Features women and organizations that make up the Canadian feminist movement. Contains many Manitoba women, including Ellen Kruger, Eunadie Johnson and Darlene Birch. \$50. Send to Faces of Feminism, Second Story Press, 760 Bathurst Street, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2R6.

FREE FOR THE TAKING An office stand for magazines and periodicals. Measures 4ft x 4ft, 16" wide. Pick up at MACSW Brandon office during office hours. Call 725-2955 if you're interested.

EQUALITY: A Conference on Rights, Responsibilities and Remedies, Community Legal Education Association's 3rd Annual Human Rights Conference, Tuesday December 10, 1991, Union Centre 275 Broadway in Winnipeg. Total Cost \$48.15 (including you-know-what). Includes sessions on aboriginal issues, women, people with disabilities and visible minority concerns. Call 943-2382

Are you Interested in joining a Feminist Mothers Support Group?

*Are you having difficulty controlling your anger with your children?

*Are you afraid of being an abusive parent?

*Do you want support to shed the patriarchal expectations of motherhood?

A support group will be starting in January. If you're interested in joining, call Wendy at 224-4558.



M.A.C.S.W. MEMBERSHIP FORM

Sign me up!

I want to add my voice to the hundreds of Manitoba women who belong to MACSW.

NEW MEMBERSHIP

RENEWAL

Name _____

Address _____ City/Town _____

Postal Code _____ Phone _____ (H) _____ (W) _____

INDIVIDUAL Regular \$25
(or what you can afford)
Sustaining \$40

ORGANIZATION - \$50

Your membership includes a subscription to the ACTION Newsletter, published 10 times a year.

Make cheques payable to MACSW and send this form to:

MACSW Winnipeg Branch
16-222 Osborne St. South
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 1Z3

I'm interested in getting involved with the following issues: (please check)

ISSUES

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Childcare | <input type="checkbox"/> Midwifery | <input type="checkbox"/> Reproductive Health Issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equal Pay/Workplace | <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Women of Color/Racism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Trades & Technology | <input type="checkbox"/> Violence Against Women |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Farm/Rural Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Women & Poverty | <input type="checkbox"/> Parenting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pornography | <input type="checkbox"/> Women & Disability | <input type="checkbox"/> Media Monitoring |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pensions/Seniors | <input type="checkbox"/> Prostitution | <input type="checkbox"/> Young Women's Issues |

ACTIVITIES

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Political Action | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> International Women's Day |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Speaking | <input type="checkbox"/> Research | <input type="checkbox"/> Office Duties |

NEAREST MACSW BRANCH

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> WINNIPEG
16-222 Osborne St. S
Winnipeg,
R3L 1Z3
453-3879
(Voice/TDD) | <input type="checkbox"/> BRANDON
202-107-7th St
Brandon,
R7A 3S5
725-2955 | <input type="checkbox"/> PARKLAND STATUS OF WOMEN
118 Main St. S.
Mail: Box 23
Dauphin, R7N 2T9
638-3599 | <input type="checkbox"/> THOMPSON
Box 722
Thompson
Manitoba
R8N 1N5
778-8549 |
|---|--|---|--|

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December



- 3** Women and Words meets in Winnipeg at the MACSW office 16-222 Osborne Street South at 7:30 p.m. New members welcome. For info call Pat at 488-0988.
- 4** Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women Winnipeg Branch Meeting at the office #16-222 Osborne Street South (behind Pasquale's Restaurant) 5:30 p.m.
- 4** Mentoring Artists for Women's Art (MAWA) Annual General Meeting 7:30 p.m. 175 McDermot Ave. Winnipeg. The meeting will be followed by two NFB films from the Five Feminist Minutes Project from Studeo D - *We're Talkin Vulva*, by Shawna Dempsey and Tracy Traeger and *Minquon Minqon* (about artist Shirley Bear) by Cathy Martin.
- 4** Manitoba Anti-Poverty Organization (MAPO) Workshop "Know Your Welfare Rights", 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Free. 365 McGee St. Winnipeg. To register call Nancy 786-3323
- 5** Bold Print Bookstore presents: Reading by author Martha Brooks, from *Two Moons in August*, a novel about hope and grief. 7:30 p.m. 478 River Avenue, Winnipeg.
- 5** Dinner and Discussion on Violence Against Women , Carman, Manitoba. 5:00 to 8:30. Come for a discussion of the book, *Boys will be Boys*, group discussion, BOLD PRINT book table and vigil. Call Audrey (745-2989) or Gustine (745-3434) for more information.
- 6** The December 6th Women's Memorial Committee will be hosting a vigil in Winnipeg at 7:00 p.m. at the Legislative Grounds. Bring a candle! Bring a friend!
- 6** National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women Vigil in Dauphin. Call Parkland office at 638-3359 for details.
- 6** Memorial Vigil for the Victims of the Montreal Massacre, noon - 1 p.m. Knowles-Douglas Student Union Foyer, Brandon University.
- 7** Immigrant Women's Association of Manitoba Open House 1 - 4 p.m. #201-323 Portage Avenue.
- 7-8** Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women Provincial Coordinating Committee Meeting in Winnipeg at the University of Winnipeg. Regular reports and discussion on NAC's 52% Solution and much more. Members welcome to attend. Call the office in Winnipeg for details 453-3879.
- 9** Public Hearings on MTS Call Management Services, Victoria Inn 9 a.m. The Westman Women's Shelter will present their concerns. For info contact the Brandon Branch office at 725-2955.
- 9** Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre Self Care Workshop. Come out and find ways of taking care of yourself at this very busy time of the year. Apt. 104-3100 Pembina Hwy. Call 269-2867 for information
- 11** Manitoba Telephone System Public Hearings in Winnipeg on proposed Call Management System. Call MACSW at 453-3879 for details.
- 12** Parkland Status of Women Christmas Party. Call the office in Dauphin for details. 638-3359.
- 13** Brandon Branch Potluck at Inga Bjornson's place, 160 McDiarmid Drive. All MACSW members, friends and families welcome.