
ACTION

MANITOBA ACTION COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN NEWSLETTER

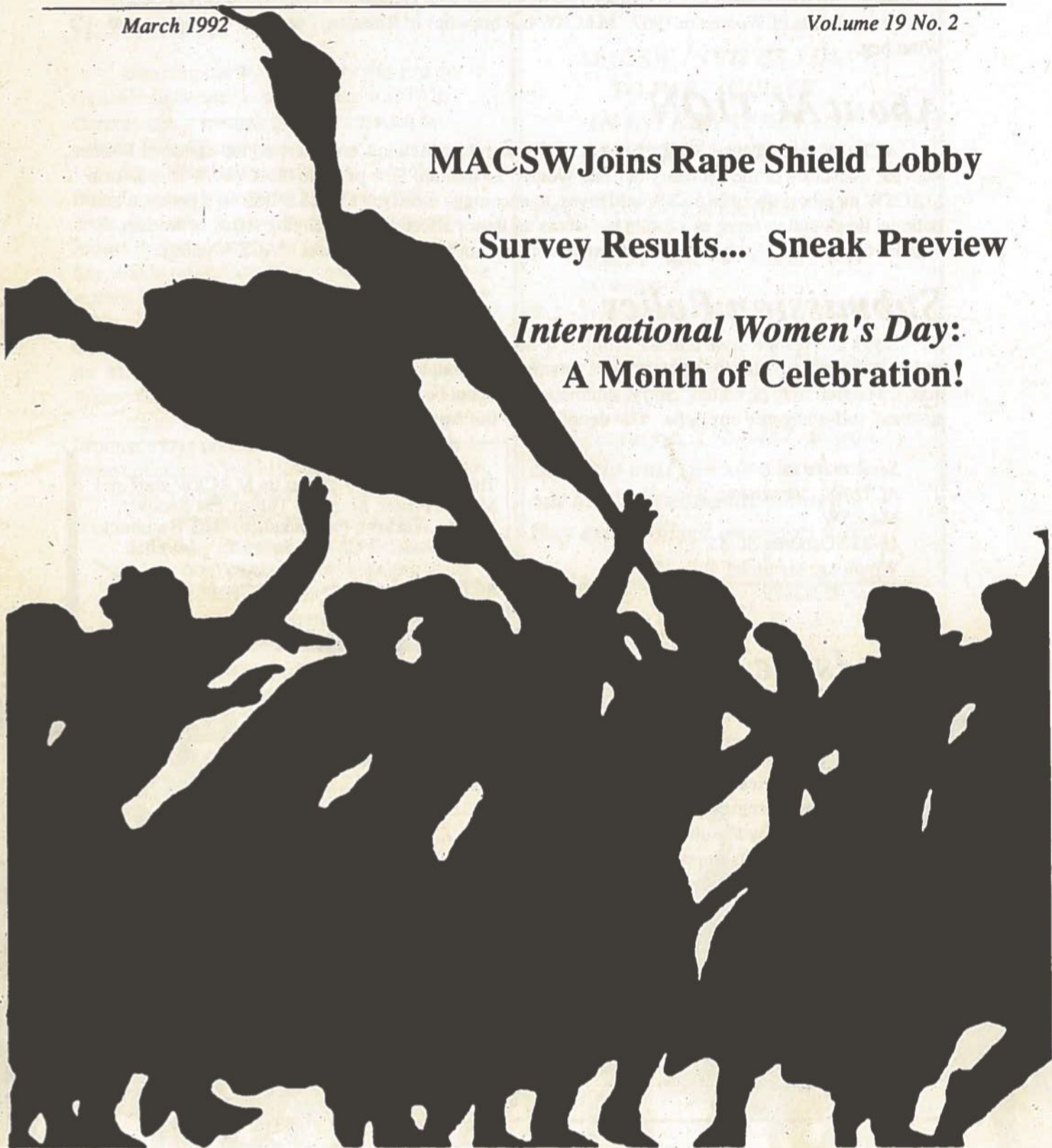
March 1992

Volume 19 No. 2

MACSW Joins Rape Shield Lobby

Survey Results... Sneak Preview

***International Women's Day:
A Month of Celebration!***





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. MACSW has branches in Brandon, Dauphin, Thompson and Winnipeg.

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 April issue is March 15, 1992.**

Send material 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, Pam Jakubec, Gaia Hashimoto and Newsletter Co-ordinator Penni Mitchell.

ACTION is available on audiotape. Call MACSW 453-3879.

This Issue

International Women's Day	1
Staff Reports	2
SPECIAL INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EVENTS PULL OUT CALENDAR	7
MACSW Lobbies Campbell on Rape Shield Bill.....	8
Free Trade Warnings	9
MACSW Survey Results Preview.....	10
MACSW Members Support <i>Herizons</i>	11
Bulletins and Announcements	12



Thank you New & Renewed Members!

Renewals are still flooding-in! Watch for your name in next month's *ACTION*. If you haven't renewed yet, this will probably be your last newsletter.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Celebrating 82 years of Success, Struggle and Sisterhood

International Women's Day was first declared at an international congress in 1910 in Copenhagen, Denmark that was attended by women from 17 countries.

March 8th was proposed by Clara Zetkin from Germany because on March 8, 1908, hundreds of women in New York city had demonstrated to demand the vote and the 8-hour work day, and to protest the poor working conditions of women in the factories. There were already signs of the outbreak of World War I, so she called on women to link their struggle for equal rights with the struggle to preserve peace. International Women's Day was established.

Eighty-two years later, in 1992, International Women's Day is celebrated around the world. In some countries it is a national holiday. In Canada, this is still a goal to be achieved, as are our goals for equality, peace and justice.

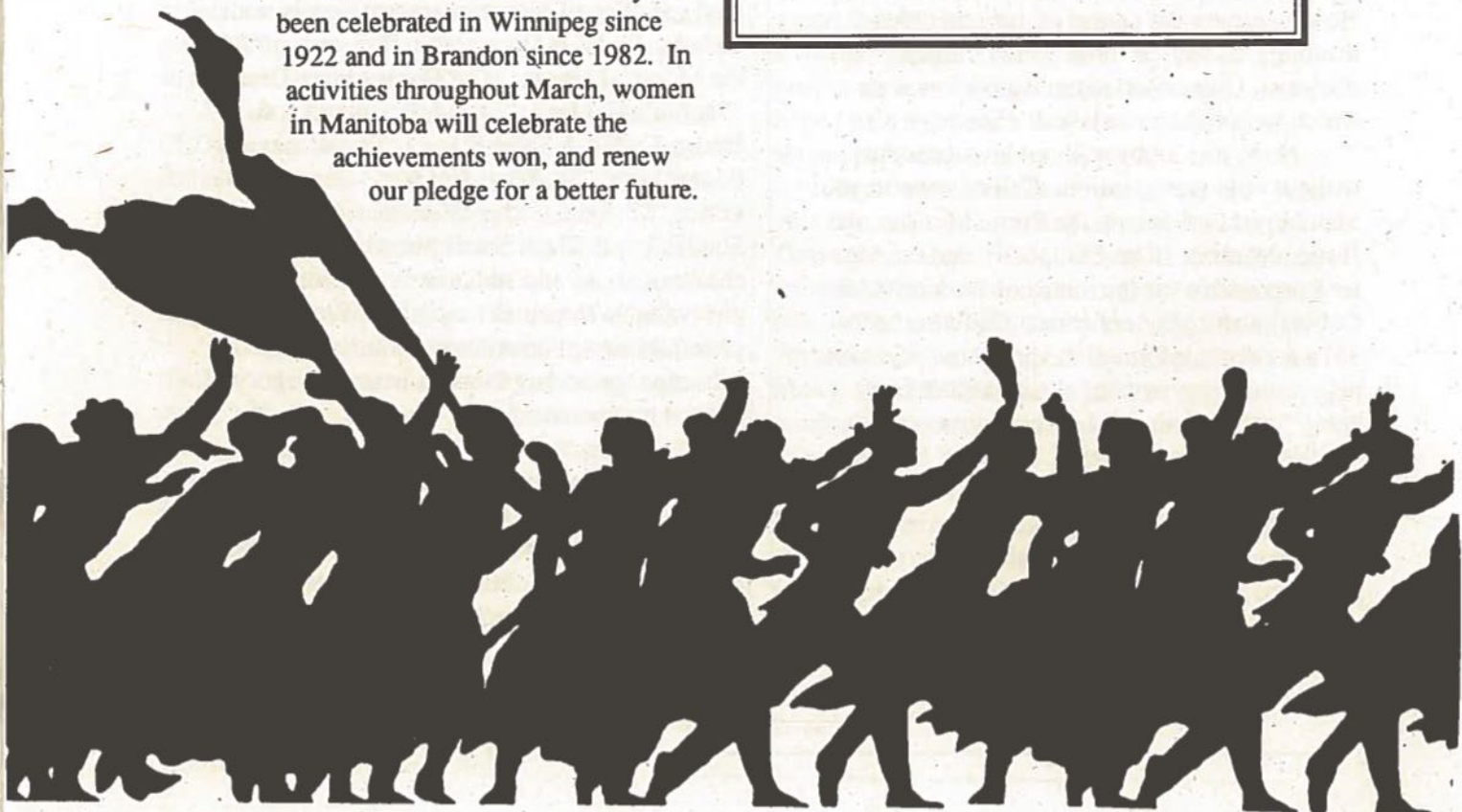
International Women's Day has been celebrated in Winnipeg since 1922 and in Brandon since 1982. In activities throughout March, women in Manitoba will celebrate the achievements won, and renew our pledge for a better future.

MACSW INVITES YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

MACSW NEEDS MEMBERS TO:

- ★ Staff the MACSW table at I.W.D. celebrations;
- ★ Help hoist the MACSW banner in the I.W.D. march;
- ★ Help with set up/take down of tables;
- ★ Be a marshall at the march;

***Call Tammy at 772-0457 if you
can help out! Be sure to check
out the International Women's
Day events listed on pages 6 & 7.***



BRANCH REPORTS

Winnipeg Branch

by *Andrea James*

Administrative Coordinator

Calling all feminists!!! It's time for action! This appears to be a time when our efforts are needed in many different areas, and all at the same time.

Jennifer Howard and I attended a three-day session of meetings in Ottawa at the end of January concerning the proposed Rape Shield legislation. It was a wonderful experience, meeting with about 65 other representatives from women's groups from across Canada. I would be hardpressed to think of a group of women whose voices were not represented there, and we worked together well and efficiently. The level of intelligence, collective experience, and solidarity in our meeting room was truly uplifting and inspiring.

We met to go over the new legislation in detail; discuss it, tear it apart, and revise it, and to strategize. The result was the beginning of a national lobby which, in short, will support the Bill if it includes our amendments. We were unified in our refusal to support it as it stands. However, over the course of our scheduled meetings, as well as those which formed over dinner etc., we began to envision a law with which we would be satisfied. (See page 8.)

Now, this lobby will not be successful without your participation. Call or write to your Member of Parliament, the Prime Minister, the Justice Minister (Kim Campbell), and the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women (Mary Collins) about your concerns. Call me at 453-3879 for more information about how you can help protect survivors of sexual assault from being further victimized in the courtroom.

In other Branch areas, MACSW had booths at the Manitoba Child Care Association Conference and at the conference "Confronting Violence in Lesbian Relationships". Shirley Forsyth presented a brief on behalf of MACSW regarding qualifications for the new Winnipeg Chief of Police. Joanne Levasseur is our representative on the Museum of Man and Nature's "Women of



The Burning Times: now available in MACSW office.

Invention" community advisory committee. Joanne and Jean Snow reviewed the National Action Committee on the Status of Women's draft of the "Women's Charter". And Jenny, Karen Prychitko and I have drafted a brief which will be presented to the House of Commons committee examining the Rape Shield Bill.

In the exciting news department: the Welfare Starlets, Shauna Dempsey, and the Spectrum Cabaret have donated a portion of the proceeds from a show on February 27th to support MACSW. Thank you to all involved!

MACSW's resources depend on donations! And speaking of resources, recent acquisitions include: the NFB December 6 film series "After the Montreal Massacre"; "The Burning Times"; "Sandra's Garden"; "Loved, Honoured and Bruised"; "To A Safer Place"; "For Richer, for Poorer"; and "No Way! Not Me" -all on VHS video; "Ms." magazine; "Canadian Woman Studies"; and "Each Small Step: breaking the chains of abuse and addiction". All our resources are available to you as a member. We will always gratefully accept donations of journal/magazine subscriptions and used books in any category of interest to women.

I hope to see you at the International Women's Day events and I encourage you to attend the U.N. End of Decade for Women Conference on Women and Justice/Injustice!

ATTENTION ALL MACSW VOLUNTEERS

If you represent MACSW on any community groups, please submit an annual report to Jenny Robinson by March 31, 1992. THANKS!



BRANCH REPORTS

Brandon Branch

by Jennifer Howard
Administrative Coordinator

Six weeks into the job as the Brandon Administrative Coordinator for MACSW and I feel like I've come home. My first month was exciting, highlighted by an impromptu trip to Ottawa to attend the department of Justice's consultation conference on the proposed Rape Shield legislation. Andrea James, Winnipeg staffperson, and I flew to Ottawa where we met with feminists from across the country and Justice Minister Kim Campbell to make recommendations, which centred on making the legislation relevant to all women and avoiding abuses due to "judicial discretion" in admitting past sexual history of victims as evidence.

There was consensus among those who attended that a woman's past sexual history is NEVER relevant, but since the Supreme Court doesn't agree with us on that, we tried to make it as "rarely relevant" as possible. We also discussed ways to continue putting pressure on the government regarding the law. This battle is not over yet, and it's more important than ever that women make their concerns known to the Minister. I brought back information on the bill which is in the office for anyone who wants to come and look it over.

I also spoke to a woman in Ottawa from INTERCEDE, an advocacy group concerned with the rights of domestic workers. She told me of the Mulroney government's plans for changing the Foreign Domestic Movement program which would further restrict the rights of these workers, who are predominantly women of color. (more information on page 11)

In other news, Brandon General Hospital will eliminate 33 nursing positions, 18 gynecology beds and 13 palliative care beds. The Manitoba Nurses' Union predicts 67 nurses will be laid off as a result. Letters of protest can be sent to: Larry Todd, Executive Director, Brandon General Hospital, 150 McTavish Ave. East, Brandon, Manitoba, R7A 2B3.

The local office of Planned Parenthood is undergoing some alarming changes. Two of the long-term employees have been discharged and the office is now only open half days. Planned Parenthood provides a crucial service to the women of Brandon,

especially young women, and we are very concerned about now this service will be affected. Stay tuned...

We have two new reports in the Brandon office - "Women Against Poverty" results of last year's hearings on poverty conducted by the Alberta Status of Women Action Committee, and the report from the Public Utilities Board on MTS's proposed Call Management Services. Many groups and individuals who work with victims of abuse had expressed concern that these new services would damage their clients' rights to confidentiality and endanger their physical safety.

As a result of these concerns, provisions have been made to block the display of the phone numbers of: incoming callers to women's shelters, victims of abuse and persons sheltering victims of abuse. The service called "Call Return", which would enable users to recall previous numbers dialed, has been denied by the Board. In addition, MTS has been directed to monitor the services during the one-year trial period in consultation with women's shelters and other interested groups and to report their findings to the Public Utilities Board. Barring a complete denial of the application, these provisions are probably the best we could have hoped for. All those who made presentations should pat themselves on the back.

Brandon celebrations for International Women's Day will center around the Constitution, Comedy and Camaraderie. Marcelle Dolment, an artist from Quebec who's been active on the constitutional discussion, will be in Brandon March 6th, 7th and 8th. She'll be speaking at a public forum March 6th, at 7:30 at the Royal Oak Inn and will be meeting with women on a more informal basis throughout the weekend. As well there will be a showing of "Wisecracks," a new NFB production about female comedians, on March 8th at 3 p.m. in the Little Theatre, in the basement of the Education Building at Brandon University. Phone the Brandon office for more details.

Next Brandon Branch Meeting is March 18th, at 7:30 at the Brandon Office, #202 -107 7th Street.

BRANCH REPORTS

Parkland Branch

by Heather Dootoff
Administrative Coordinator

When reflecting on this past month's activities, the activity that first comes to mind is "telephone tag."

It was a seemingly endless month of leaving and receiving telephone messages and talking to answering machines. Obviously this is a reflection of how busy we all are right now! Here's hoping for more person-to-person conversations in the months ahead.

Thanks to the support of the Canadian Filmmakers' Distribution Centre, the Parkland Status of Women Branch will enjoy viewing "Five Feminist Minutes" on International Women's Day. (See the calendar of events for more information.)

Arrangements have begun for MACSW's Annual Meeting and Orientation to be held in Dauphin April 25th and 26th. The volunteer list for billets and tasks is already underway. PCC members, past and present, have been preparing new members with tales of hard work and fun, so bring your guitars everyone! (More information on the Annual Meeting will be available in the April newsletter.)

Requests for information and advocacy/support have increased in the last month. The issues vary and include: childcare, financial support, sexual assault, divorce/separation.

Our branch has been invited to participate in a community planning exercise initiated by the Town of Dauphin.

Thompson

by Debra McVittie
Administrative Coordinator

With International Women's Day around the corner, much of our time and effort is devoted to committee meetings and planning. With the help of a number of other organizations in Thompson, **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S WEEK will run from March 1-8, 1992.** Included within the week's events are an educational night, a luncheon, and a coffee house---all including entertainment and speakers. For the duration of this week, a display will be set up at the public library on violence against women and citizens will be encouraged to wear ribbons.

Although I.W.D. is keeping us busy, we have not forgotten that February is membership drive month. The Thompson Branch set up a display at the City Centre Mall in Thompson on February 22nd. Our goals were to inform the public about MACSW and the Thompson Branch and bring in new members.

On March 4, we will participate in information sharing on the structure of MACSW and the Thompson Branch with New Career trainees from outlying communities. This is a good time to promote MACSW and the Thompson Branch, and we are planning for a very interesting and educational day.

MACSW THOMPSON BRANCH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY-FRIDAY

12:30-5:30 P.M.

TESIA BROOKS CERTIFIED GENERAL ACCOUNTANT

Accounting, Income Tax, Data Processing
Financial Management, Personal Financial Planning

475-2171

113 Academy Road, Winnipeg, Man., R3M 0E2

Income Tax Services

Maureen Schwanke
Box 23,
Manitoba

Phone 562-3662
Arrow River,
R0M2H0

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Provincial Coordinator

by Jenny Robinson

Happy International Women's Day!

Thanks to all the members who have renewed. For those of you who have not renewed yet, now is the time and remember: if you can't pay the full membership this time, just pay what you can afford!

I just got back from Dauphin where I had the opportunity of participating in the Parkland Branch meeting. Thanks very much to all the women who attended the meeting, it was a pleasure to be there. Also while I was in Dauphin,

Heather, the Parkland staffperson, and I did some planning around the **MACSW Annual General Meeting and Orientation meeting which will take place in Dauphin April 24th and 25th.** The Provincial Coordinating Committee is nominated and elected at the AGM.

If you are a member of MACSW interested in participating at the provincial level please let your branch know. If you do not live in an area with a Branch please contact me at the Winnipeg office. There will be further details in next months Action. Happy spring!

Women's Health Clinic to host Cancer Conference



"Our body is our most prized possession. We need to learn about it ... we need to learn how it works." — guest speaker Leslee Thompson R.N., M.Sc.N.

The focus of an April women's health conference sponsored by the Women's Health Clinic of Winnipeg is women and cancer.

Conference speaker Leslee Thompson, who has received numerous awards for her work with quality of life issues in cancer care, carries a message that challenges women to take control and "to make informed choices."

Conference Sessions, to be held Saturday April 25, 1992, include:

- ◆ Abnormal Pap Smears
 - ◆ Sexuality, Self-image and Women with Cancer
 - ◆ Understanding Cancer Treatment
 - ◆ Therapies
 - ◆ Sharing Our Experiences with Cancer as Women
 - ◆ Seeking a Healer Within
 - ◆ Breast Cancer and Mammography
- Conference cost is a reasonable \$25 and it

will be held from 9:00 to 4:00 at the Union Centre at 275 Broadway in Winnipeg. Call 947-1517.

Betty Stapells has a secret.
Her three sisters want to keep it that way.
Now Betty is ready to talk.

Soon the whole world will know.

Popular Theatre Alliance of Manitoba presents

IF BETTY SHOULD RISE

by David Demchuk

A compelling story of incest and betrayal.

FEBRUARY 27-MARCH 8, 1992

GAS STATION THEATRE

Tickets \$12.00 Regular, \$10.00 Low-income, seniors, students,
available at Bold Print and all Mary Scorer locations.

For reservations call 589-8408

Groups of 10 or more pay \$8.00 per ticket

Performances are at 8 pm

New! Pay-What-You-Can Sunday matinees, 3 pm
Mature Subject Matter

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN



**FEBRUARY 27-
MARCH 8**

If Betty Should Rise, a play that tells a moving story of incest and its effects on four adult sisters---four versions of the truth. Presented at the Gas Station Theatre in

Winnipeg nightly at 8:00 p.m. or Sundays at 3:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10.00 and \$12.00 Mary Scorer Books or Bold Print. For more info 589-8408.

MARCH 5

Margaret Ann Richards, mezzo-soprano, presented by Congress of Black Women at Westminster United Church 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$15. Call 949-1858.

Faith Nolan Concert presented by University of Winnipeg Women's Centre at 8:00 p.m. at the West End Cultural Centre. Tickets \$8.00/2 for \$15. Call 786-9788.

MARCH 6

Indigenous Women's Collective hosts the Second Annual IWD luncheon. Delta Inn, 12:00. Speaker M.P. Dorothy Dobbie. Tickets \$16.00. in advance or \$18.00 at the door. Info 944-8709.

Open House sponsored by Red River Community College Women's Program's department. Theme: Women Inventors. From 10:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m. Film "Goddess Remembered" will be shown at 12:00 and 2:00 p.m. Call 632-2311.

Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre fundraiser "If Betty Should Rise" benefit performance. Tickets \$20.00 Call 269-6836.

MARCH 7

CUSO volunteer orientation to learn about women craft works in Chile and Thailand 9:45 - 3:00 p.m. Childcare and lunch provided. Call 774-8489.

MARCH 8-14

Immigrant Women's Week

Opening celebration, cultural displays and fair 3:00 -6:00 p.m. 323 Portage Avenue Room 201. Call 989-5800.

MARCH 9

Women's Health Foundation of Canada -

A fundraiser and tribute to International Women's Day at the Gas Station Theatre Music 'n Mirth is an evening of entertainment. Tickets \$25. For info 488-4541.

University of Manitoba Women's Studies Open House -Career symposium for women's studies students. 1:30 -4:00 p.m. Multi Purpose Room in the UMSU Bldg.



MARCH 12

The Association of United Ukrainian Canadians will host an IWD celebration at 2:00 p.m. at the Ukrainian Labour Temple at Pritchard and McGregor. Call 589-4780.

Al Cafe in celebration of IWD will present "Women Hold Up More Than Half the Sky", evening of entertainment West End Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m. Tickets \$3.00-\$6.00 info. 452-2242.

MARCH 13-15

Women's Music Festival at the West End Cultural Centre in Winnipeg

March 13th -Christine Lavin at 8:00 p.m. \$15

March 14th -Open Mind at 8:00 p.m. Tickets \$10.

March 15th -Judy Small at 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$12.

For info phone 783-6918.

WOMEN'S DAY EVENTS 1992

MARCH 20-21

United Nations End of Decade for Women 1992 Annual Conference

Friday and Saturday at the Marlborough Hotel in Winnipeg. Starts at 6:30 p.m. Theme *Women and Justice/Injustice*. Saturday workshops from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tickets \$20.00 and \$25.00. See pg. 10 for more info. Call 943-0381.

THOMPSON

March 1st, - film and speaker,

March 1 -8th Ribbon & Button Week

March 6th- Luncheon in recognition of Eunadie Johnson, Director of Thompson Crisis Centre.

March 8th Coffee House, sponsored by Thompson Branch, MACSW, D.E.N.I.M. North, Single Parent Job Access, Ma Mow We Tak Centre and YWCA Call 778-8549.

DAUPHIN

March 8, Parkland Status of Women MACSW Branch. "Five Feminist Minutes" at 7:30 p.m. Call 638-3599.

BRANDON

March 8th-film & discussion ;call 725-2955.

MARCH 8

WINNIPEG MARCH & RALLY

The March will begin at 1:00 p.m. at the Legislative Building and go to the University of Winnipeg.

All Welcome (men too!) Bring your placards, banners, musical instruments---it's a celebration. The Nellie McClung Group will lead the march.

The rally will be at Riddell Hall at the U of Winnipeg from 1:45 to 3:00. This year's speaker is Kathy Mallet of the Aboriginal Women's Unity Coalition.

Music from the Wyrd Sisters, food, displays and a craft sale. A Women's Art Exhibit sponsored by MENTORING ARTISTS FOR WOMEN'S ART and the IWD COMMITTEE will be on exhibit. CHILD CARE. Pre-register by calling 786-9788.

FILM FESTIVAL

Cinematheque, 100 Arthur Street Winnipeg

MARCH 6-12

Angel Square, a film by Anne Wheeler. Set in Alberta in 1945, tells the story of a 12-year-old boy growing up in small town Alberta. Will be shown at 7:30 and 9:30 at Cinematheque.

MARCH 13

Deep Sleep, a film by Patricia Gruben about 17-year-old Shelley McBride, who suffers from the trauma of witnessing her father's murder. 7:30 p.m. FREE.

MARCH 14

Low Visibility, a film by Patricia Gruben, about a man wandering alone on a snowy mountain roadside, who is unable or unwilling to explain what has happened to him. 7:30 p.m. FREE.

MARCH 15

Horsewoman, and **Taking a Walk with Dad**, two films by Winnipeg filmmaker Shereen Jerrett. at 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. at Cinematheque. *Horsewoman*, a beautifully photographed portrait of women and their horses, trainers and riders from Manitoba.

MARCH 16-19

The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe, Lily Tomlin's legendary one woman, positively dazzling stage show. Tomlin plays 12 characters to perfection! 7:30 and 9:30 shows.

MARCH 20-26

Wisecracks, the provocative and entertaining performance documentary from Gail Singer (True Confessions) Features comedy routines of North America's top women comedians: Whoopi Goldberg, Phyllis Diller, The Clichettes and more.

MARCH 27-31

The Famine Within, a searing documentary about body image and dieting. Winner of Best Documentary, Genie Awards.



MACSW joins Rape Shield lobby in Ottawa

by Andrea James

For three days in late January, MACSW and other members of the women's movement met in Ottawa to strategize and revamp the proposed Rape Shield legislation and meet with Justice Minister Kim Campbell.

The opportunity to meet and forge ties with women outside of Manitoba, as well as discovering commonalities and gaining solidarity, was invaluable.

Background

Last August, the Supreme Court struck down the Rape Shield law—believing that it violated the right of accused rapists to a fair trial. The law, in theory at least, disallowed an accused rapist from using a victim's past sexual history as part of his defence.

Seven of the nine Supreme Court judges believed that a woman's past sexual history is sometimes relevant in sexual assault cases, a point with which the majority of the women's movement strongly disagrees.

Shortly after overturning the law, many women demanded that the Justice Minister either invoke the "notwithstanding" clause of the Charter to reinstate the Rape Shield or introduce new Rape Shield legislation. A coalition of national women's groups, including the Canadian Association of Sexual Assault Centres, the National Organization of Immigrant and Visible Minority Women, the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund, the Dis-abled Women's Network, the Congress of Black Women, and the National Action Committee on the Status of Women was formed to look at drafting legislation.

Kim Campbell introduced new legislation on December 12, 1991, based somewhat on the recommendations of the coalition, and she agreed to fund about 65 representatives from front-line women's organizations for a consultation in Ottawa.

The government's proposed legislation is promising, but needs to be expanded and redefined.

What We Did

In three days, these representatives of the Canadian women's movement came up with a unified position on the Bill and presented it to Kim Campbell in a 90 minute meeting.

Specifically, we demanded a preamble to the Bill which would acknowledge the problems in access to justice experienced by Aboriginal women, Black women, women of colour, women who have a disability, elderly women, immigrant women, lesbians, women who are non-citizens, women refugees, sex trade workers, and children. We also proposed that a clause acknowledging the existence of sexist myths about women's and men's sexuality be included in the legislation, and we said we wanted a clause added that would state clearly that, notwithstanding what the Supreme Court said, women's sexual history is never relevant.

We came up with a rewritten preamble and a list of changes to the body of the Bill; a media kit & mobilization plan; information about the parliamentary process, briefwriting, and lobbying; translation for all of the above, and a list of other related positions which we may choose to endorse individually. Women are truly amazing!

In the next month MACSW will be writing a brief we want to present to the House of Commons sub-committee dealing with the review of this Bill. A national network has been formed for the distribution of information so that we may all keep abreast of each others' actions. We need to petition Members of Parliament, specifically those sitting on the committee, to accept our endorsed amendments. And we need to send a strong message to the government that while this Bill is a start, it uses weak language, leaves too much to judicial discretion, and paints all women with the same brush when we all know our experiences vary. In short, it's not good enough. And we can make it better.

For more information about the Supreme Court decision, the proposed Rape Shield legislation, the Ottawa meetings, the national lobby, or how you can get involved as a member of MACSW, contact the branch nearest you.

MACSW Survey Responses Flood in



Your response to last month's MACSW survey about the performance and direction of MACSW has been incredible. In the first 2 weeks alone, about 75 responses flooded in---nearly 20% of MACSW members!

Although *not* conclusive yet, (we'll tabulate the final results and forward to the Provincial Coordinating Committee), here's a sneak preview of what you've said so far:

60% of respondents were MACSW members for more than 5 years (more than 30% more than 10 years!);

Half are active members in 3 or more other organizations;

96 % who expressed an opinion said MACSW does a good or very good job;

98% rated *ACTION* good or very good (take heart those who expressed a concern about the "high" quality paper - printing is no more expensive than last year when *ACTION* was printed on plain bond. And we use recycled paper too! Folding it to mail in envelopes saves \$75 per issue.)

60% of you say you're too busy to become more involved in MACSW

60% say MACSW should continue to focus on many issues rather than focussing on only a few;

Your 4 most highly prioritized activities for MACSW were:

1. Lobbying
2. Public Education
3. Political Action
4. Developing Support Groups for Women

Your top 5 issues for MACSW were:

1. Elections/Women & Politics
2. Poverty & Women
3. Sexual Assault
4. Wife Abuse
5. Work related issues (sexual harassment, non-traditional jobs, pay equity)

Your next top 5 issues were:

1. Child Abuse & Incest
2. Justice (law reform)
3. Media Monitoring
4. Racism
5. Training Issues

MACSW Members' Support Helps to Relaunch Herizons

Expected to reach its target goal of 3,000 charter subscribers within the next 2 weeks, the first issue of *Herizons* magazine will be at the printers in a few days.

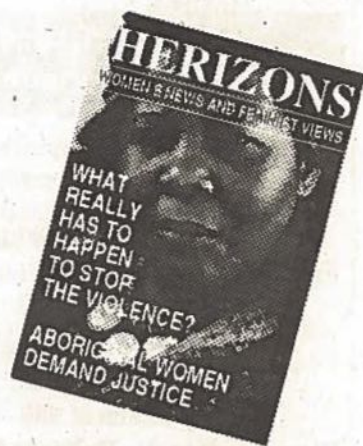
MACSW members joined many other women's groups in supporting *Herizons* relaunch effort. December's issue of *ACTION* contained a copy of *Herizons* 's subscription brochure and about 125 MACSW members responded by sending in their subscription cheque!

Herizons 's shoestring budget relaunch project relied heavily on the exchange of mailing lists with other feminist organizations and periodicals across Canada to get all of its 50,000 subscription brochures into circulation.

If you haven't subscribed yet and still have your subscription brochure lying around,---its not

too late:
Herizons still needs your subscription cheque for \$21.40 payable to *Herizons* Box 128, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 2G1 .

The first issue will include articles on RU486-the new abortion pill; Aboriginal women & traditional self-government; An interview with Eunadie Johnson of the Thompson Crisis Centre; A visual memoir of an incest survivor; a guest column by Black activist and feminist Rosemary Brown, reviews, news and much more.



MANITOBA COMMITTEE
for
U.N. End of Decade for Women



1992 CONFERENCE
WOMEN AND JUSTICE/INJUSTICE
Eight Years 'til 2000

When: Friday, March 20, 1992
& Saturday, March 21, 1992
Purpose: To address the issue of conflict resolution and how to create an equitable justice system.

Location: Marlborough Inn,
331 Smith St.
Winnipeg

Starts: Friday, March 20, 1992
Time: 6:30 -9:30 p.m.

Workshop Topics:

- ◆ Aboriginal Women and Justice/Healing
- ◆ Women and Equity in the Workplace
- ◆ Human Rights
- ◆ Health
- ◆ Parenting/Family
- ◆ Safety and women
- ◆ Violence Against Women

For more information contact:

Carole Johansson
Conference Co-ordinator
989-4178 or 488-8536 or
Babs Friesen at 989-4140/41

Plan to attend! Bring a friend!

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Altrusa International of Winnipeg * Canadian Congress for Learning Opportunities for Women * Ikwewak Justice Society * Immigrant Women's Association of Manitoba * Keewatin Community College * Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women * Manitoba Council for International Co-operation * MATCH International * National Council of Jewish Women * Original Women's Network * Plurielles & Reseau * Provincial Council of Women * United National Association in Canada * Winnipeg Women's ORT * YM/YWCA

Women Bring Grim Free Trade Warning

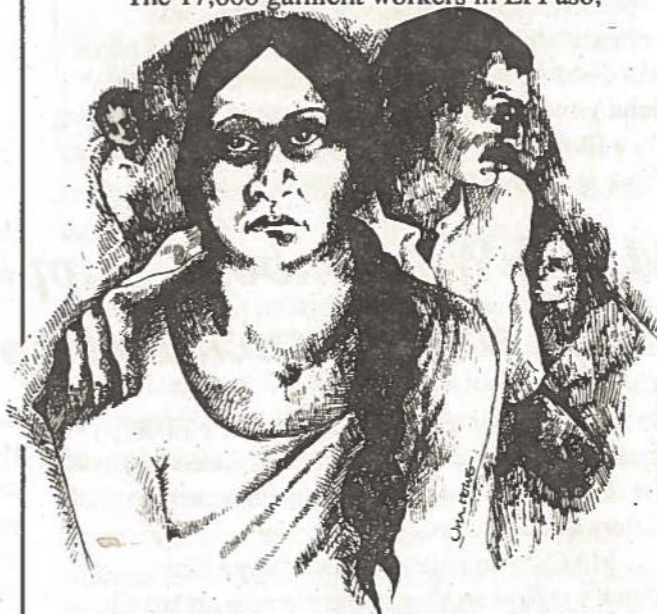
Angie Reynoso and Carmen Dominguez have a grim tale for Canadians contemplating their future under free trade with Mexico.

"What happened to us in El Paso could easily happen here," the two Mexican-Americans predicted at a public forum sponsored by OXFAM-CANADA and organized by CHOICES and CUSO.

"I'm sure you'll see a lot more Canadians losing jobs, a lot more businesses folding up and going south, and other people opening sweatshops here, paying only starvation wages," said Angie.

Angie and Carmen work for La Mujer Obrera (The Working Woman), a support group of 900 women who fight for their livelihood in a garment industry decimated by the "maquiladora" or free trade program in Mexico.

The 17,000 garment workers in El Paso,



85% of them women, face appalling conditions -- 12 hour work days, no heat or air conditioning, no ventilation or fire escapes, and poor lighting.

Often they don't even get paid. "They are told by their boss that he's waiting for his buyer to pay him," Angie recounts.

"They wait four to six weeks. Then one day they go back and his sweatshop is closed. He declares bankruptcy, and then re-opens down the street under a new name, hiring new workers."

-from an article by Susan White, OXFAM-Canada

Program for Women in Business Begins

A new program has been launched by the Federal Business Development Bank to address the needs of women in business. Called Step-up: Business Expansion Training for Women Entrepreneurs, the program is aimed at women business owners who want to expand their business or their know-how.

It pairs up women who own small businesses with women who own larger businesses. According to Syl Froese, advisor for the program, "This mentoring process is often missing from a business woman's network."

Under the program, co-sponsored by Canada Employment and Immigration and Women Business Owners of Manitoba, 30

women will be matched with one of 15 volunteer mentors who will share their expertise and experience. Seminars in the program include: Developing a marketing Plan; Marketing for Impact; Financial Forecasting; Assessing Personnel Needs and Developing Job Descriptions; and Hiring, Orientation and Training. Full day workshops focus on preparing a Business Plan and a Human Resource Plan.

The Federal Business Development Bank (FBDB) is a crown corporation that provides term loans and loan guarantees, venture capital and a broad range of management training, counselling and planning services.

Domestic Workers Fight Back

INTERCEDE, a national organization working to improve the status of domestic workers in Canada, is protesting a recent move by the federal government to restrict domestic workers right to settle permanently in Canada.

They want all equality-seeking supporters in the women's movement and labour movement to write the Minister of Employment and Immigration to protest their clamp down, which includes a move to make grade 12 a pre-requisite for domestic workers. Domestic workers across Canada have taken to the streets recently to protest the fact that they are already vulnerable to abuse and exploitation because of their unstable status in Canada and forced live-in working conditions. Intercede believes that domestic workers should enter Canada as immigrants, just like other workers for whose work there is a demand, and says in its recent newsletter, that "It is not only demeaning and abusive" to make domestics more vulnerable, "but racist...since most domestic workers are women of color." Send your letter demanding the strengthening of domestic's status to:

**Minister Bernard Valcourt
Employment and Immigration
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6
Fax (819) 944-0448**

MACSW Newsletter March 1992

BOLD PRINT^{Inc.}

THE WOMEN'S BOOKSTORE

478 RIVER AVENUE • WINNIPEG R3L 0C8
PHONE (204) 452-9682

Ten Best Sellers' List January 1992

1. *Everywoman's Almanac*
The Women's Press
2. *She Who Was Lost is Remembered*
edited by Louise Wisechild
3. *Circle of Stones*
Judith Duerk
4. *Boating for Beginners*
Jeannette Winterson
5. *Allies in Healing*
Laura Davis
6. *The Courage to Heal*
Ellen Bass & Laura Davis
7. *Revolution From Within*
Gloria Steinem
8. *Joy Luck Club*
Amy Tan
9. *The Beauty Myth*
Naomi Wolf
10. *Grandmothers of the Light*
Paula Gunn Allen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

READINGS BY BETH BRANT, author of *Food & Spirits* AND **DOROTHY ALLISON**, author of *Trash*. **MARCH 15th** at Ms. Purdy's, 272 Sherbrook. Admission \$1-\$10. 7:30 p.m.

SELF ESTEEM CONFIDENCE AND YOU! Workshop Saturday **March 28** and **April 4th**. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Fee \$55. Instructor Miriam Kuporpatwa. Participants will look at external and internal factors that contribute to lack of self-esteem and self-confidence. Personal strengths and achievements will be celebrated while weaknesses will be put in to perspective. Call 989-4100 for info.



SORROW AND STRENGTH : The Process

2nd annual conference about childhood sexual abuse for adult survivors, professional helpers, teachers and other support people.

APRIL 9, 10, & 11, 1992 at the **INTERNATIONAL INN** in Winnipeg. Featuring

Louise Armstrong, Elly Danica, Shirley Turcotte, Eugene Porter, Myra Laramie and others. Conference Fees \$260 for all events. Bursaries for low income available, space permitting. Call 786-1971.

TRANSPORT CANADA RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN. Interested in becoming an Air Traffic Controller or Flight Service Specialist? On **March 17 and 18th**, Transport Canada will hold career presentations in Winnipeg. They invite under-represented groups — primarily women---to consider these careers. If you want to attend, call Cindy Shinnie at 983-5538.

BOLD PRINT READING Janice Williamson, Edmonton poet. **April 2, 1992** 7:30 p.m. 478 River Ave. Winnipeg.

THE KALI-SHIVA SOCIETY Caring for people with AIDS needs volunteers for driving clients to appointments during the day. No time commitment is too small! Please call 586-5222.



AN EVENING OF OUTRAGEOUS COMEDY AND LESBIAN SEX EDUCATION JoAnn Loulan, **Friday March 13, 1992**. Author of *Lesbian Sex, Lesbian Passion: Loving Ourselves and Each Other* at 8:00 p.m. University of Winnipeg Centennial Hall **TICKETS \$5/\$8**. Sponsored by the Lesbians and Aids Education Project. Tickets available at Bold Print, Prairie Sky Bookstore, Ms. Purdy's.

THE LESBIAN EROTIC WORKSHOP: liberating our sexuality **Saturday March 14th, 1992**. With JoAnn Loulan. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. 275 Broadway Avenue Union Centre \$25.00. Challenging taboos and politics of lesbian sex, participants are encouraged to reach their full erotic potential. Lecture, experiential exercises and group discussions. Valuable for single and coupled women. Respect and confidentiality will be stressed. Limited space. Call 586-2548 for info.

POPULAR THEATRE ALLIANCE OF MANITOBA is forming a group to develop a community-based play on women and mental illness. It will involve participants meeting to share stories of their experiences about the mental health care system and its effects on women. For more information, contact Lee Anne Block at 783-8945 or leave a message at PTAM at 589-8408.

WOMEN AND THE HISTORICAL RECORD A course at the University of Manitoba will be offered Tuesdays, **March 24 - May 5, 1992**. 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the University Women's Club. Fee \$111. Using examples from Canadian and European historical writing, the course will examine contemporary research on the lives of women in the past in these areas: The record of women in writing history, the new research and writing on women reclaiming the past, the history of women in Canada, the varieties of women's experience in creative women future research. Instructor: Angela Davis. Contact: Student Services, Continuing Education Division, 188 C.E. Complex, The University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Man. R3T 2N2 Ph. 474-8016.



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

Yes! 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) _____

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

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

ACTIVITIES

- | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Political Action | <input type="checkbox"/> Lobbying |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Office Duties | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Education | |

NEAREST MACSW BRANCH

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> WINNIPEG
16-222 Osborne St. S
Winnipeg,
R3L 1Z3
453-3879
453-4157 | <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



MARCH

- 1** **Bare Talk:** A poetry reading by women who have survived childhood/adolescent sexual abuse, 1:00 p.m. at the Gas Station Theatre, to be followed by *If Betty Should Rise*, a play about the aftermath of incest. Call 452-9682 or 589-8408 for more information.
- 1** **Outdoor Women's Network:** Ski at Birds Hill Park. Call Bernie at 284-7526.
- 5** **Women and Words** writing group meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Winnipeg MACSW office, 16-222 Osborne St. For information call Pat 488-0988.
- 5-8** **Women's Art Show** for International Women's Day. For more information, call 334-5644.
- til 7th** **Spontaneous Combustion**, an exhibition of works by 11 women artists, sponsored by Mentoring Artists for Women's Art. Main/Access Gallery, 121-100 Arthur St., Winnipeg. Hours: Tuesday to Saturday 11:00 am to 5:30 pm.
- 6** **If Betty Should Rise** an evening in support of the Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre. 8:00 at the Gas Station Theatre. Tickets \$20.00, Contact the FGWRC at 269-6836.
- 7** **CUSO Volunteer Orientation Workshop** with information about women in Chile and North east Thailand. 9:45 to 3:00 p.m. at 60 Maryland St. FREE LUNCH. Call 774-8489.
- 8** **International Women's Day:** March beginning at the Legislature at 1:00 and moving to the University of Winnipeg. All welcome (men too!). Rally at Riddell Hall, U. of W. from 12:45 to 3:00. (see page 6 & 7 for more details)
- 8** **I.W.D.** Dauphin First United Church, 37 3rd Ave NW. Film "Five Feminist Minutes." Bring Five Feminist Friends!
- 8** **An Evening With Marcelle Doment** in Brandon 7:30 p.m. Royal Oak Inn.
- 12** **Women Hold Up More Than Half The Sky:** an evening of entertainment and solidarity in celebration of International Women's Day presented by Al Cafe. At the West End Cultural Centre, 8:00. Tickets \$6.00 (\$3.00 for students and unemployed). 453-8581 or 452-2242
- 15** **Readings by Beth Brant and Dorothy Allison**, 7:30 pm at Ms. Purdy's. Admission \$1 - \$10. 272 Sherbrook St. Winnipeg.
- 15** **Outdoor Women's Network:** Ski at LaBarriere Park. Call Monique at 237-3318.
- 16** **Violence Against Women Committee** meeting at 6:00 p.m. at the Winnipeg MACSW office. At 7:00 David Rice Lampert will meet with committee members interested in connecting with the Manitoba Men's Network to discuss how the groups can work together.
- 19** **Woman & Civic Politics Meeting** New MACSW sub-committee at 7:00 p.m. MACSW Winnipeg Office, 16-222 Osborne St. South (behind Pasquale's Restaurant).
- 20-21** **"Women and Justice/Injustice"** 1992 Conference presented by the Manitoba Committee for U.N. End of Decade for Women. At the Marlborough Inn Friday, 6:30 - 9:30 and Saturday, 9:00 - 4:00 p.m.. For more information call 989-4178.
- 26** **Westman Coalition for Equality Rights** to visit Dauphin Call Dauphin MACSW office for details.