

WM142

The Rally Story

AN ACCOUNT OF THE PLANNING, ORGANIZATION AND ENACTMENT OF
WOMEN RALLY FOR ACTION

THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE LEGISLATIVE LOBBY EVER HELD IN
BRITISH COLUMBIA.

MARCH 22, 1976

VICTORIA, B.C.



\$2.00



NORTHWEST

Vol. 1 No. 15

Women rally Mon

SUE VOHANKA

B.C.'s MLAs will be in Victoria on Monday. They will all over B.C. for action from

The needs of half of the province's population cannot be ignored or dealt with lightly.

"Comprehensive programs designed to consciously integrate women into the political, economic and social structure developed and saved."

men are employed, covered by this legislation. "For those who do have jobs as men, it is under the HOUSTON TODAY-LAKES

NW Women off Vic Women plan mass lobby March 22

By PAT CATHER

Across the Northwest women preparing to go to Victoria to their MLAs in a rally March 22 will be attended by women from all over the province.

Purpose of the "Rally for Action" is to press for legislative changes aimed at bettering the status of women in B.C.

Women from Terrace, Atlin, Burns Lake will be attending rally, and delegates are expected to come from Rupert and Kitimat.

They will be carrying letters from interested women in their ridings who cannot be present.

Women will be journeying to Victoria from all over the province to take part in Women Rally for Action Day on March 22, 1976.

"What is your personal opinion of the proposals of the Berger Commission on Community of Property in marriage?" "Will you support amending the B.C. Human Rights Code to read 'equal pay for work of equal value'?" "What do you read to open up economic opportunities for women?"

Nanaimo women to join protest

The Women's Rally for Action in Victoria, scheduled for next Monday, will include a variety of women's groups and organizations. Women are planning to present the legislative briefs on the present situation to the MLA's have stated their position to women and the Social Credit party without a platform. Women in B.C. do not face in our legislative assembly the same face in our legislative assembly as women in B.C. do not face in our legislative assembly.

Call on MLA's

Bring home to those men (and women) who represent us ALL that somewhere along the line they're forgetting something. Women won't rally round any banner proclaiming "Backward, turn backward, O Time in your flight."

G.R. women join march on Victoria

Representatives from Campbell River's Women's Organizations March 22 with their demands for action.

Local Delegates Travel to Victoria

The local Princeton Women's Group has been busy gathering local feedback for the upcoming Women's Rally for Action in Victoria on March 22nd.

Provincial women plan Victoria rally

Women from all over the province will travel to Victoria March 22 to interview MLAs during a rally on women's rights in front of the Legislative Buildings. Teams of lobbyists from every riding in B.C. made their

Feminists to take views to Victoria

Vancouver feminists will gather outside the Georgia Street courthouse Monday for a meeting which will explain the

Women cite 80 steps to equality

The brief urges government to provide funding to women's centres. The brief urges government to provide funding to women's centres. The brief urges government to provide funding to women's centres.

By K...

It like what's...

But they WILL rally round this...

By taking...

Letters and MORE...

Women's centres...

Women's centres...

Women's centres...

Women's centres...

Women's centres...

Y. W. C. A.
RESOURCE CENTRE

The Rally Story

WOMEN RALLY FOR ACTION
VICTORIA, B.C. — MARCH 22, 1976





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Preface

This book is a description of how women of British Columbia conceived, planned, and organized the largest mass lobby of Members of the Legislative Assembly in the history of B.C. Words can never recapture the excitement of the occasion. We feel, however, that some account should be provided of the process we all went through and some analysis of that process and its results.

We also want to pass on to others an account of the problems we faced and the skills we learned. We recognize that, although the basic women's issues in this country are similar, no two actions on these issues can be identical. We wish only to share what worked and what didn't work for us, and to convey some sense of what can happen when women are angry enough to act.

The shape of this book evolved quite slowly. At one moment we were writing long, detailed (and boring) work outlines; at another, we were reliving the excitement of our action and wanting, somehow, to convey that excitement to others.

We finally decided on a workbook format. Several personal recollections serve as an introduction to the organizational detail. A flow chart illustrates the breadth of the organization. To provide consistency, the work of each committee is outlined under the headings "Goal, Participants, Organization, Comments".

The book closes with an evaluation of the action itself and comment on the process which was a unique experience for hundreds of women in the spring of 1976. The act of writing it all down has been to relive a significant and vitalizing occasion in the growth of the women's movement in British Columbia.

Introduction

RECOLLECTIONS: THE FIRST MOVES TOWARDS ACTION

I'll never forget Sunday, January 18, 1976. It was a sunny day, the kind of day for a mid-winter walk on the beach. Instead, I went to a meeting in Vancouver in a smoke-filled room with thirty other feminists representing many local women's groups.

We were there because we were angry. We had had enough of the tokenism of International Women's Year; we had had enough of waiting and hoping for government recognition of our legitimate concerns; we had had enough of being told — 'The women's movement is an urban phenomenon; there aren't any women in rural areas interested in women's issues.' We had had enough of our newly elected provincial government firing the few feminists the previous government had allowed into its outer sanctum.

The new government had just eliminated the Office of the Provincial Co-ordinator for the Status of Women; had served notice that the contract of the Department of Education's Special Advisor on Sex Discrimination would be terminated; had disbanded the community Advisory Committee on Sex Discrimination; and had indicated that there would be no funding for transition houses, rape relief centres and women's groups.

We considered possible protest actions. Although this meeting had been organized by a few women, we all agreed from the beginning that what we chose to do and the way we chose to do it would be decided collectively. This meeting and the one that followed were particularly important in the formation of a goal that was both realistic and attainable. Suggestions for possible actions included the takeover of a media outlet, a sit-in at a government office, a march downtown. But the response was immediate and enthusiastic when it was proposed that we organize a massive lobby of the provincial Legislature, with teams of women from every riding of the province travelling to Victoria to lobby their M.L.A.'s on women's issues; that we establish our own office on the Legislative lawn, with all the M.L.A.'s responses posted on a huge billboard; and that we hold a simultaneous Rally in front of the Legislative Buildings. There was something very real about the idea. It would involve women from all over the province and it would be a constructive action.

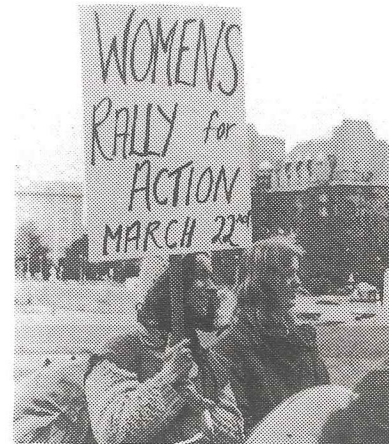
Organization began. While this was to be primarily a provincial action, there were hopes, at the time, of promoting similar protests elsewhere and those interested in a national demonstration arranged a meeting to discuss the possibilities. A committee was formed to work on a brief; a woman agreed to put together some lobby team strategies, and another group offered to print a weekly bulletin that would cover the action's progress. The first meeting over, we dispersed to spread the word in our own groups.

A week later, we were in another smoke-filled room, but this one was larger and there were more women present. Several women had prepared an agenda — already we had reports and business to discuss. Not the least of our worries was how to get in to see *all* of the M.L.A.'s and on the *same* day! Moreover, Victoria, the capital city of B.C., is located 80 miles from Vancouver (and on an island, no less) — the logistics of organizing a rally to take place there were mind-boggling.

We had to make plans to bring lobby teams to Victoria from all over the province and we had to set up committees to deal with such needs as transportation, money, billeting, childcare, publicity, placards, and food. It was at this second meeting that women signed up for various committees, many signing up for more than one. Several women had jobs in which they could work virtually full time doing organizational work for the Rally. It was agreed that each committee would choose a co-ordinator who would attend a committee co-ordinators' meeting each Sunday. The Sunday meetings were also open to any women who wished to attend.

Each committee was responsible for providing a weekly report for the central communications bulletin, *Intercom*, which, in turn, would be sent to interested women and women's groups throughout B.C. We had already an extensive network of feminists and women's organizations in B.C. from which we could make the contacts necessary to transform our idea into a reality. We established contacts with the more than 40 women's centres throughout B.C., the women's committees of the political parties, the B.C. Federation of Women, the Status of Women representatives of the B.C. Teachers Federation, the women's committees and organizers of various unions, and numerous other women's groups and community organizations.

At the second meeting, we chose the name, **WOMEN RALLY FOR ACTION**.¹ At the time, we didn't realize how well organized we were, but, in retrospect, we had it down right there.



At this point, the principal factors in successfully pulling together the Rally concept in such a short time should be reviewed.

- (1) The political events of January, 1976, made B.C. women angry.
- (2) The action decided upon was a realistic and attainable goal for women in all communities.
- (3) The action decided upon was positive and original, compelling the attention of the Legislature, the public, and the media.
- (4) From the beginning, we insisted that the voices of urban and non-urban women be heard together and we took every step possible to ensure that this happened.
- (5) We insisted upon a collective decision-making, non-hierarchical action.
- (6) We had a visible network of feminists throughout the province prepared to participate.

1. There was some confusion over the name — some thought it was **WOMEN'S RALLY FOR ACTION** — and this confusion is recorded for posterity on Rally banners and ribbons.

RECOLLECTIONS: THE ACTION ORGANIZING

"Our vision was clear, but the practicalities of actually doing it overwhelmed us all. How could we ever co-ordinate such an action in less than two months? How could we ever have the participation of women from distant areas if we didn't come up with thousands of dollars for transportation?"

Whatever our qualms, by the end of the second week we already numbered close to one hundred, had divided ourselves into 15 working committees, and had sent our first bulletin to several hundred contacts around the province.

The meetings and work were non-stop. Women were contributing every minute of their free time on weekends and late into the evening.

Members of the Legislative Assembly were immediately made aware of the coming action. Letters were sent to each M.L.A. requesting an appointment, followed by numerous phone calls when a commitment was not forthcoming (which it often wasn't!).



Beyond any of our wildest financial dreams, we managed to raise more than \$7000, enough to cover the transportation costs of out-of-town women, plus our printing, postage and telephone bills. It all came through hundreds of donations collected by passing around the "can" at meetings around the province, through the sale of more than 4000 feminist buttons, and from a few generous lump sums from individuals, unions and women's organizations.

The **WOMEN RALLY FOR ACTION** Brief was based on the collective input from women of all geographic regions and all segments of the women's movement. By the time it was finished it was one of the most comprehensive briefs ever submitted to government: Representation for women within government, Basic Funding for women's centres, Rape, Health, Education, Family Law, Human Rights, Labour and Labour Law, Rights of Lesbians, Affirmative Action, Rights of Native Women, Welfare, Credit, Pensions, Childcare . . . including altogether over 100 recommendations. By not arbitrarily establishing priorities among the issues, or creating expectations that every woman who took part in **WOMEN RALLY FOR ACTION** had to agree with every issue, we allowed for our internal differences and prevented the possibility of being divided in our stand in public.

Through wide distribution of our Brief and informational leaflets, people everywhere were made aware of the demands we would be making to government on March 22. The



M.L.A.'s, too, received advance copies, in the hopes of getting them to do some preparatory study.

And we had prepared ourselves tactically. Whenever possible, lobby teams got together in the ridings for advance meetings — no easy task in large rural ridings where women are isolated from each other by hundreds of miles of pot-holed roads. Then on March 21, 246 lobbyists, representing every one of the 48 ridings in B.C., converged on Victoria to take part in one large lobby workshop. Few of us had ever met before, fewer yet had ever spoken with an M.L.A., let alone lobbied one. But in that tiny church hall, cramped for space as we were, within five hours of intensive preparation, we moved from anxiety to confidence for the next day's task. Issues raised in the Brief, the structure of provincial government, responsibilities of M.L.A.'s, role-playing to demonstrate ineffective and effective lobby tactics, preparing written agendas reflecting the priorities for each team at their appointment — we covered it all.

Two months of organizing and yes, we had done it. We were ready. Were they?"



RECOLLECTIONS: March 22, WOMEN RALLY FOR ACTION

"Victoria, March 22, 1976. The first Monday of the first session of the Legislature under the new Social Credit government. It is cold and cloudy and windy.

7 a.m. Small groups of women are walking up and down the bleak stairs of the Legislative Buildings with boxes and microphones. Dozens of placards are being unloaded from a van. Nearby, in the middle of another group of women, a huge tent is raised; a sign on it reads "Women's Office". Beside it stands an enormous billboard. The billboard shows an eye-catching red and white chart listing the names of all the M.L.A.'s, their parties and ridings, with a space for comment beside each.

10 a.m. Those bleak steps that but three hours ago had dwarfed the trickle of early organizers are now covered by hundreds of women. Placards are everywhere, proclaiming our demands and announcing the presence of the many women's groups here today, while curious faces peer down at us from the Legislative windows.

The microphones are turned on and the day officially begins. A song written specially for WOMEN RALLY FOR ACTION starts it all off, amidst much clapping and stomping:

*"You think now that we're into '76
We should go home and pretend it's all fixed,
Your posters and conferences just didn't do
We won't stop our fight until sexism's through. . ."*

More and more women come streaming across the lawns — the early morning chartered buses from Vancouver are arriving. Speaker after speaker comes to the mike, addressing the issues of the Brief, then more songs and more speakers. The program is running smoothly.

At the "Women's Office" there's a constant rush of activity. A crowd of lobby teams surrounds the tables, confirming the room numbers and times of their appointments, picking up the resource packets for the M.L.A.'s, and, amid hurried waves and good wishes, leaving to go up the steps and through the huge brown doors.

Noon Hour. The former Provincial Status of Women Co-ordinator delivers a rousing speech. Only a few lobby teams have returned to report: appointments were obviously being extended. More speakers; more songs.

At the Food Van, the Food and Sanitation Committee is keeping everyone nourished with free coffee and homemade muffins. The Finance Committee has opened the Rally "Bank" in a nearby car, reaping in more donations and reimbursing lobbyists for travel expenses. The Press is everywhere — T.V. cameras, tape recorders, and notepads; they are referred to the Media Centre located at the "Women's Office." And every once in a while a group of children passes by with their (male) Childcare Committee worker to have a look at the action.

Suddenly a big roar from the crowd. The lobby team from South Okanagan is announced, this is the Premier's riding:

". . . on funding for women's centres he was evasive: 'little money. . . the pie is small.' On changes in family law as recommended by the Berger Commission he was non-committal: 'only read the highlights'. . . He was unaware of the daycare needs in his own riding. He generally didn't want anything recorded, and tried to deal with us as Premier rather than our M.L.A., passing off issues as the responsibility of other departments, stating 'I did not create the issues.' However, he did seem to listen to us, and in the end agreed to meet with us again in a month's time."

Many lobby teams are now emerging from the Legislative Buildings and lining up at the mike. The reports are listened to avidly, punctuated by the occasional cheer and the more frequent groans. At the billboard, crowds gather to read the responses of the M.L.A.'s. Some of the responses are hard to believe.

'Don't know what a women's centre is . . . Is it a social club or something?' (Social Credit Party)

'(about daycare). . . as a father of four children I would like to know how many daycare centres are being used by women with \$73,000 homes and skiddooes.' (Social Credit Party)

'Had not read the brief.' (New Democratic Party)

'Was unaware of the specific recommendations of the last (NDP) government's Equal Employment Opportunities proposal.' (New Democratic Party)

'No need for childcare. . . not in my constituency.' (Social Credit Party)

'Special funds for women is against the equality of women.' (Social Credit Party)

'(about sexism in the schools and school textbooks). . . You have a point, but let's face it — in spite of it all we turn out OK. Especially for my age and younger, I mean in the last 10 years, we're OK, we don't play all those games.' (Social Credit Party)

Then came speakers from the political parties. Each party had been asked to send a woman representative to speak to the Rally. Nor were the children forgotten. A feminist puppeteer group entertained them (and us) with specially prepared puppet shows.

And so it went throughout the afternoon. More lobby reports, songs, speakers and lobby reports. . . the News Conference. . . and clean-up. . . and it was all over.

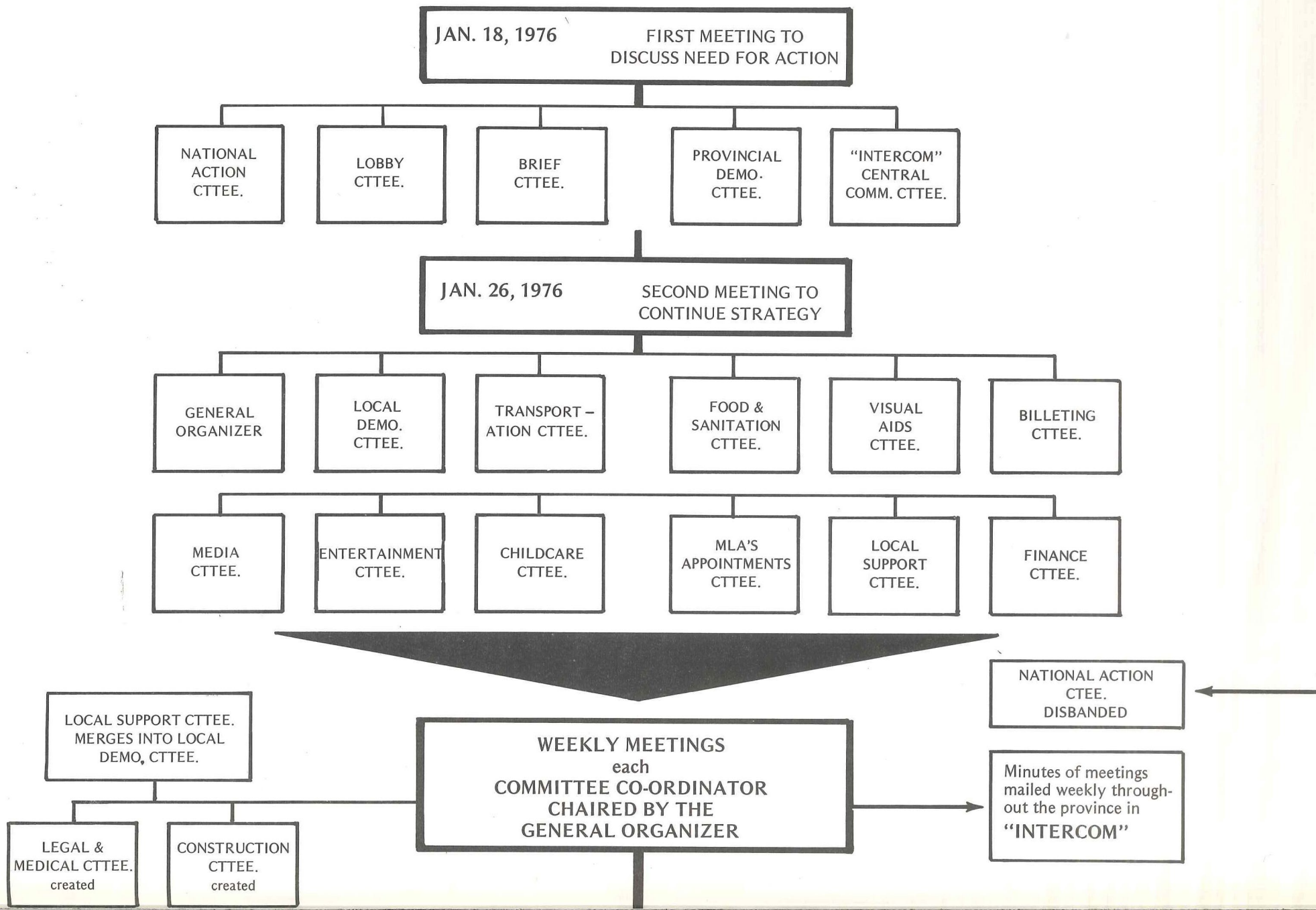
We were shocked. We had expected disagreement and lack of awareness, but never fathomed the extent. Only a minority of the M.L.A.'s had read the Brief. And only a minority seemed to have any idea at all of what the women's movement is about, or what we have been fighting for all these years. A few M.L.A.'s in each of the parties were truly supportive and showed a firm commitment to pressing for improvements in the status of women. But the general record shown today was abysmal. We never imagined such total ignorance and blatant chauvinism could, in 1976, still exist in our society's 'leaders'.

We left Victoria in hundreds that night — in planes and buses and cars, to our cities and towns and farms — no longer under any illusion that our interests as women were being represented within those 'hallowed chambers', or that, without our work and our pressure, change would somehow automatically come about.

But we were also elated. We had made our first show of our collective political power a success. We had to be granted audience because we had given the M.L.A.'s no opportunity to classify us as a 'radical fringe' or 'unrepresentative'. We had shown our numbers, our competence, and our unity across all barriers of age, region, lifestyles, party affiliations. We had produced credibility with the Press. We were able, for once, to obtain widespread coverage on our issues and exposure of the unresponsive and archaic attitudes of government.

So, like it or not, the M.L.A.'s had had to listen to us. Now they believe we are serious when we say we'll be back."

Women Rally for Action (Flow-Chart)



FEB. 29, 1976 POLICY MEETING - CROWD CONTROL

EMERGENCY CTTEE.

BUFFER CTTEE.

MARCH 8, 1976 "INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY RALLY" (VANCOUVER COURT HOUSE)

* Local Demo Cttee. completed tasks
* Brief Cttee. completed tasks

MARCH 21, 1976 LOBBY WORKSHOP COMMITTEE SKIT COMMITTEE IN VICTORIA, B.C.

MARCH 22, 1976 "WOMEN RALLY FOR ACTION" VICTORIA, B.C.

* Lobbying Cttee. finished
* Lobby Workshop Cttee & Skit Cttee finished
* Lobby Support Cttee. -in operation for Rally Day only.
* Emergency & Buffer Cttee. -in operation for Rally Day only

COMPLETED TASKS ON RALLY DAY } FOOD & SAN. CHILDCARE CONSTRUCTION TRANSPORTATION LEGAL/MEDICAL ENTERTAINMENT VISUAL AIDS

CONTINUED TASKS AND FOLLOW-UP WORK AFTER RALLY DAY } FINANCE MEDIA GEN. ORG. LOBBY CTTEE. CO-ORDINATOR

BOOKLETS PRODUCED FROM RALLY
* "MLA'S" TELL STORIES - Lobby Reports
* "OUR STORY" - Report of Brief
* "THE RALLY STORY"

General Organizer

GOAL

To oversee and co-ordinate the activities of all the Rally organizing committees to ensure an integrated action.

PARTICIPANTS

One woman.

ORGANIZATION

The position of "general organizer" was created at the third organizational meeting. Although the numerous committees being established would be represented at weekly co-ordinators' meetings for policy and planning decisions, it was felt that the organizational effort would be well served by having someone in a position to maintain an overview of the preparations and to make sure that they were proceeding smoothly. This position was in no way viewed as one of hierarchical authority; it was that of a co-ordinator working within a collective structure.

It was agreed that the General Organizer should prepare the agenda for, and chair, the weekly co-ordinators' meetings and should be the co-ordinator of the Provincial Demonstration Committee.

Maintaining an overview and seeing that things ran smoothly involved a variety of tasks: keeping track of policy decisions, plans, and changes in plans; constant liaison with committees and attendance at many meetings; dealing with sudden problems; advising, assisting, and relaying information; logistics duties; and making several trips to Victoria to co-ordinate preparations with the women working there on the Rally.

COMMENTS

- A great many details crop up and require attention, but are not really within the purview of any one committee's responsibilities. Having a general "worrier" to note and deal with these certainly reduces the worries of others, already well burdened with their own responsibilities. We found it mutually helpful that the General Organizer prepared the agenda for, and chaired, the co-ordinators' meetings.
- An essential position. In our Rally this position was seen, assumed, and fulfilled in a thoroughly collective spirit.



Committee Co-ordinators' Meeting

GOAL

To meet regularly to report upon and co-ordinate the activities of all committees.

PARTICIPANTS

General Organizer, all committee co-ordinators and any other interested women.

ORGANIZATION

The meetings were held every Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. in a large meeting room of a Vancouver women's centre. All meetings were chaired by the General Organizer and all persons present had the opportunity to contribute to the discussion — and to the ever present donation can.

All meetings began with full committee reports on the past week's activities and plans were presented for the coming week or more. It was in these meetings that Rally policy decisions were made. The items on the agenda were then dealt with one by one. Because our overall task was clear — organizing the Rally — and because we had committees responsible for every possible task, most issues discussed at the Sunday meetings were specific and easy to handle in a few minutes.

The Sunday meetings were also used for the exchange of paper work (Intercom reports, billeting needs and new contact names), for handing over donations to the Finance co-ordinator, and for the distribution of more leaflets, buttons and posters.

COMMENTS

- The Committee Co-ordinators' Meetings were successful largely because of the fact that all the major work was done by the separate committees during the week. As well, the regular and complete weekly communications through Intercom made the information-sharing much easier. The meetings were also well structured, a key point when so much work had to be accomplished each week.

"It was so well organized, smooth and intelligent. There we sat in front of our M.L.A., Gerry Strongman, four ordinary women, smart, assured and to the point. We knew what we were talking about, we had the facts and we knew the answers we wanted. There he sat demure, innocent and pleasant. He wasn't sure, so he didn't argue. He spoke of legislation that didn't exist. We set him straight."

— a lobbyist from the constituency of Vancouver-South

Central Communications Committee "Intercom"

GOAL

To ensure effective communication between the co-ordinators and involved women throughout the province.

PARTICIPANTS

About ten members of a lower mainland women's centre. The centre had recently made a collective decision to launch a women's inter-centre newspaper; had chosen Intercom as its name; and had acquired a mimeograph machine.

Since the centre is twenty miles from Vancouver, we decided that we could work most effectively for the Rally as a unit, concentrating on communication, rather than diffusing energy by travelling the twenty miles several times a week to serve on various committees.

ORGANIZATION

The plan of action was to issue a weekly newsletter of Rally organizational happenings and to send it to women's groups, individual contact women, and various information centres, libraries, and organizations, such as labour and teacher groups.

An initial one-sheet announcement was sent out, outlining what was planned and already happening, and promising further information within a week.

Arrangements were made whereby the co-ordinators of all the committees would provide us with a weekly report on activities and progress. Someone at the centre would pick up the bulk of the reports at a weekly meeting in Vancouver. Other reports would be taken by phone.

To promote extra support efforts in some areas of the Rally preparations, we would focus attention on major needs and events, using different front page graphics for each issue: money, support letters, International Women's Day etc.

COMMENTS

- Although our enthusiasm never flagged, we had not realized that producing Intercom week after week would require such a prodigious amount of energy, time, and work. We had to organize the reports, occasionally change phrasing for clarity, track down missing reports, and spend hours typing, stencilling, mimeographing, collating, addressing, stamping, and adding names and addresses to the mailing list.
- Certainly, maintaining such a communication network requires tremendous commitment. It is hard labour, but with the kind of spirit that swept all of us along towards the Rally, it was a labour of dedication and love. The appreciation and warm response of those who were kept fully in touch by Intercom — many of them small groups in distant areas — and the mutual support experienced at meetings with nearer contacts created a tremendous sense of togetherness.
- Neither we nor the co-ordinators were dismayed by our distance from Vancouver. The fact that we were working as a unit on a specific and essential task more than compensated for the odd inconvenience. We hope it will be encouraging

to groups in other small towns to see that a small centre, somewhat removed from the core of the action, can make a major contribution to an ambitious project.

And a final word of encouragement. Most of the women from our centre who worked on Intercom were married and had children in elementary school. Our commitment to the Rally and the long hours of work it entailed — many of them at night — had a large impact on our personal lives. Some firm arrangements had to be made for the temporary conversion of fathers to single-parent status, for frequent visits to drive-in restaurants, and for the reduction of family wardrobes to very basic items. We made those firm arrangements!

Bulletin no. 7

INTERCOM

March 5th/76

WOMEN RALLY FOR ACTION

Dear M.L.A.,
I fully support the issues
being raised and discussed by
the Women Rally for Action Day
on _____

Yours truly,

We need your support. The Women Rally for Action is for all of us. On March 22nd when we go to Victoria to speak to all the MLAs, on appointment, we would like to be carrying your letter. A personal letter is one of the best tools for communicating with your legislator. Please write and let him/her know your views. Unless you have someone who is collecting these letters in your area to take to Victoria, send the letters to Vancouver Status of Women 2029 West 4th Ave., Vancouver, B.C.

Provincial Demonstration Committee

GOAL

To co-ordinate activities of Rally Day.

PARTICIPANTS

The co-ordinator (who was also the General Organizer of the Rally) and representatives of other relevant committees: Food and Sanitation, Construction, Billeting, Finance, Transportation, Visual Aids, Entertainment, and later on, Legal and Medical and the Buffer Committees.

ORGANIZATION

At our weekly meetings, representatives of the relevant committees reported on their activities and ironed out smaller problems not requiring the attention of the weekly Committee Co-ordinators' Meetings.

Logistics — The Committee was responsible for mapping grounds of the Legislative Buildings to ensure effective placement of microphones, tents, the billboard, etc. It had also to arrange for the provision of a sound system with a good volume capacity and with its own power source.

Program Planning for Rally Day — We worked with the Media Committee to put together an informative yet entertaining program for March 22 (*see Media Committee report*).

Precautions — As general Rally planning proceeded, we felt that attention should be directed to several possible problem areas — the major concerns being first aid, legal advice, and crowd control. New committees were struck to ensure that first aid and legal advice were available.

To discuss our other concerns, such as crowd control, we suggested at the Committee Co-ordinators' Meeting that a major policy meeting, open to all interested women, be held to collectively discuss these issues. Some women expressed concern that the calling of such a meeting could present a bigger problem than the crowd control by opening up ideological and strategical differences in the B.C. women's movement. However, it was decided at the co-ordinators' meeting that if there were differences, it would be better to deal with them before the Rally. The date for the General Policy Meeting was set for February 29; it was well-publicized and all interested women were encouraged to attend.

THE GENERAL POLICY MEETING OF FEBRUARY 29

This meeting was attended by over sixty women and was chaired by the co-ordinator of the Provincial Demonstration Committee. She asked every woman present to express her worries about March 22. These concerns were recorded, discussed, and plans were made for resolving them. These were the concerns expressed:

We knew the Rally would create a lot of energy and we wanted to ensure that this energy be unified and focussed constructively. We hoped that goodwill, a tight and interesting program, appropriate security precautions, and feelings of sisterhood would promote solidarity.

The possibility existed that, with hundreds of people on the legislative grounds, disruptive incidents could occur and mar the Rally. We were concerned about incidents arising

through deliberate agitation by groups or individuals for their own ends. The General Policy meeting discussed and approved the formation of a Buffer Committee, which would take responsibility for ensuring that potentially troublesome situations did not develop into disruptive confrontations. (*see Buffer Committee report*)

The meeting decided to request that people refrain from using alcohol or drugs on the grounds of the Legislative Buildings.

Given the past history of media coverage of feminist events, in which major and just concerns were trivialized, we wanted to ensure that the media focussed on the issues. The Media Committee was charged with the responsibility of assisting press and broadcast people at the Rally and of arranging an afternoon press conference.

Some women feared that lesbians showing open affection would possibly alienate other women, and that the media might attempt, as it often had in the past, to focus on lesbianism in a sensational manner to divert attention from overall goals. This discussion was very emotional and painful to many. For response to the media, we adopted the B.C. Federation of Women Rights of Lesbians policy statement: "The goal of the feminist movement is to create a society where all women are free, full self-defined human beings — sexually, economically, politically, and socially. Lesbianism is one of a variety of strong and free life choices for women and as feminists we affirm this choice as valid." We decided that our friendship, solidarity, and affection for all our sisters would be our strength.

We discussed the possibility of unforeseen problems arising on Rally Day. It was decided to set up an Emergency Committee which could make policy decisions to deal with such problems. This would be a relatively small committee which could meet on Rally Day, if required, more readily than all of the committee co-ordinators, who would be busy with their own tasks. (*see Emergency Committee report*)

The question was asked: "Were we encouraging men's involvement and what was their place at the Rally?" The Policy Meeting's decision was that men would be welcome to participate in the Rally in a supportive role. Men had volunteered to do childcare and assist in typing. Pleased as we were to accept their help in these areas, this was to be a Rally organized entirely by women, and one in which we would be the spokespersons for our own concerns.

COMMENTS

- Our weekly meeting provided us with an opportunity to take care of minor tasks needing co-ordination and to ensure that all new problems were discussed and resolved at these meetings. Proposed new policy was taken to the weekly Committee Co-ordinators' Meetings.
- It is important both psychologically and practically to be as self-sufficient as possible: for example, securing a sound system with its own power source; food; toilets; etc. Each of our committees worked specifically on tasks that provided us with this self-sufficiency.
- The General Policy Meeting of February 29 was an extremely important and successful meeting. Despite the fears expressed beforehand, it enabled a large group of women to openly discuss their concerns and resolve them in a collective fashion.

Local Demonstration Committee

GOAL

To organize the March 8th Rally in Vancouver.

PARTICIPANTS

A core group of four women and many others who later helped distribute and post flyers throughout the city.

ORGANIZATION

The original objective of the Local Demonstration Committee had been to assist in organizing local demonstrations throughout the province to coincide with the Victoria Rally. For women who could not go to Victoria, these demonstrations would provide an opportunity to express support in their own communities.

Another committee, the Local Support Committee, had been formed to develop plans for Rally support actions rather than demonstrations, such as the wearing of red armbands, work stoppages, etc. As it became apparent that there would be difficulties successfully organizing either alternative support actions or local demonstrations in other areas of the province, these committees merged and worked on a new task: the organization of the International Women's Day Rally in Vancouver on March 8th.² This Rally was to commemorate International Women's Day and to serve as an educational/publicity buildup for March 22nd.

Women organized their own International Women's Day gatherings in some other areas, such as Port Coquitlam and Princeton.

Choice of Location

The Committee investigated possible sites in Vancouver and recommended to the co-ordinators that the Court House be selected. It is a central downtown location with a large plaza; its steps provide a ready-made platform; and permission to congregate on this, a publicly-owned site, is not required.

Advance Publicity

This was undertaken in conjunction with the Media Committee. It had been planned earlier to issue a separate publicity flyer for the International Women's Day Rally. However, it was decided to incorporate publicity for both Rallies in one flyer to save on expense and distribution. We mapped the city into sections and a distribution meeting was held to hand out flyers for posting on fences, in stores and laundromats, on public bulletin boards, on campuses, etc.

The Program

(see Media Committee Report)

2. The Victoria Rally date had to be changed to March 22nd because of a delay in the opening of the Legislature, but it was decided at a Committee Co-ordinators' Meeting that a Rally would still be held in Vancouver on March 8th.

The Sound System

We arranged for a car-top speaker system which would make use of the car's battery for power, and we had brought a microphone and long cord so that speakers could address the Rally from the Court House steps. Since there was no public parking near the site of the demonstration, we decided to park in the private parking area adjacent to the Court House steps. In case of any problems with this plan, we had provided two bullhorns for use, if necessary.

COMMENTS

- There were difficulties in co-ordinating certain organizational activities. These difficulties stemmed from the Committee's change of role and the lack of a committee representative who could regularly attend the weekly Committee Co-ordinators' Meetings. Our experience only confirms two principles of good organization — clearly defined goals and regular communication.
- Music is a vital part of a rousing demonstration. Our good experience with music on March 8 led us to run off song sheets for crowd singing at the Victoria Rally.
Posters should be printed as soon as possible to allow for plenty of distribution time.
- We recommend using speaker systems with independent power sources. The car-top system was adequate but parking was the problem. The security guards for the Court House did call a tow-truck to have the car removed; however, the women attending the demonstration effectively blocked its passage.



National Action Committee

GOAL

To encourage and assist in the organization of demonstrations on women's issues across the nation.

PARTICIPANTS

Three women.

ORGANIZATION

We sent two sets of letters and the first two issues of Intercom, outlining the Rally plans, to other action groups across the country. Only three responded and although they encouraged us in our efforts, they made it clear that similar undertakings were not possible at this time in their provinces. We decided that further expenditure of time and energy in attempting to promote action elsewhere was not warranted, so this committee was disbanded and the members joined other committees.

COMMENTS

- Organizing and co-ordinating nationwide actions would require more time, energy, and potentiality of success than existed. We recognized the limitations and turned our full attention to the effort in B.C., where the elimination of vital offices and funding cutbacks had created anger and determination around which to mobilize.

Scott Wallace, M.L.A., Progressive Conservative Party

** Wallace agreed with the recommendations on education and supported the re-instatement of the Provincial Advisory Committee on Sex Discrimination in Public Education and the renewal of the contract of the Special Advisor.*

He supported all the recommendations made by the lobbyists on the issue of welfare.

Wallace supported the Berger Commission on Family Law and said he would discuss individual cases in the Legislative Assembly at the time of the Budget discussions.

He supported the recommendations of the W.R.A. Brief on Women's Centres and recognized that government must set the example of hiring more women for administrative positions in government.

*We have printed several excerpts from reports of a few of the lobbying sessions that occurred on March 22. All of these reports are available in a booklet called **Members of the Legislative Assembly Tell Stories**, which can be obtained from the Vancouver Status of Women, 2029 West 4th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C.

Lobby Committee

GOAL

To have teams of women from every riding in B.C. lobby their own M.L.A.'s in Victoria on March 22nd.

The Lobby Committee also had overall responsibility for committees dealing with the preparation of the Brief, M.L.A. appointments, the Lobby Workshop, Lobby Support, and the Women's Office established at the Rally site.

PARTICIPANTS

A co-ordinator, working virtually full-time for two months, twenty other women of the Greater Vancouver area, and Local constituency contacts.

ORGANIZATION

Contact Resources

The initial list of likely contacts was drawn from several sources — Guide to the B.C. Women's Movement, B.C. Teachers Federation Status of Women regional representatives, women members of various political parties etc. By reference to maps (electoral and others), the co-ordinator listed groups, centres, and individuals throughout the province on separate sheets, according to riding.

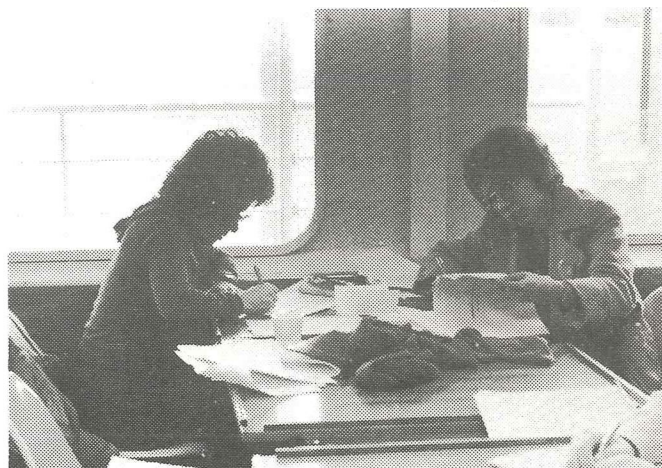
Riding Allocation

At the first committee meeting, the 48 ridings were divided among the twenty women. Ridings were chosen on the basis of personal contacts or knowledge of the area. Each woman was given the contact lists for the riding or ridings which were her responsibility.

Making Contact

We chose to establish and maintain our links by phone, although costs would be considerable. It was the quickest and most reliable way of relaying information specific to a riding.

Each Lobby Committee member tried to find among her contacts a woman (or women's centre) who was willing to organize the formation of a lobby team within the riding and to act as a constituency contact with the Lobby Committee member in Vancouver. These first contacts provided us with more names and the network rapidly grew.



Organization for March 22nd

Early communications uncovered a number of problems unique to certain ridings. To deal with these problems and to collate the increasingly voluminous flow of information, a greater degree of structure was needed.

The Lobby Committee co-ordinator prepared a four page questionnaire, which was supplied to each member of the Lobby Committee to use as a guide and working paper when communicating with the constituency contact (*See Appendix*).

The co-ordinator kept duplicate questionnaires for every riding and, at the weekly Lobby Committee meetings, recorded all new information. Needs of various sorts — travel money, billeting, childcare, etc. — were relayed to the appropriate committees.

Urban ridings provided a special problem in organization. Some ridings had over twenty women's groups, as well as likely sources of support among other organizations and individuals. Just making the necessary contacts was a huge task. It soon became evident that all Lobby Committee members responsible for urban ridings had to pool organizational efforts and contacts.

Each lobby team was sent a copy of the Women Rally for Action Brief and asked to define local issues of concern to them.

The Lobby Teams

We had decided that the lobby teams should consist of three to six women. It was felt that more than six would detract from lobby effectiveness.

In the end, we had a total of 246 lobbyists to confront the 55 M.L.A.'s. Only two ridings had no representatives from the constituency although they provided us with a lot of written support. We formed proxy teams who lobbied the M.L.A.'s on issues which the women indicated were of particular concern to them.

Lobbying Issues

As priorities vary by region and group, lobbying issues were chosen by each lobby team. Local constituency issues were chosen in addition to issues from the W.R.A. Brief.

COMMENTS

- It is important to note that the co-ordinator's job is a full-time one, requiring research, planning and development of strategy, overseeing of all stages of organization, keeping of comprehensive records, and liaison with other committees.
- Intercom and telephone contact helped spread enthusiasm for the Rally and made distant groups feel very much a part of the Rally preparations.
- We found that we were still confirming some transportation, money, and billeting needs two days before the Rally. Although this happened in a minority of cases, it involved a lot of extra work at a crucial time. As hard as it is to set deadlines for these needs, it is recommended that you try!
- It was important for women to lobby on local constituency issues as well as those in the Women Rally for Action Brief. One of the great strengths of our Rally was that all women knew their local issues were a vital part of the lobbying action.

Women Rally For Action: Brief Committee

GOAL

To prepare a Brief on issues of concern to women, with recommendations for specific action to meet the concerns.

PARTICIPANTS

A core group of five women with assistance from many others.

ORGANIZATION

Concept

It was originally planned to draw up a relatively short Brief calling for action on about half a dozen major issues. However, it soon became apparent that when working on a province-wide basis, the "major" issues could not be isolated. Priorities vary by region and by group. If the Rally was to be a genuinely collective action, we realized that more issues would have to be included, and we would have to cover these issues in a more detailed form than had originally been conceived.



Courtesy of The Vancouver Sun

The original conception created problems in the preparation of the Brief and resulted, in some cases, in the omission of issues and inadequate treatment of later additions to the Brief.

Research and Input

We gathered information and recommendations from women's groups working in various areas of concern and from individual women with extensive knowledge and experience relevant to specific issues.

Organization and Writing

It took a tremendous amount of time and effort to prepare the Brief. We wanted a Brief that was not only comprehensive but also compelling. Instead of a few sentences for each issue, a rationale was written for each, followed by a series of recommendations in point form. Researching up-to-date information, ensuring that recommendations are within provincial jurisdiction, condensing material gathered into summary form, and achieving consistency of style take time. Completion of our first draft took nearly a month.

It was then passed around to a number of women, several times, for comment and criticism. Further rewriting followed.

Through it all, our main difficulty was the pressure of time. It was vital to have the Brief prepared as soon as possible for lobby team preparation; for use as our printed "platform" with the media and in public appearances; and for M.L.A.'s to receive it early so that they could not use the excuse of insufficient time to study the issues. We also wanted to ensure that women from all over the province had sufficient time for discussion and input.

Printing

When the final draft was completed, typing, proofing, and running off stencils took several more days. Paper and labour were donated by a postal union. The Brief was completed by February 26.

The W.R.A. Brief and Addenda

The subjects covered in the first section of the W.R.A. Brief were:

Representation for Women Within Government, Women's Centre Core Funding, Family Law, Education, Childcare, Human Rights, Maternity Protection, Rape, Health Care for Women, Pensions for Homemakers, Farm and Domestic Workers, Labour Standards, Women and Economic Development, Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Programs Within the Public Service, Royal Commission Report on the Status of Women and three Appendices. Appendix 'A' — Terms of Reference of the Provincial Advisory Committee on Sex Discrimination in Public Education, Appendix 'B' — Women's Economic Rights Branch Mandate and Objectives, Appendix 'C' — Resources Available.



The response was extremely favourable. The Brief was considered to have treated the issues both clearly and comprehensively and to have made solid recommendations. But there was valid criticism that some issues had not been included. There was nothing on native women, women and mental health, transition houses, and women in prisons. Addenda were compiled but these were not available until March 19. This meant that the first time the lobby teams could study the Addenda was on the day of the Lobby workshops. The M.L.A.'s received the Addenda the day of their appointments.

At the Lobby Workshops, a number of women protested that the Brief did not include sections on women and labour, women and welfare, and the rights of lesbians. A group of women volunteered to draw up and print Addenda on these issues before the next morning when the lobby teams began their appointments.

COMMENTS

- Given that we had only a relatively short time for preparation, that we had no model to use; and that it was a first effort by women to write a brief collectively, we believe that we achieved our goal.
- We would stress, however, as a result of our experience, that preparation of a brief must have a very high priority, with those responsible for it given all possible time for input and preparation, and that great care be taken that the brief be complete and acceptable to all before the printing. It must reach lobbyists at an early date for discussion and familiarization, and must also be available, as soon as possible, to the media and interested groups and individuals.
- The Brief was an important tool in both enlisting support and unifying Rally participants, as well as serving as our printed "platform".
- Although it was agreed that the formal language and style were appropriate for our Brief, it was also felt that it would have helped lobby teams and others if a background "packet" had been prepared using typical examples to illustrate, in detail, the manner in which existing laws, procedures and attitudes oppress women. A small background packet had been prepared for use by the lobbyists at the Workshops and it proved to be an asset.
- In our Rally, the Brief Committee was responsible to the Lobby Committee. However, we recommend that the Brief Committee be represented at the Committee Co-ordinators' Meetings to provide more avenues of input and feedback.

"On my particular lobby team on March 22, five women with different backgrounds and interests came together to protest the actions of this present government against women. Our variety of past experience only served to bring more foundation to our argument with Grace McCarthy (M.L.A., Vancouver-Little Mountain) — that women are being overlooked in this province. Our support for each other and our commitment to a common cause stood out in vivid contrast to Mrs. McCarthy's evasive, uninformed and unsympathetic views on women.

This is what happened to most of the lobby teams and with each group at the rally. The feelings of strength and unity were expanded and intensified with each speech and lobby report. The former Provincial Co-ordinator for the Status of Women, Gene Errington, described many of the M.L.A.'s as "turkeys" and, indeed we got a clear but pathetic picture of what we are up against with this government. In direct opposition to these M.L.A.'s were the articulate, organized and united women — and I felt proud to be with them!"

— a lobbyist from the constituency of Vancouver-Little Mountain

M.L.A. Appointments Committee

GOAL

To arrange an appointment with every M.L.A. for the day of the Victoria Rally.

PARTICIPANTS

Initially, two women. Closer to March 22nd, other women helped. This committee was responsible to the Lobby Committee.

ORGANIZATION

Headquarters

As **WOMEN RALLY FOR ACTION** was a collective provincial project, it was important that no one women's group be viewed as the organizer of the Rally. Consequently, we arranged to have all correspondence and phone calls required for setting appointments to be conducted from an individual woman's home address.

First Letter

Early in February, a letter was sent to every M.L.A., requesting an appointment on March 8th, the date originally set for the Rally. We explained that a group of women from his or her constituency would be in Victoria on that day to present their concerns and we requested an immediate reply. Very few M.L.A.'s responded. Those who did were open to setting an appointment time.

Second Letter

With the opening of the Legislature announced for March 17th, a later date than expected, we changed the Rally date to Monday, March 22nd. Another letter was immediately sent to all M.L.A.'s, thanking those who had responded earlier and asking all for an appointment for March 22nd. There was a batch of further favourable replies and others trickled in. Appointment times were set and lists of confirmations were relayed to and printed in Intercom.

Telephoning

Two weeks prior to March 22nd, we still had no appointments with well over a dozen M.L.A.'s, including some cabinet ministers. We began intensive efforts by phone. This was a laborious job, requiring a great deal of time, work, and persistence. Despite busy lines and unavailable M.L.A.'s, we insisted on the "don't call us, we'll call you" tactic with their staffpersons. This was to ensure that the M.L.A.'s commit themselves to an appointment time.

At first, some M.L.A.'s said they could not set an appointment for one reason or another. But we kept up the pressure and, in some cases, enlisted help from women in the ridings by having them phone the M.L.A.'s constituency office to complain about reluctance or delays in setting appointments. In one or two cases, pressure was also exerted through party riding associations.

Last-minute Appointments

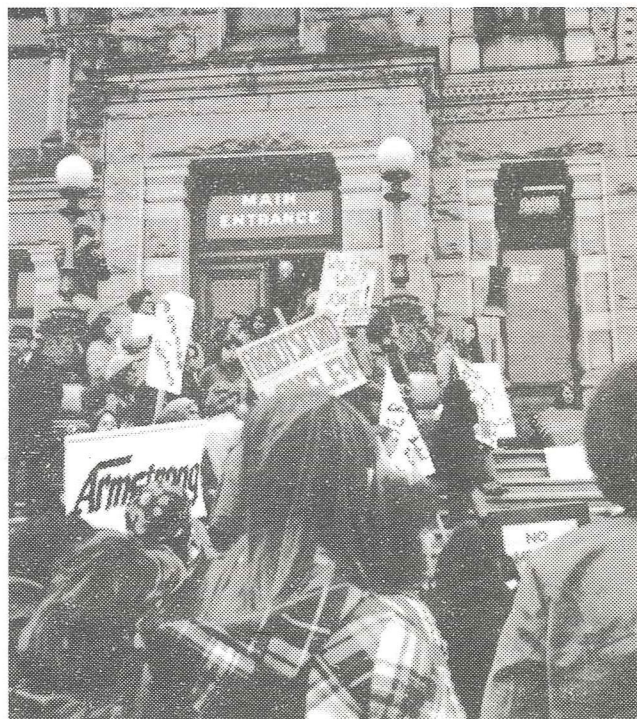
By Rally Day, two appointments had still not been made, but with the extent of the lobbying action now apparent, these were arranged without much difficulty. Two more appoint-

ments involved cabinet ministers who had refused to meet personally with lobbyists. They said the lobbyists could meet only with their Executive Assistants. We refused to be put off. Our policy, decided at an early Co-ordinators' meeting, was to accept appointments with no one but our elected representatives.

In one instance, half the lobby team sat in the Minister's office, refusing to settle for an Executive Assistant while the other half went to the Premier to complain about his Minister's behaviour and within a short time the Minister was in his office to meet with this lobby team. In the second instance, the Minister acceded after the lobbyists descended on his office and asserted their right to see their elected representative.

COMMENTS

- Arranging appointments is an arduous and time-consuming job. Several women should work together on it and it should be their only task.
- We also believe that such a committee should be a major committee, rather than a sub-committee, and should be represented at weekly meetings of committee co-ordinators.
- Confirmation of appointments by phone should begin as early as possible. It is important for lobby teams, particularly those travelling long distances, to be assured that appointments have been made.
- Insistence on assuming initiative in dealing with M.L.A.'s staffpersons produced results. Bringing pressure on constituency offices is a tactic to keep in mind.



Support Letters and Coupons

Finance Committee

GOAL

To provide documented evidence of widespread support for the aims of Women Rally for Action.

PARTICIPANTS

Women throughout the province who were involved in the Rally.

ORGANIZATION

Letters

Women throughout B.C. were urged to write letters to their M.L.A.'s, declaring support for **WOMEN RALLY FOR ACTION** and asking pointed questions on issues of particular concern to them. Women were requested not to send the letters directly to Victoria, but to relay them to women's centres and riding organizers. We wanted to ensure that support by each riding could be readily demonstrated. Because of extra sorting problems, we ruled out the idea of a general petition.

SUPPORT COUPONS

To obtain support from people who find it hard to write letters or who don't have the time, we ran off several thousand sheets of support coupons and sent them out to every contact on our lists. After the letters and coupons were sorted, the lobby teams would present them on Rally Day to their M.L.A.'s.

COMMENTS

- The value of letters cannot be overemphasized, and though the coupons were not available in the first stages of Rally organization, they proved their worth when they did appear. In all, thousands of letters and coupons were received. Most importantly, because of organization and distribution, collection, and sorting, we were able to present each M.L.A. on the day of the Rally, with the documented evidence of support for the Rally aims in his or her own riding.

The issues being raised and discussed by the **WOMEN RALLY FOR ACTION DAY** March 22, 1976, are of concern to me. I support this RALLY and I want to see the Members of the Legislature take positive steps towards removing the inequalities that women experience in the province of B.C. I would like to be placed on my M.L.A.'s mailing list to see what follow-up action is being taken.

NAME.....
 ADDRESS.....
 RIDING.....

GOAL

To raise sufficient money for Rally expenses.

PARTICIPANTS

Four women constituted the Committee and many women throughout the province helped.

ORGANIZATION

We could not estimate, in the early stages, what 'sufficient money' would be. Certainly, transportation, printing, and telephone expenses would be considerable. As far as we were concerned, 'sufficient money' was as much as possible.

Fund-raising

1. Collection Cans — Large coffee cans, very visibly inscribed **W.R.A. DONATIONS** were a feature of all Rally committee sessions and were taken to workshops, conferences and other meetings. Groups elsewhere were urged to pass the can.
2. Other Donations — Appeals for donations were made in Intercom, women's publications, publicity flyers, media appearances, and to several organizations and community groups.
3. Promotional Sales — At an early meeting of committee co-ordinators, it was decided that a button depicting the female equality symbol offered the best sales possibility because it could be used on many occasions. However, we wanted to link the button with the Rally and did so by designing a commemorative **W.R.A.** ribbon to which the button could be attached. The button/ribbon combination cost 30 cents to produce and was sold for a dollar.

With a loan from a confident sister, we ordered two thousand. As well as being a popular means of proclaiming support for the Rally, they turned out to be a real money-maker. Three thousand more were subsequently ordered.

The Committee also had 100 Nellie McClung posters printed and received a donation, for sale purposes, of a quantity of Women's (Business) Directories.

Sales Distribution

The button/ribbon sets were distributed for sale through as many channels as possible — women's groups, other organizations, and many individual women. They were taken to meetings, conferences, workshops, and the Rallies. Quantities shipped to other parts of the province depended largely on sales prospects, which we had tried to determine beforehand through our contacts.

City regulations prohibited sales on the streets except under conditions we had neither time nor money to meet. Permission was obtained to promote sales at a few shopping malls.

Financial Records

Records were kept of the distribution of the button/ribbon sets. We listed the group or individual, the quantity taken or mailed, the date, payment later received, and unsold sets returned. Payment was not requested in advance. Keeping the records became rather complex at times, with groups and individuals, in turn, farming out parts of their orders.



COMMENTS

- As it turned out, we received a very generous amount in donations from individual women, women's groups and centres, and some other organizations, such as labour and teacher groups. Although there was nothing to worry about when it was all over, the Committee did feel, at an earlier stage, that not enough publicity was provided in flyers, news releases, interviews etc. to the need for money and the specific reasons for which it was needed.
- The button/ribbon sets were a great success. We believe that our decision to combine the re-usable button with a ribbon which proclaimed support for the Rally provided the double benefit of 'saleability' and publicity. The button/ribbon sets also had the virtue of being easily carried, or shipped, in quantity. The posters and directories did not sell well. Women wanted something to visibly demonstrate their support of the Rally.
- Determining sales prospects in small towns and rural areas, where the degree of support for the women's movement varies, saved costs in manufacturing orders and shipping.
- With one exception, efforts at shopping malls was time largely wasted. Such efforts might be successful with more thought and preparation given to location and advance publicity in the area.
- It is most helpful to have someone acquainted with rudimentary bookkeeping on the Finance Committee. We kept careful records of incoming and outgoing funds on cheque stubs and in notebooks, but really appreciated having a bookkeeper set it all out in a journal, with a breakdown, in appropriate columns, of income and expenditure details.

WOMEN RALLY FOR ACTION

Financial Statement as of May 6, 1976

Receipts

Donations	\$ 3,147.03	
Sales	4,135.15	
	\$ 7,282.18	\$ 7,282.18

Expenditures

Printing/Manufacturing	\$ 2,267.25	
Postage	155.24	
Telephone	281.69*	
Material and Supplies	543.04	
Transportation	2,918.69	
Rental	40.00	
	\$ 6,205.91	6,205.91

Balance as of May 6, 1976 † \$ 1,076.27

* Telephone expenses reported do not represent the total expenditure for phone calls made on behalf of **WOMEN RALLY FOR ACTION**. Some women and groups made long distance calls and paid the bills themselves as their contribution to the Rally.

The above Financial Statement appeared in the final Intercom published in May 1976.

† This balance was totally committed to the production of the three booklets published after the March 22nd Rally (see p. 41).

Some of our records — scrawled sub-entries, directional arrows etc. — would undoubtedly have scandalized adherents of strict business practices. But we relied on trust and commitment and this worked well.

By late February, money from donations and sales was rolling in and all bills were being paid promptly through a credit union account established for W.R.A. funds.

As the date of the Rally drew near, we reminded all those who had button/ribbon sets still unsold to return them to the Finance Committee or take them to Victoria.

Transportation Payments

From the Lobby Committee we had obtained lists of lobbyists who would need travel money prior to the Rally and of lobbyists who could be reimbursed on Rally Day, and in each case, the amount needed. Cheques totalling \$1,000 were sent out in advance of the Rally to cover air and bus fares and car mileage allowances. We withdrew \$1,200 from our account in the form of a certified cheque, to be cashed in Victoria, to reimburse other lobbyists on Rally Day. We wanted to reimburse lobbyists in cash to avoid possible difficulties at banks for women from out of town.

At the Rally, we established our own 'bank' in a visibly prominent red car, which had been parked early in the morning near the steps of the Legislative Buildings. The bankers reimbursed lobbyists and took charge of donations and sales money.

Media Committee

GOAL

To win widespread support and attention for the March 22nd Rally and the issues, and co-ordination with the appropriate committees in program planning for the March 8th and March 22nd Rallies.

PARTICIPANTS

The Media Committee consisted of a core group of five women in the lower mainland area. In other areas of the province, women's groups and individual women carried out publicity functions in their communities.

ORGANIZATION

By publicizing as widely as possible the nature of the Rally — what it was, why it was considered necessary, and who would participate — we hoped both to encourage growing numbers of women to become involved and to make others aware that this would be an unparalleled lobbying action. Moreover, through a consistent, co-ordinated media campaign we wished to utilize the media effectively rather than have the media use us for whatever "news" they chose to make of **WOMEN RALLY FOR ACTION**.

We urged women to participate in any way they could — by assisting in organizational and publicity work in their regions; by joining lobby teams; by writing letters and circulating coupons; by donating, seeking donations, and promoting sales; and by attending the Rally in a support capacity.

At the same time, we constantly stressed to the media and the public that **WOMEN RALLY FOR ACTION** was not a vehicle of any one political party or any one group of women. It was a coalition of women's groups and individual women throughout the province to press for action on issues of concern to women.

The plan of action focused upon two projects: firstly, advance publicity and, secondly, co-ordination with the appropriate committees in the planning of programs for the March 8th International Women's Day Rally in Vancouver and the March 22nd **WOMEN RALLY FOR ACTION** in Victoria.

ADVANCE PUBLICITY

1. *The First News Release*

An initial release announcing the Victoria Rally (date, reasons, participation) was sent to daily and weekly newspapers, T.V. and radio stations throughout the province. Listings of addresses of papers and stations can be found in a publication (available in major libraries) called Canadian Advertising Rates and Data (CARD).

2. *The First Flyer*

The first flyer was issued for general publicity purposes. Five thousand, size 8½ x 14, publicizing both the Victoria Rally and the March 8th Rally in Vancouver were printed for distribution in southwestern B.C. Three thousand, size 8½ x 11, publicizing the Victoria Rally only were printed for distribution in other areas.

3. *The Second Flyer*

A second flyer of the fold-out variety was prepared and ready for distribution about a week before March 8th. It summarized the issues in the Brief and was in such demand for distribution by women's groups and individuals that a first printing of five thousand was followed by a second of the same number. Shipments of varying quantities were sent to our contacts throughout the province.

4. *The Second News Release*

A second, and more comprehensive, news release was issued, with background on our concerns and more detailed information about the Victoria Rally. In appropriate cases, it also included the names of women in regions outside the lower mainland who could be contacted as spokespersons by the local media.

5. *Media Interviews*

Although some media interviews were arranged for the period just prior to March 8th, we concentrated our efforts for the period approaching March 22nd.

To represent us in the media interviews, we chose to call on women from diverse backgrounds, rather than repeatedly seek spokespersons from a few prominent feminists. We also tried to cover issues in the Brief in a detailed manner by having the issues discussed by women familiar with, or working in, relevant fields of concern. In these policies we were underlining the thrust of the Victoria Rally: that it was a protest/lobbying action emanating from the grass roots of the B.C. Women's Movement.

It was exciting to see the willing spirit of women who had never done anything of this sort before. Even though many were nervous, they responded positively and we had little difficulty in finding women prepared to speak or be interviewed.

6. *Audience Speaking Engagements*

The Committee arranged many speaking engagements at university and community college Women's Studies courses and at a number of meetings. We also provided speakers at the specific request of a number of organizations and groups.

Similar media efforts were made by other women's groups and individual women throughout the province.

7. *Public Service Announcements*

Public service "spot" announcements were a useful and free avenue for publicity purposes. We sent announcements to radio stations and community T.V. stations in the lower mainland and were pleased at their extensive use. Keep in mind that there are certain requirements for PSA's (format, length, advance submission, etc.) and it's advisable to check on this beforehand.

8. *Final Publicity Stage*

This consisted of the issuing of the Brief and contact with press and broadcast news departments about the success of our Rally preparations.

For last minute coverage just prior to the Rally, we could now point to the organizational success of a project unique of its kind, achieved through the determination and efforts of hundreds of women in the cities, towns, and rural areas of our province. Lobby teams and supporters were on their

WOMEN! RALLY FOR ACTION

SPEAKERS, ENTERTAINMENT,
PROVISIONS FOR CHILDREN,
TRANSPORTATION, BILLETING

MARCH 22

LEGISLATIVE BUILDINGS

VICTORIA

WOMEN FROM ALL OVER B.C. WILL BE MEETING TO PRESENT BRIEFS TO ALL MLA'S IN THE MAJOR ISSUES OF CONCERN TO ALL OF US: WOMEN'S CENTRE CORE FUNDING, CHILDCARE, FAMILY & CHILDREN'S LAW COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS, EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, NON-SEXIST EDUCATION, HEALTH CARE, MATERNITY PROTECTION ACT AND THE OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL STATUS OF WOMEN CO-ORDINATOR.

IF YOU WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS LOBBY-RALLY: COMMITTEES HAVE BEEN FORMED TO ORGANIZE LOBBYING, BILLETING, TRANSPORTATION, VISUAL AIDS, FOOD, MEDIA, AND ENTERTAINMENT. THE PORT COQUITLAM AREA WOMEN'S CENTRE IS HANDLING ALL COMMUNICATION WITH WOMEN'S CENTRES IN B.C.

WOMEN

COME TO THE LEGISLATIVE BUILDINGS ON MARCH 22 TO RALLY FOR ACTION! AND HEAR WHAT YOUR MLA HAS TO SAY ABOUT THE ISSUES THAT CONCERN YOU.

way, or just about to leave, by air, bus, and car from all directions and distances. **WOMEN RALLY FOR ACTION**, exactly as it was intended, was happening.

9. Intercom Communication

Throughout the entire planning of **WOMEN RALLY FOR ACTION**, Media Committee communication through Intercom was vital. Reports of our activities, including press coverage and media appearances from all over the province, were printed. The communication through Intercom provided evidence, week by week, of the building momentum. There is nothing like seeing accounts of efforts women have been making to encourage new efforts by women in other areas.

COMMENTS

- We believe that the policy of co-ordinating the writing and issuing of major news releases through one central Media Committee worked well and was vital for a consistent approach to the media regarding the Rally's development and goals.
- Distributing news releases as widely as possible served us well and we would stress the value of listing names of local contact people when releases are sent to other cities and towns. Media are always looking for a local angle and they can find one in a local spokesperson available to comment.
- In major cities, news departments tend not to be interested in events until they actually happen. It can be productive to send information to specific persons, particularly to persons likely to be sympathetic.
- On radio and TV, there are public affairs programs which may provide scope for interviews on matters given scant attention as "news". In the city, we found radio news departments more receptive than those of the newspapers. Be prepared to be interviewed rather than just read a press release.
- Deadlines should be set earlier than necessary for the preparation and printing of briefs and flyers. We did not get our Brief out as quickly as we had hoped and lost valuable time in directing attention to the comprehensive account of the issues.
- The idea of summarizing the issues in the second flyer was an excellent idea. It was a relatively inexpensive way of promoting wide publicity for the issues.
- Post-up flyers should be large and well designed to grab attention.
- Graphics and photographic possibilities should not be overlooked in seeking media attention. Our billboard idea was an outstanding example. TV news coverage the Friday night before the Rally included shots of women sorting and packing cartons of support letters and coupons; a map of the province showing the number of lobbyists from each constituency; and the very effective "apathy doesn't. . ." graphic.
- The policy of asking women from as diverse backgrounds as possible to take part in the media campaign promoted a solid base of unity; provided visible proof of involvement by women from all areas of the movement; and was a source of skill development and confidence-building.

WOMEN! RALLY FOR ACTION

MARCH 22

LEGISLATIVE BUILDINGS

VICTORIA

Despite International Women's Year, women are still second-class citizens in 1976. Government unwillingness to act in our interest is one factor which contributes to this status. Government has a responsibility to raise the status of women by enacting positive legislation, by providing programs in response to women's needs and by eliminating discrimination within its own ranks.

At Women Rally For Action on March 22 we, the women of B.C., will present our most immediate and urgent concerns to our elected representatives with the goal of finally obtaining from them a firm commitment for quick and effective action.

This pamphlet is a summary of the brief to be presented to all M.L.A.s on March 22.

* * * * *

Co-ordination with the appropriate committee in program planning for the March 8th and March 22nd Rallies

1. March 8th International Women's Day Rally, Vancouver

This Rally was seen as an opportunity to commemorate International Women's Day and to focus attention on the major Rally/Lobby planned for March 22nd in Victoria.

The program drawn up, for the noon hour at the Vancouver Court House, consisted of songs at the beginning and end, a woman speaking on International Women's Day, a woman outlining the purpose, form and progress of the Victoria action, and three women speaking to issues in the W.R.A. Brief.

The Vancouver Rally got some media coverage, mostly on radio and T.V., but its real benefit for us was in lessons learned about planning demonstrations: ensuring that programs were entertaining as well as informative; making sure our sound system had its own power source; and establishing better links with the media. (See report of the Local Demonstration Committee)

2. March 22nd WOMEN RALLY FOR ACTION, Victoria

Factors in Program Planning — Two committees were involved in the actual planning and co-ordinating of the

program: the Media Committee and the Provincial Demonstration Committee. Factors considered in program planning were content, overall length of the program, time allotment of each segment, scheduling each segment in an appropriate time slot, and providing a balanced program, i.e. entertainment as well as information. We had to make provision for 55 lobbyists to report at the microphone, singers, puppeteers, and 17 other speakers.

With proponents of speech and proponents of song zealously promoting their concerns, some committee sessions were entertainment in themselves, resulting in suggestions such as the one to have "singing speakers". We worked our way through five mock-ups before final consolidation on a tight but varied program. In arranging an event of this magnitude, we were aware that strict adherence to the schedule could not be expected. But we agreed that it was vital to have a realistic schedule and to stick to it as closely as possible.

Since the noon hour was likely to attract the most attention from the public and the media, we chose that period to slot in a mini-program: presenting some songs, our keynote speaker, three speakers to issues in the W.R.A. Brief and some lobby reports.

Choosing Speakers — The speakers to the issues in the Brief were chosen to reflect our policy of involvement of women from as many different backgrounds and regions of B.C. as possible.

We also invited the four major political parties to send women speakers to address the Rally. They were scheduled for later in the afternoon in keeping with our consistent policy of placing the main emphasis on all of us — the women from all parts of the province participating in the March 22nd Rally.

Control of the Microphone — A decision of the General Policy Meeting of February 29th had been to keep total control of the microphone. We wanted to ensure that it was used only for Rally purposes. For this reason two women who had been closely involved in the organization of the Rally and were familiar with all Rally policy decisions were chosen to preside at the microphone.

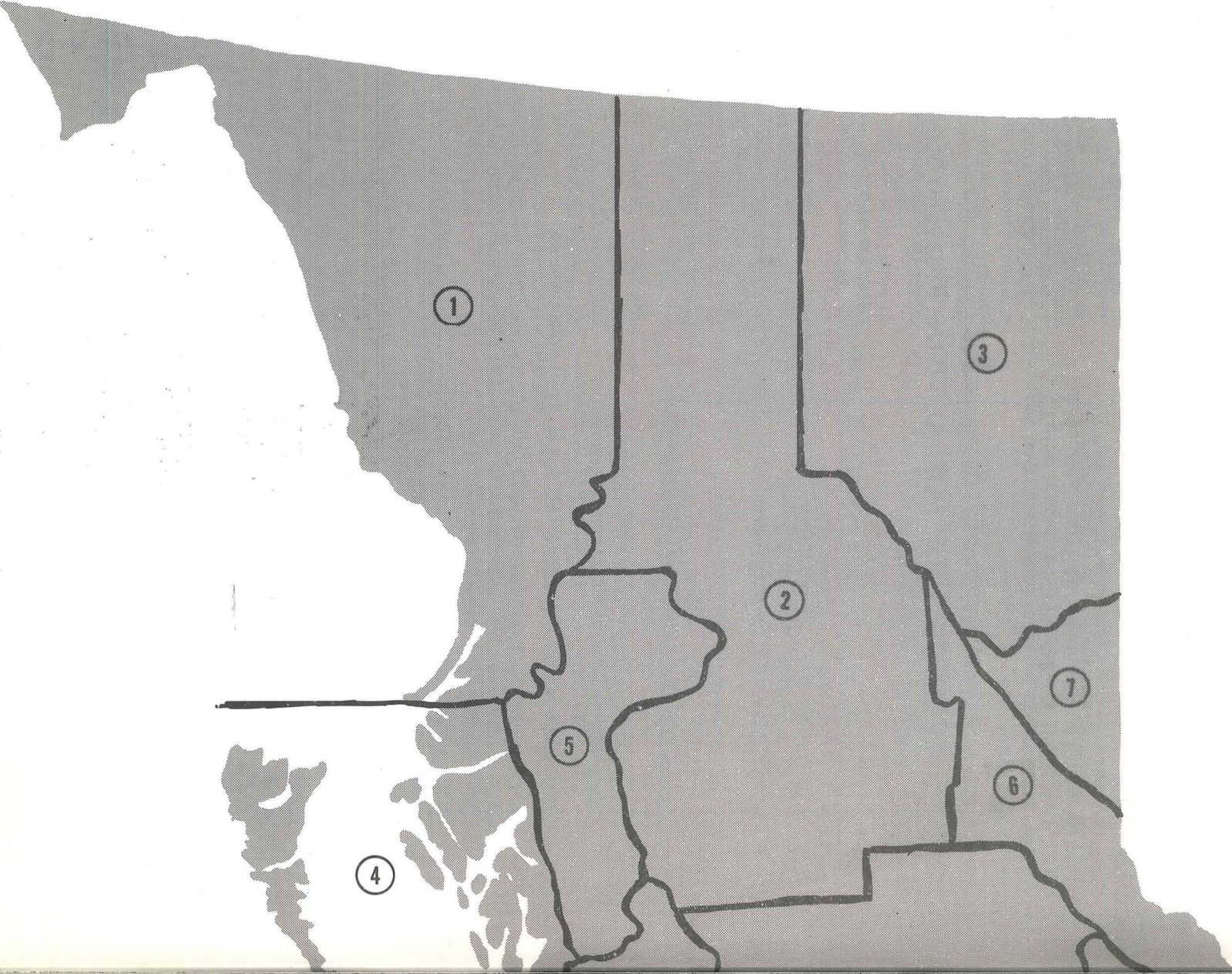
Media — Provision was made for establishing a Media Centre in part of the "Women's Office" so that members of the Media Committee could continue the co-ordination of statements made to the media on behalf of **WOMEN RALLY FOR ACTION.**

continued on page 28...

WOMEN RALLY FOR ACTION Program: March 22, 1976

TIME:	EVENT:	SPEAKER:
10:00 — 10:05	OPENING OF WOMEN'S OFFICE AND WELCOME	RUTH VINER, DAWSON CREEK
10:05 — 10:10	SPEAKER TO BRIEF: SEXISM IN EDUCATION	LINDA SHUTO
10:10 — 10:15	SPEAKER TO BRIEF: NATIVE WOMEN	AGNES DICK, DONNA TYNDALL
10:15 — 10:20	SPEAKER TO BRIEF: HUMAN RIGHTS	JUDY PATERSON, KRISTEN PENN
10:20 — 10:25	SPEAKER TO BRIEF: WOMEN'S CENTRE CORE FUNDING/HEALTH	LEITH LESLIE, VICTORIA
10:25 — 10:30	SPEAKER TO BRIEF: WOMEN IN PRISON	CLAIRE CULHANE
10:30 — 10:50	SONGS	
10:50 — 11:15	LOBBY REPORTS	
11:15 — 11:25	SONGS	
11:25 — 11:55	LOBBY REPORTS	
11:55 — 12:10	SONGS	
12:10 — 12:25	KEYNOTE INTRODUCTION SPEAKER	B. GENE ERRINGTON
12:25 — 12:30	SPEAKER TO BRIEF: RURAL WOMEN/WOMEN & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	KATHRYN HAZEL, PORT ALBERNI
12:30 — 12:35	SPEAKER TO BRIEF: CHILDCARE	ELLEN SHAPIRO
12:35 — 12:40	SPEAKER TO BRIEF: FAMILY & LABOUR LAW	DIANA DAVIDSON
12:40 — 1:20	LOBBY REPORTS	
1:20 — 1:30	SONGS	
1:30 — 2:10	SPEAKERS FROM THE WOMEN'S COMMITTEE OF THE FOUR MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES:	
	1:30 — 1:40 ROSEMARY BROWN	NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY
	1:40 — 1:50 KITTY MARACLE	LIBERAL PARTY
	1:50 — 2:00 ZONZABEL SATHER	SOCIAL CREDIT PARTY
	2:00 — 2:10 SHARON CHARLES	PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY
2:10 — 2:30	PUMPKIN PUPPETEERS — SPECIAL SKIT FOR MARCH 22nd: for children of all ages	
2:30 — 2:45	FINAL LOBBY REPORTS	
2:45 — 3:00	WRAP-UP SPEAKERS: "HISTORY OF WOMEN IN B.C. — PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE.	
	2:45 — 2:50 ALICE AGES, VICTORIA	
	2:50 — 2:55 DIANA BISSELL	
	2:55 — 3:00 GAIL BORST	
3:00 — 3:30	SONGS AND FORMAL CLOSING AT 3:30 P.M.	
3:00 — 3:30	PRESS CONFERENCE AT WOMEN'S OFFICE	

BRITISH COLUMBIA *ELECTORAL DISTRICTS*





- ① ATLIN
- ② OMINECA
- ③ NORTH PEACE RIVER
- ④ PRINCE RUPERT
- ⑤ SKEENA
- ⑥ FORT GEORGE
- ⑦ SOUTH PEACE RIVER
- ⑧ MACKENZIE
- ⑨ CARIBOO
- ⑩ YALE — LILLOOET
- ⑪ KAMLOOPS
- ⑫ SHUSWAP
- ⑬ REVELSTOKE — SLOCAN
- ⑭ COLUMBIA RIVER
- ⑮ KOOTENAY
- ⑯ NELSON — CRESTON
- ⑰ ROSSLAND — TRAIL

- ⑱ BOUNDARY — SIMILKAMEEN
- ⑲ SOUTH OKANAGAN
- ⑳ NORTH OKANAGAN
- ㉑ DEWDNEY
- ㉒ COMOX
- ㉓ ALBERNI
- ㉔ NANAIMO
- ㉕ COWICHAN — MALAHAT
- ㉖ ESQUIMALT
- ㉗ SAANICH AND THE ISLANDS
- ㉘ VICTORIA
OAK BAY

- ㉙ WEST VAN — HOWE SOUND

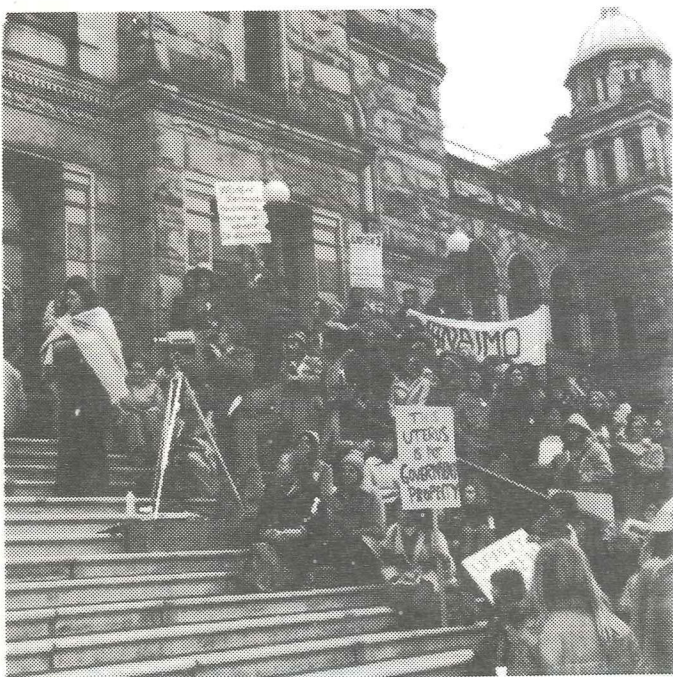
- ⑳ NORTH VANCOUVER — CAPILANO
- NORTH VANCOUVER — SEYMOUR
- VANCOUVER — CENTRE
- VANCOUVER — BURREARD
- VANCOUVER — EAST
- BURNABY — NORTH
- VANCOUVER — POINT GREY
- VANCOUVER — LITTLE MOUNTAIN
- BURNABY — WILLINGDON
- BURNABY — EDMONDS
- VANCOUVER — SOUTH
- NEW WESTMINSTER
- SURREY
- DELTA
- RICHMOND
- LANGLEY
- CHILLIWACK
- COQUITLAM

There was a spokeswoman at the Media Centre at all times.

In addition, a news conference had been planned for later in the afternoon when most of the lobby team reports would be available.

COMMENTS

- All in all, the program went very well. We started on time, finished on time, and in spite of the need for some quick adjustments and rescheduling, maintained a smooth flow throughout the day.
- A strict timetable, to nobody's surprise, could not be adhered to with the lobby reports. Some lobbyists spent longer than anticipated with their M.L.A.'s; lobby reports were exciting and there was so much to be said that many lobbyists exceeded their allotted speaking time; there was often a long line-up of lobbyists waiting to report; a few lobbyists had late meetings with their M.L.A.'s and never reached the microphone.
- To keep things moving as quickly as possible, a program funnelling committee was formed on the spot to locate speakers, get them to the microphone on time, to keep tabs of lobby reports given, and to remind all to try to stay within their time limits.
- The joint planning of the program by the two committees provided balance and allowed for flexibility. The singers were available all day and could be called on at any time to fill a gap or change the pace. Theirs was an essential contribution, not only to the smooth flow of the program but to the memorable spirit of the occasion.
- Our news conference was scheduled for the late afternoon when most of the lobby reports would be in. Although radio and television coverage was extensive, the timing was too late for more than minimal same day newspaper coverage.
- We also believe that a press kit could be a useful resource for the media on occasions of this sort.



Gene Errington, former Provincial Co-ordinator of the Status of Women, was the keynote speaker on March 22. Excerpts from her speech are printed below:

"One of the ways that those of us who have worked over here have felt isolated is because you have not been here with us. We have had to face the humiliation and hostility of dealing with a system that is basically alien to us — we never knew the rules and we've never been taught the game. And we don't know and we don't have the authority to speak for ourselves. We have been systematically excluded from developing the knowledge and skills to participate in the governing of the actual world where we live, and we don't have the access to take part in discussions that affect us.

We have no economic status independent from men, we have no history and no possibility of history.

There is no question in my mind that there is an active suppression of women who claim the right to speak for themselves, to participate in the processes of the public world. In the past we have been exiled, imprisoned, executed. In the present perhaps we are only humiliated.

Men talk only to each other. We have not had the authority to make our causes heard. And we are taught to be identified with a scheme of values that sees our contribution as defective.

Women who "make it" are privileged escapees from their own sex. We can see it quite plainly — the distinguished women are tolerated but more than that they are considered an exception, so that nobody has to pay any attention to what is possible from the rest of us, if we had the same opportunities. A ultimate betrayal, has become the ultimate traitor, when she takes the values of the oppressors and learns how to apply them in the same way. Nothing could be more cruel than "I'm all right Jill" and "I got here without any help and I will not help you." Unless we work as women for all women it seems to me that we have no dignity.

I think because we have been excluded, in some sense it makes no difference what kind of government we have and what kind of ideology. We have always tagged along, from the 12th Century, to grab onto anything that sounds like freedom, that sounds like equality, only to find when we get there that it was never meant to apply to us in the first place.

The previous government had the strongest and best policy on women's issues and what did we get?

We must ask ourselves now — why are Transition Houses going down the tube? Why is daycare being cut back? Why has Julia Goulden's office and the Status of Women office been closed? Because we were always the fringes — we were never part of the actual program, never part of the real policy."

Lobby Workshop Committee

GOAL

To provide a workshop at which all lobbyists could collectively learn necessary lobbying skills.

PARTICIPANTS

A co-ordinator, 10 workshop facilitators, several women to do paperwork, and resource persons for issues in the W.R.A. Brief.

ORGANIZATION

Workshop Preparation

A few weeks before March 22 we sent lobbying information and an outline of the workshop to all lobbyists. Most lobbyists did not know their lobby team members, so we requested of them the following advance work: that they meet their team members in their riding to discuss the issues of the Brief and note any questions or problems; discuss any past experience with the M.L.A.; identify local issues; draw up a tentative agenda for their appointment and decide who would speak on which issue at the appointment.

Some teams met several times while others could not meet at all because of prohibitive distances between them. It was difficult for many women, especially those coming long distances, to take time off work in and outside the home to attend the Rally. Despite all attempts, it was not possible to set one convenient workshop time for everyone, so we held the main workshop (described below) from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 21 in Victoria. It was attended by over 200 lobbyists.

Some women had felt that individual preparation would be sufficient. Our unbreakable rule, however, was that each lobby team attend the workshop as a unit. It would not be possible to develop co-ordinated lobby tactics if lobbyists did not do their preparatory work as a team.

The Workshop

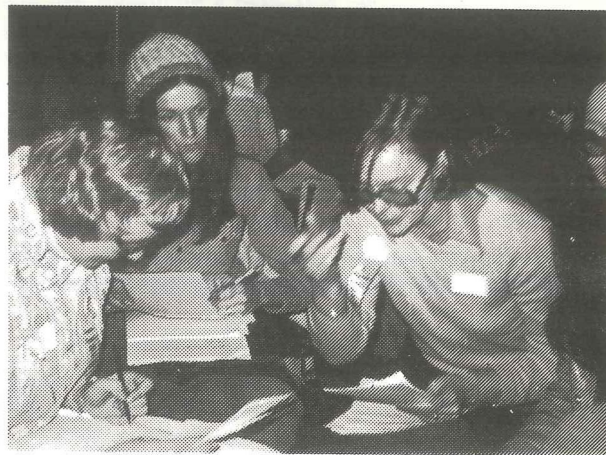
The Sunday workshops took place in a Church Hall in Victoria. Women began arriving at 12:30 p.m. and proceeded to check in, pick up copies of the W.R.A. Brief Addenda, drop off support letters and coupons for sorting, settle children in at the childcare room, store luggage, and finally get a welcome cup of coffee. There was much confusion during the first half hour as not all lobby team members had met and had trouble finding one another in the large crowd. Name tags were given out and microphone announcements made to gather each team together.

Facilitators were assigned to lobby teams to assist them with the workshop agenda, to answer questions, and to collect questions for general discussion.

Workshop Agenda Outline

1. Introduction — 15 minutes

The chairperson outlined the agenda, introduced the facilitators, explained their function, and announced that there were resource persons available to speak to specific issues in the Brief. The introduction concluded with a thorough run-through of the objectives of the initial lobby team work period.



2. Individual Lobby Team Work Period — 30 minutes

Know your lobby team: learn names, priority issues for each, past lobbying experience, and other relevant information.

Understand your M.L.A.: share any knowledge of, or contact with, an M.L.A., such as his/her platform in the last election; statements made on women's issues; the personality of the M.L.A.; general issues s/he seems interested in or responsible for; and other relevant information.

Issues in the Brief: Review the Brief, spend some time on the Addenda, answer questions and resolve any disagreements on issues.

Local Issues: determine which issues are important in your riding.

Issues of concern to the M.L.A.: determine which issues of the Brief are likely to be of concern to the M.L.A.

3. Total Group Work Period — 45 minutes

Questions collected by the facilitators from the first work period were answered. There were many questions about the M.L.A.'s, many of them being unknown entities because of the recent change in government.

A great deal of time was spent discussing issues in the Brief. Questions put forward on the issues were answered by women with expertise in each area.

At this time, some women protested that the Brief did not cover the issues of women and labour, lesbian rights, and women and welfare. Tensions, created by resentment at the omissions and by resentment at criticism brought forward at the 11th hour, were eased by the formation of a small committee to prepare an Addenda on the three issues for distribution at the "Women's Office" the next morning.

4. Individual Lobby Team Work Period — 45 minutes

Agenda: To ensure that each lobby team had "control" of the lobbying session, the team wrote an agenda for presentation to the M.L.A. and assigned specific speaking duties to each lobbyist. With appointment times expected to range from 15 minutes to one hour, it was imperative that each team carefully choose priority items for discussion.

5. Total Group Work Period — 1 hour

Here we dealt with questions resulting from the previous work period on Lobby Team agendas. The main problem was a lack of time to finish agendas.

Skit: At this point we presented a humorous and educational skit demonstrating both effective and ineffective lobbying techniques (see *Skit Report*), followed by a session on assertiveness training.

Structure of Government: For the purpose of identifying the responsibilities of the M.L.A.'s and how they could influence their party in effecting change, the chairperson then discussed the structure of government.

Topics covered were the role of an M.L.A., a Minister, Cabinet Meetings, Executive Assistants, etc.

6. Individual Lobby Team Work Period — 30 minutes

Lobby teams discussed final lobbying tactics, prepared their final agenda, and typed a copy for themselves and the M.L.A.

7. Wrap-up — 15 minutes

We discussed the role of the Lobby Support Committee and the "Women's Office" (see *Lobby Support Committee Report*), and dealt with the few remaining questions and problems.

"We were exhausted — and hungry. The children streamed out of the childcare room, women went outside for cigarettes (no smoking for four hours) and then we had dinner. We were excited — after today the rest would be easy!"

Preparation of Agenda Outline for the M.L.A. Appointment

a) Introduction to M.L.A.

A specific team member was designated to present the agenda to the M.L.A. and introduce team members.

b) Issues in the Brief and Issues of Local Concern

It was decided at this time which lobbyists would speak to the issues chosen for discussion. In addition, a recorder was chosen to take notes (and get as many direct quotations as possible).

c) Presentation of Resource Packet

A team member was designated to give the M.L.A. the resource packet which included all the letters of support from the other women in the riding, coupons, Guide to the B.C. Women's Movement (a listing of all women's groups), and the International Women's Year booklet outlining needs of women in B.C.

d) Follow-up commitment

Each team had to decide what sort of commitment it was willing to make to see the M.L.A. in the future. At the appointment a specific lobby team member would attempt to set up a follow-up meeting with the M.L.A.

e) Conclusion

It is important to have control of the end of the meeting as well as the beginning. A lobbyist was assigned to end the interview assertively.

Preparation of Questions for the M.L.A.'s

It is not sufficient to merely state recommendations to the M.L.A.'s. We wanted to know what our elected representatives thought of the issues we were presenting and how they were prepared to act on our behalf, if at all. As it is advisable to formulate questions in advance, the lobby teams drew up a series of pointed questions on each issue to present to the M.L.A.



COMMENTS

- One of the problems at the workshops was that the work done prior to the workshop varied from team to team. It is important to have the Brief and the Lobbyists' letter available earlier in the ridings so that lobby teams have more time for discussion.
- A large hall is necessary for workshops. Our cramped quarters with so many teams involved in discussion made it difficult to concentrate.
- While it couldn't be helped, having two workshops the same day was very hard on the organizers and less "exciting" for the women who attended the evening workshop. They missed out on the afternoon enthusiasm. However, the evening workshop did take only two and a half hours to complete.
- We underestimated the time required to get 250 women in a room, let alone sign in, find other lobby team members and deal with collecting coupons and distributing packets.
- Again it should be stressed that in the future a greater priority must be given to the preparation of the Brief to ensure more time for feedback.
- The rule that lobby team members attend the workshop as a unit was crucial to develop co-ordinated lobby tactics.



Skit Committee

GOAL

To develop an educational, yet humorous, skit portraying both effective and ineffective lobbying techniques.

PARTICIPANTS

Five women who had experience dealing with government officials and who also had a natural flair for spontaneous theatre.

ORGANIZATION

There were few meetings of our Committee as it was decided to keep the skits as spontaneous as possible. The guidelines in determining the skit's format were: to depict lobby techniques visually as well as verbally; to try to convey the actual feeling of what lobbying would be like; to instill confidence by creating a common experience through which we could identify our fears and laugh together; to relieve tension during a long and concentrated workshop.

WOMEN RALLY FOR ACTION Skit

The Minister of Absolutely Everything Important greeted the lobbyists with these lines:

"Well, girls, it certainly is wonderful to see the fairer sex brightening up our office. Now, girls, I've had a look at this LONG (it was 21 pages) brief you've drawn up and, my goodness, haven't you gone to a lot of work! And you have an agenda too, haven't you? Well, since you're members of my constituency, I think we can just abandon this piece of paper and chat in a friendly fashion."

The skit was set up to depict two examples of lobbying behavior, one of cringing timidity and one of positive assertiveness. There were five participants — one played the "Minister of Absolutely Everything Important", another the Executive Assistant, and the rest acted as the lobby team.

In the first scenario the Minister had total control of the meeting — dispensing with the lobby agenda, dividing lobby team members against one another, and generally soft-soaping the lobbyists. The lobby team was unassertive throughout and left the meeting with recorded comments consisting of meaningless platitudes.

In the second scenario the lobbyists insisted on equality with the Minister, reminding him/her that s/he was their elected representative. The team presented their agenda and proceeded to cover each topic, relegating chit-chat to after the conclusion of Rally business. Thus, concrete responses were obtained and recorded for evaluation and follow-up.

The skit was followed by a half hour of assertiveness training. Much of this material had been covered in the skit but was now formally discussed.

COMMENTS

- A terrific idea and a very funny skit. It eased the tensions of a long concentrated workshop, and through humor we gained both knowledge and strength.
- On Rally Day many women commented that their actual lobbying experience related directly to what had occurred in the skit.



Rosemary Brown, M.L.A., New Democratic Party

Rosemary Brown stated that women's centres were a high priority and should absolutely be core-funded. She was not happy with the N.D.P. performance during the last government because it had not listened to the membership on women's issues.

Brown said she will continue to introduce her private member's bill on Affirmative Action until she is no longer an M.L.A. She said that the government in the past hasn't taken women's rights seriously.

She supported community-controlled 24 hour quality child care. She saw the reason that this had not been implemented as being that many people in our society still have the attitude that "a mother's place is in the home."

Brown was in favour of funding lay medical centres such as the Women's Health Collective but would like to see more action being taken in the rural communities.

She supported the addition of a sexual orientation clause to the Human Rights Code, and felt that obtaining custody of the children should not be influenced by the fact that the mother is a lesbian.

Lobby Support Committee (March 22nd)

GOAL

To ensure that lobby appointments, lobby reports, and general activities of the "Women's Office" ran as smoothly as possible.

PARTICIPANTS

The Lobby Committee Co-ordinator and ten other women who had been closely involved in the organization of the Rally.

ORGANIZATION

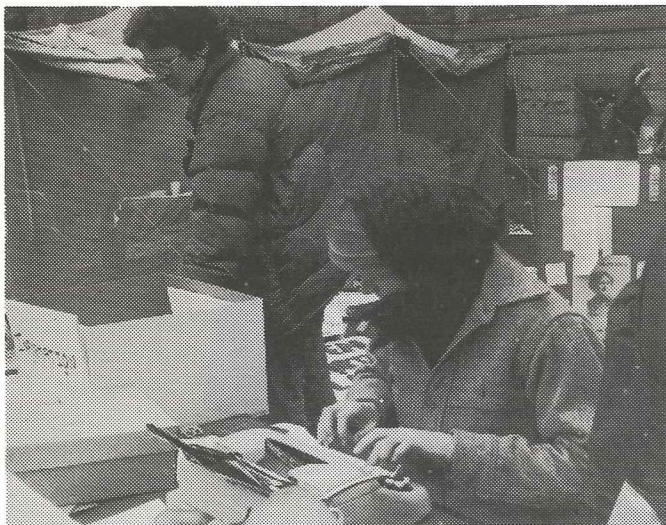
Making Ourselves Known

The Committee members worked at the "Women's Office" tent and wore distinctive arm-bands so that they could be easily identified by all lobbyists.

Checking In

Arrangements had been made at the Workshops for lobby teams to come to the "Women's Office" about 15 minutes prior to their appointments. This allowed, in good time, for the assembly of teams and confirmation that the teams were on hand and ready to go.

As teams left, they were given the packet of letters and support coupons from their ridings and the final three Addenda to the W.R.A. Brief.



Checking Back

When the interview was over, each team returned to the "Women's Office" to work with a Lobby Support Committee member on three further tasks:

1. Microphone Report

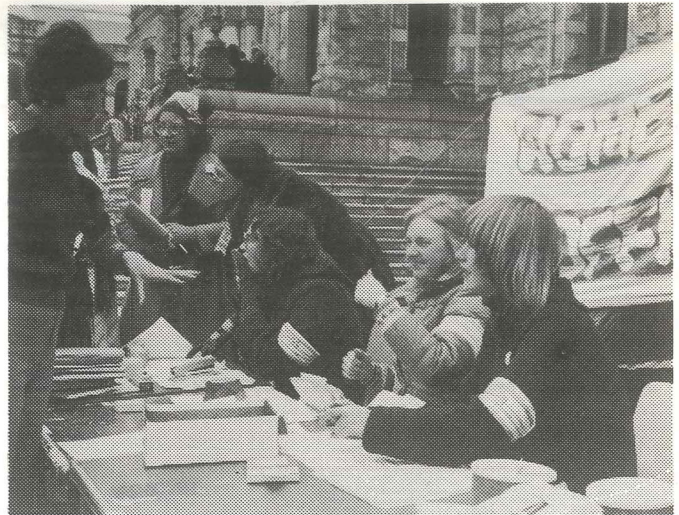
Approximately two minutes had been allotted for each team's spokeswoman to report at the mike. From all the notes and impressions, intensive work was needed to sketch a summary of the main points.

2. Billboard Remarks

Even more condensation was needed to write up highlights of the M.L.A.'s responses for the billboard.

3. Full Report

All notes were read through, made legible, clarified, signed,



and identified as to M.L.A., riding, and lobby team members. These were to be handed in to the "Women's Office" that day or sent to the Lobby Committee as soon as possible.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Members of the Lobby Support Committee found themselves having to deal with a great many other matters — directing reporters to the Media Committee, answering questions from the public, directing people to information tables, to the child-care centre, etc.

With the pressing and intensive demands of the workload, plus numerous interruptions and distractions, it was hectic all day. It approached the chaotic between 9:30 and 1:30, when 42 of the 55 lobby teams had appointments. But the job was done. We can only say that seeming wonders can be performed under pressure in shared exhilaration.

COMMENTS

- Instead of a tent, a number of large tarps should be put up in case of rain and to provide sufficient space for lobby teams and committee members to work comfortably at rows of tables. We had far from adequate space in the tent and often had to go outside to find a quiet place to work.
- Checking in and checking back should be done at separate tables. Remember that some teams will be back before others leave.
- There should be more division among the many tasks of Committee members. People should be assigned to specific duties — checking in, checking back, distribution of packets, handling inquiries, etc.



WE MADE NEWS

BC women want more provincial participation and funding in programs designed to combat sexual discrimination according to a brief to all MLA's. The brief was drawn up by a committee of Women Rally for Action planning a mass rally at the legislative buildings on Monday. It contains more than 80 recommendations dealing with women's rights in the areas of health, education, economic rights, child care and the legal system. . .

. . .Vancouver Province, March 19/76

Women's Awareness Group will be sending representatives to the Women's Rally for Action in Victoria March 22 to meet personally with Mr. Kempf and to present him with letters, briefs, petitions, suggestions and demands for legislative change from all interested area women. Every electoral district in the province will be represented so it is important that the women of Omineca take this opportunity to show our MLA that we are concerned about women's issues. .

. . .Houston Today—Lakes District News, March 10/76

Victoria will be the scene of yet another "people's protest" when Women Rally for Action there March 22. An "Intercom" call to action, prepared by the Port Coquitlam Area Women's Centre says that "Hell hath no fury as women ripped off" and adds that International Women's Year is over and done with but the problems women face in Canada are not by any means "solved" . . .

. . .Campbell River Mirror, March 3/76

Members of BC's legislature can look forward to being asked some touchy questions — and to seeing their answers emblazoned on a big bulletin board outside the Victoria legislative buildings March 22. That's a tactic a group of women described Monday at a rally to mark International Women's Day. The women gathered for about an hour to hear five speakers describe plans for a march on Victoria and to hear outlines of the grievances that they said are behind the march. . .

. . .Province, March 9/76

More than 30 women from the Nanaimo area took part in a highly-organized peaceful "invasion" of the BC Legislature Monday. They were joined by more than 500 women from throughout the province who braved the cool blustery weather to present the case for women's rights before members of the Legislature. Approximately eight representatives from each riding toured the Parliament buildings in search of their MLA's, who were then asked a series of questions and presented with briefs containing the women's demands. The outcome of each interview was then recorded in large felt pen letters on an immense board placed on the front lawn, including the MLA's answers to specific questions. . .

. . .Nanaimo Daily Free Press, March 23/76

The security staff at the legislature donated their coffee room to be used as a day-care reception centre for women with children. A group from South Okanagan met with Premier Bill Bennett for about 15 minutes in the morning but received little encouragement. The premier told them he was unaware of their day-care needs in Kelowna and said he had read only the highlights of the Berger Royal Commission on Family Law. Bennett agreed there was some sex discrimination in the school system and said he would discuss the matter with Education Minister Pat McGeer.

. . .Vancouver Sun, March 22/76

"It was the biggest success we could possibly have imagined" said a jubilant organizer of Monday's women's rally at the legislative buildings. Other organizers agreed, saying women's issues had been brought to the front of politicians' minds and that the awareness and enthusiasm of women themselves had been greatly increased. It was the first time in BC history that women's groups had come together in a mass rally to urge political action on a large number of issues affecting them. Almost 500 women turned up, from every corner of the province, many accompanied by small children. . . .

. . .Vancouver Province, March 23/76

. . .it was a well-organized well-behaved and low-key demonstration. But what the women lacked in noise or boisterousness, they made up in earnest dedication. . . .groans, boos and jeers greeted the reports back on most of the provincial cabinet ministers. Special anger was expressed at the reported reactions of Human Resources Minister Bill Vanderzalm and Provincial Secretary Grace McCarthy. Vanderzalm was reported to have told the women from his riding that he believed women made the best cooks and housewives and should be encouraged in that role. Questioned about his views on sex discrimination in education, the minister was reported to have said that his son took cooking at school and "I thought he was crazy." The minister also rejected government funding for women's centres on the grounds that special funds for women were against equality. . . .Health Minister Bob McClelland rejected one of the specific recommendations in the women's 21 page brief. He told his constituency group he would not use his power as minister to order all hospitals in the province to establish therapeutic abortion committees. . . .Conservative leader Scott Wallace got one of the best receptions from the crowd when he was reported to support all the issues raised in the 85 recommendation brief and to promise to bring individual issues up in the legislature for debate. . . .loud groans greeted the report on Labor Minister Allan Williams who reportedly asked his secretary to "get some coffee for these charming girls". . . .the rally moved into the legislature itself when, shortly after the daily session began, Rosemary Brown (NDP, Van-Burrard) moved a special emergency debate on women's issues. She was ruled out of order by Speaker Ed Smith.

. . .Vancouver Sun, March 23/76

Visual Aids Committee

GOAL

To develop ideas for, and organize the construction of, visual aids for use on Rally Day.

PARTICIPANTS

Four women and many others who helped with painting, carpentry, transporting, etc.

ORGANIZATION

We had determined that the visual aids needed were numerous placards and signs, a large banner, and a large billboard.

Placards and Signs

A great variety was required — slogans, identification signs for delegations coming from other parts of the province, informational signs for activity centres at the Rally, and publicity signs for the chartered buses.

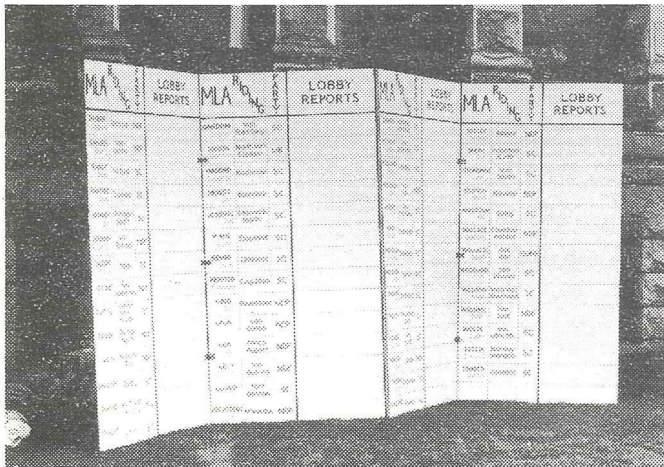
The Visual Aids, Media, and Provincial Demonstration Committees together contributed nearly 50 slogans (see Appendix).

A home basement was donated as workshop space and some supplies were also donated.

The placards and signs were prepared in three Saturday workshops and a couple of evening workshops.

The Rally Banner

We made a banner of light canvas, 6 feet by 3, with **WOMEN'S RALLY FOR ACTION** and with female equality symbols painted in red on a white background. This banner was intended to be displayed prominently above and behind the speakers' area as a visual proclamation to observers and media cameras.



The Billboard

A very large billboard was required for our plan to display the M.L.A.'s responses. The co-ordinator designed a hinged, sectional billboard, 16 feet by 8, on which all 55 M.L.A.'s were listed by name, riding, and party and on which space was left for summarized responses. The billboard was made by a group of Victoria women.

G Y		
LOEWEN Ray	Burnaby Edmonds	SC
M'CARTHY Grace	Van Little Mtn.	SC
M'CELLAND Bob	Langley	SC
M'DONALD Alex	Van. East	NDP
M'GEER Pat	Van. Point Grey	SC

COMMENTS

- As expected, the billboard was a focal point of attention and interest. If a billboard of this sort is used on future occasions, we would recommend raising it above ground level for easier visibility.
- Since regulations prohibited the hanging of display material on the Legislative Building itself, we had to stretch the banner between two poles and rest it against the gates in an alcove at the top of the steps. In this recessed location, and with people moving around the microphone, our intended highly visible proclamation was not always all that visible. Another time — certainly in this location — there should be a solid sign, well supported and placed sufficiently above the microphone area to be clearly seen by all, at all times.
- The placards made a good showing and provided publicity (including some close-up shots by roving cameras) for a variety of issues.



Transportation Committee

GOAL

To organize chartered bus transportation from Vancouver to Victoria, return, on March 22nd.

PARTICIPANTS

A Co-ordinator.

ORGANIZATION

Originally a committee of three women was formed to inquire about transportation costs for lobbyists coming from distant points, to make any necessary arrangements, and to consider bus chartering for local supporters. Determining air fares was necessary to assist the Finance Committee in its cost projection. Once this had been done, bus charter arrangements were handled by the co-ordinator.

Charter Arrangements

Inquiries were made of several companies as to bus capacity, relative costs, and confirmation requirements. Rally participants were informed that buses would be chartered and a reservation list was started. On the basis of names on this reservation list and with some projection, two buses (45 seats each) were booked for transport from Vancouver to Victoria, return, on March 22nd.

Reservations

A system was established whereby reservations were confirmed by issuing coupons. It was a Rally policy decision to provide free transportation for all children and for women who could not afford the fare. The co-ordinator was at the bus depot prior to departure on March 22nd to check bus coupons and collect fares still owing.

COMMENTS

- In the event of another Rally in B.C., it would save both organizing time and money to use the regular bus/ferry service. Chartering saved only 20 cents per passenger and we lost over \$100 in "no-shows". Advantages of charter buses were that Rally supporters could travel together and banners could be displayed on the buses. However, traveling together could have been accomplished on the regular bus service by giving sufficient prior notice for additional buses to be laid on and by having a facilitator at the bus depot to direct supporters.



Patrick McGeer, M.L.A., Social Credit Party Minister of Education

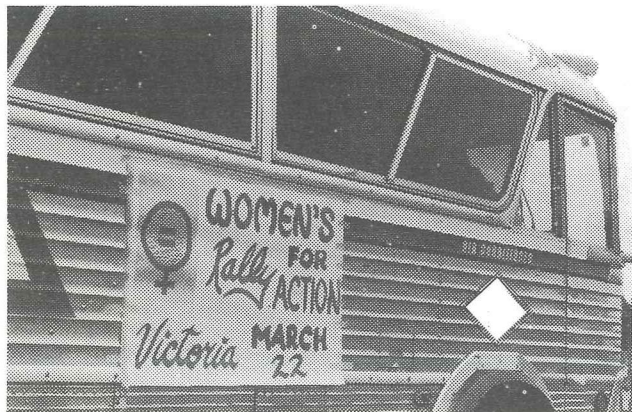
A very difficult man to find. It took determined efforts, including a visit with the Premier, before McGeer consented to meet with the constituents from his riding.

This team of lobbyists had already met with McGeer's Executive Assistant for thirty-five minutes. When they finally met with McGeer, he stated he was "always happy to hear presentations."

McGeer felt that sex discrimination was not really a serious problem but "... I will get around to some of the details in time. As Minister I have not had time to go over the textbooks." McGeer's Executive Assistant stated that the Department of Education was satisfied with the textbooks in use.

McGeer was briefed on discriminatory practices within the educational system and given statistics on the number of women teachers versus the number of women in decision-making positions. He said the Department would appoint the best qualified people, "be happy to receive your recommendations. . . but I can give you no commitments. I am here to listen to all you have to say and I will discuss it all with the senior levels of the Department. It is on the Department's mind." He said the Women's Studies Course was also on the Department's mind.

The lobbying team stressed that, as he was Minister of Education, it was McGeer's responsibility to implement the needed changes. His reply was, "Implementation is a separate exercise from input." He said that the press had labelled him as arrogant. "You don't really think I am going to tell my Department what to do."



Billeting Committee

GOAL

To provide needed accommodation and local transportation in Vancouver and Victoria for Rally participants.

PARTICIPANTS

Two committees, of several women each, in Vancouver and Victoria.

ORGANIZATION

Billeting space would be provided to women and children requiring it, but, if space was limited, priority would be given to lobbyists.

Committees were necessary in both Vancouver and Victoria because of complexities created by the distance between the two cities; a variety of arrival and departure times; connection delays; and the fact that lobbyists had to be in Victoria on the 21st (and, therefore, overnight) for the workshops.

In both cities, the committees had to locate billets, develop a system for assigning them, and ensure that women arriving from out of town by bus and plane would be met with transportation.

Billets were requested through Intercom, notices at women's centres, appeals at meetings, etc. As billets were offered, cards were made out listing the number and types of spaces available (e.g. number of spaces at a certain address, and whether sleeping bags were needed), and the location of billets was marked on city maps. Requests for billets, received by mail, phone, and through the Lobby committee, were matched with billets available. Women participants who had cars volunteered to provide transportation.

Prospective travellers were notified of a 24-hour phone contact in Vancouver, so that, whatever time they arrived, they would be assured of a place to stay.

On March 21st, at the workshops in Victoria, a large sheet listing assigned billets was posted on the wall. Transportation to the workshops, as well as to billets, was provided where necessary.

Billeting Committee members were also responsible for locating reasonably priced motels near the Legislative Buildings for women who were prepared to pay for accommodation. It was planned to use some motel rooms as auxiliary offices on Rally Day.

COMMENTS

- People were very generous, offering more accommodation than was needed. Many travellers had friends and relatives to stay with, and, in the end, only eight women required billeting in Vancouver, while about seventy were billeted in Victoria. Efforts should be made to get confirmation as soon as possible from those requiring billets.
- Thirty of the Victoria billets were located in a church hall, with kitchen facilities, which was near the Legislative Buildings. Church halls, if obtainable, can be useful in the numbers they can accommodate, but facilities are limited and they are obviously not as comfortable as private homes.

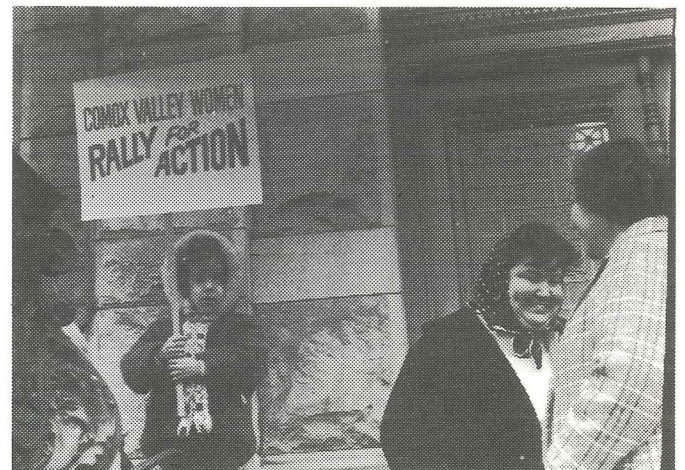
- A number of hotels and motels were not very receptive to our enquiries about accommodation. Vacancies had a tendency to have suddenly been spoken for when the words "Women's Rally" were mentioned.
- The reference cards, map, and the 24-hour phone contact were important for good organization. We would recommend keeping in reserve some unassigned billets for unexpected arrivals.
- Local transportation arrangements are most helpful for women unfamiliar with the city.



Courtesy of The Northern Times



Courtesy of The Northern Times



Childcare Committee

GOAL

To provide childcare on March 21st for participants in the Workshops and on March 22nd for participants in the Rally.

PARTICIPANTS

A Victoria co-ordinator, a number of men, and some women who volunteered on both days.

ORGANIZATION

Childcare was an area in which supportive involvement by men was encouraged. A number from both Vancouver and Victoria volunteered their help.

March 21st – Workshop Day

A room adjacent to the Workshop hall was used as the childcare centre for the children of Workshop participants. It was divided into two sections; one for registration and play activities, the other for resting, reading, and for mothers to nurse babies. Books, toys, food, and juice were provided and there were washroom facilities in a room off the childcare centre – the only such facilities for both children and Workshop participants.

The men on the committee, and some women volunteers provided childcare on Workshop Day for children ranging in age from babies to 10-year-olds. The childcare workers organized indoor play activities, and games and nature walks outdoors.

Rally Day

There were two childcare centres on Rally Day. One was at the Rally site and the other, the major one, was in a building several blocks away. Childcare was available to anyone who needed it.

The centre at the Legislative Buildings was the lunchroom donated by the guards (see *Emergency Committee Report*). A large cloth banner, inscribed "Childcare Tent," was placed by the door. It was easily seen by those looking for the centre and provided a significant symbol of the Rally.

Snacks and juices were available; the childcare workers organized tours of the buildings; and used some inside areas for play. The security guards were very helpful during the day and often retrieved inquisitive children bent on investigating areas in which they were not allowed.

Children were taken to the Rally site for the puppet show and for tours of the Legislative Buildings and the nearby Provincial Museum. About ten men and several women provided Rally Day childcare.

COMMENTS

- At least two rooms should be available, if possible, wherever childcare is provided. This makes for less confusion in registering the children and for adequate separation of noisy and quiet areas.
- Washroom facilities should be adequate and access to them, if there is a workshop for adults, should not be through the childcare centre. In Victoria, the stream of lobbyists using

the Workshop washroom seriously interfered with the continuity and completion of play activities organized by the childcare workers.

- An adequate supply of books, toys, games and refreshments should be on hand.
- It would be preferable to have the major childcare centre fairly close to parents' activities for periodic contact. In addition, distance creates problems if children have to be transported to a Rally event intended specifically for them or to other events or places of interest.



"Report to Women Rally for Action Childcare Committee from the Men of U.B.C. School of Social Work, Students' Association Social and Political Action Committee:

... we would like to take this opportunity to thank the organizers of Women Rally for Action for giving us the inspiring and enlightening experience of being a part of the Rally on March 22nd. The 2 days that we spent in Victoria were truly consciousness-raising for us and we feel that we have come from the event with greater insight into your struggle. As well, the friendship, respect and love that we shared with the women and children of this province have taught us that we as men most definitely have a part to play in the task of eliminating the injustices of sexism that for centuries has prevented all of us from realizing our potentials as human beings. Again, thank you. It was an honour and a pleasure taking part in the Rally and we hope that if in future you require our services, we can once again work with you."



Construction Committee

GOAL

To handle details for "setting up camp" in front of the Legislative Buildings.

PARTICIPANTS

Six women, plus volunteers on Rally Day.

ORGANIZATION

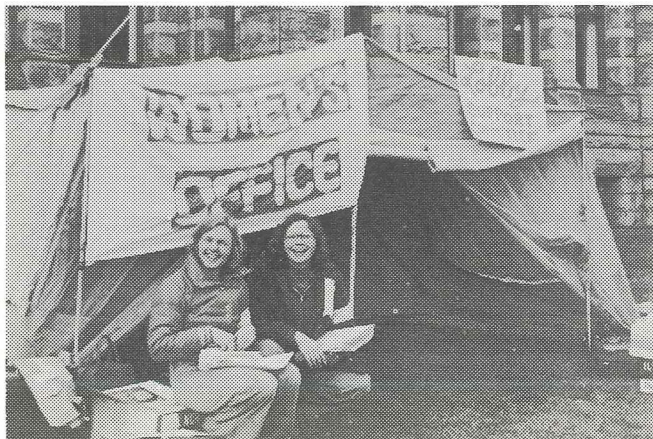
A list was made of everything that might be needed from tables and typewriters for the "Women's Office" to food and diapers for the childcare centres. A Victoria Committee member took responsibility for having all these items ready for March 22. Vancouver Island women also arranged for the provision of three tents. These tents would be used for the "Women's Office", Childcare and Food.

Anticipating possible opposition to the erection of tents on the Legislative lawn, we planned to put the tents up early in the morning.

Committee members and volunteers would erect the tents, put the supplies in place, and remove them when the Rally was over.

COMMENTS

- We had no problem in putting the largest tent up for the "Women's Office." It was in place by 7:30. However, delivery of the Childcare and Food tents was late and these tents were not erected. (See Report of Emergency Committee)



Food and Sanitation Committee

GOAL

To provide light refreshments for those at the Rally and to ensure that the site was left in the same condition in which it was found.

PARTICIPANTS

The co-ordinator, her family, and many volunteers on March 22nd.

ORGANIZATION

Refreshments

It had been decided at a co-ordinators' meeting that refreshments would be provided without cost but that a container for donations would be placed at the dispensing site. It was also decided that enough food and drink should be available for at least 500 people.

Following unsuccessful attempts to obtain food and beverage donations from various companies, bulk purchases were made of coffee, tea, milk, juice, sugar, paper cups, stirrers, a few cartons of cookies, and the necessary ingredients for 500 muffins, which were baked and frozen by the co-ordinator and her family. Equipment for brewing tea and coffee was borrowed.

On a tour of the site, well ahead of the Rally, we had been unable to locate any power source for brewing. Consequently, we made arrangements to bring a portable generator in a van. This served for a while but could not keep up with the demand for hot drinks from shivering participants and spectators. We then resorted to boiling water in a nearby motel suite and set up a "bucket" brigade.

Since it was not possible to put up a food tent, we used the van as our refreshment stand. Volunteers helped dispense the food and drink, for which a very generous amount was received in donations.

Clean-up

Although there were public washrooms in the Legislative Buildings, a couple of mobile chemical toilets had been brought to the Rally site through the efforts of the General Organizer and Victoria women who worked on Rally preparations.

Those who had brought supplies and equipment were responsible for removing them. Other participants removed general litter.

COMMENTS

- Checking power and water sources well in advance was important in giving us time to make necessary arrangements.
- To avoid congestion, the refreshment area should be located at some distance from the core of activity.
- Home-baked muffins are great!

Entertainment Committee

GOAL

To obtain feminist entertainment for the March 22nd Rally.

PARTICIPANTS

Several women.

ORGANIZATION

Ideas for various types of entertainment — singers, skits etc. — were discussed and inquiries were made as to who might be available. Through friendships and contacts of Rally organizers and other participants, six feminist singers were found who were pleased to take part in the program.

We also wanted to provide some entertainment for children. A feminist puppeteer group agreed to meet this need.

COMMENTS

- The entertainers were a vital part of the program. They provided much needed variety, so that the day was not all talk, and, with their songs, they expressed and enhanced the feelings of joy, unity, and purpose of this unique gathering.

William Vander Zalm, M.L.A., Social Credit Party Minister of Human Resources

Vander Zalm was opposed to the concept of core funding for Women's Centres. After the function of a Women's Centre was explained, he replied that he would be willing to support whatever needs to be applied for to gain equality.

On the question of whether or not he was aware that there were no specific services for women in his riding, he replied, "No, special funds for women is against the equality of women."

With regard to sex discrimination in the schools, Vander Zalm said, "I didn't know there was any sex discrimination. My son took cooking, I thought he was crazy. . . . If women want to weld, fine, but I don't think we should discourage them from cooking. Women make the best cooks and housekeepers and should be encouraged in that role." He was opposed to the continuation of the Special Advisor on Sex Discrimination in Public Education. He said there was no need for someone in that position because, ". . . we have 29,000 teachers. They can correct the books and the inequalities."

He was asked how much money was available for the start-up of new childcare centres? "None. The daycare centres in existence will get a better deal now. I am appalled, nothing has been done in two years. Now I'm the fall guy and have to take all the flack. I'm prepared to accept the flack, and it will be a better program."

Legal and Medical Committee

GOAL

To ensure that legal advice and first aid were available, if needed, during the Rally.

PARTICIPANTS

One co-ordinator.

ORGANIZATION

We were concerned that circumstances might arise in which the Rally organizers would require legal advice. Legal advice was assured when several women lawyers participating in the Rally volunteered their services.

To cover first aid needs, we arranged with St. John Ambulance to provide a team for the day.

COMMENTS

- Fortunately, legal advice was not required and first aid was administered to only a few bruises incurred by falls. The legal and medical measures taken are recommended for future demonstrations, if only to alleviate concern on the part of the organizers that required skills can be provided if needed.



Buffer Committee

GOAL

To ensure that the Rally was not marred by disruptive incidents.

PARTICIPANTS

About ten women; additional recruits on Rally Day.

ORGANIZATION

It had been mutually agreed, at the General Policy Meeting on February 29th, that all participants shared a responsibility to play it cool and keep the demonstration a peaceful one. In addition, it was decided to form a Buffer Committee to watch for and intervene in troublesome situations.

On March 22nd, Buffer Committee members were provided with distinctive arm bands for easy identification; the grounds of the Legislative Buildings were roughly divided into sections for surveillance by a committee member; and a low-key announcement was made at the microphone that security precautions had been taken.

The procedure, if a potentially disruptive incident occurred, was for a "patroller" to first make a good-natured, but firm, effort to defuse the situation. If this didn't succeed, other committee members would be summoned to unobtrusively encircle the troublesome individual or group and, if necessary, ease them away from the main area of the Rally.

COMMENTS

- Because groups or individuals may try to provoke confrontations, or exploit demonstrations for their own ends, we believe that having a Buffer Committee, prepared to act quietly but firmly, is an excellent idea. Besides deterring troublemakers, such a committee freed organizers from additional responsibilities and promoted a general atmosphere of confidence.
- We had no major "security" problems on March 22nd. A few minor incidents — e.g. a man denouncing "Women's Lib", an attempt by an unauthorized person to get at the microphone — were successfully dealt with.

"The first Rally I ever participated in was on March 8. It seems appropriate that it should have been on International Women's Day. I went secure in the knowledge that nothing was expected of me; just being there seemed sufficient. A woman mentioned that we should be carrying the available signs so I picked one up and blended into the crowd. While I stood listening to the speakers, whom I found interesting, informative, and stirring, someone said that the sign I was holding was radical and controversial. It was, "Abortion on Demand" which I strongly believe in. Suddenly I was involved and had a real purpose for being there. I didn't feel the sign was radical at all and it meant something to me, as did the other women's rights issues.

To sum up the feeling we had concerning both rallies, I must repeat something we heard recently at a women's meeting: 'The more I see of women, the more I like us.'
— a Rally participant

Emergency Committee

GOAL

To make policy decisions if unforeseen circumstances should arise on Rally Day.

PARTICIPANTS

Ten women.

ORGANIZATION

The Committee was composed of ten women, a number considered large enough to adequately represent Rally organizers and women from other regions, yet small enough to reach a decision quickly. Committee members were familiar with Rally policy.

Committee members stayed close to the "Women's Office" so that a meeting could be convened quickly, if necessary.

COMMENTS

- The value of having such a committee was demonstrated even before the day's program began. A crisis arose when the security guards for the Legislative Buildings informed us that we could not raise the childcare and food tents. Although refreshments could be supplied from a van, we needed space either on the grounds or in the Buildings for childcare. Our choice was between risking a confrontation with the guards by erecting the childcare tent, or negotiating for space. We decided we would first attempt negotiations. The negotiations were successful — the security guards donated their lunchroom for childcare.
- The only other instance in which a committee decision was required came at the end of the program and was of an entirely different nature from the first. It illustrates how an innocent suggestion that might change the effectiveness of a demonstration has to be carefully considered and collectively decided upon. It had been suggested to the woman then presiding at the microphone that she announce to the crowd that the public galleries in the Legislature were open. The suggestion was referred to the Emergency Committee for consideration. Some thought it a good opportunity to encourage the women attending the Rally to see the Legislature in session; others were concerned about possible confrontations from the galleries. Our decision was to end the day according to schedule rather than risk the possibility of incidents that would mar what had been a very positive action, so we did not make the announcement.

We did not go unobserved.

From the Buffer Committee: A point to note.

"At one point, I was assured by a security guard that undercover Royal Canadian Mounted Police Officers were keeping an eye on the action. He pointed to a Food Van where a very pleasant-looking young man, with longish hair, a colourful headband and beads, was casually leaning against the side of the truck."

Women Rally For Action: Follow-up

Follow-up to any action is important and should be part of the overall plan. It is difficult once the major excitement is over to maintain structures and coalitions formed for a specific purpose, but we recommend thinking in these terms.

During Rally organizational meetings, we discussed follow-up plans and, again, we were concerned to set realistic goals. We encouraged lobby teams to make follow-up lobbying appointments with their M.L.A.'s but the decision was left to each team. About one-third of the lobby teams made follow-up appointments with their M.L.A.'s during their March 22 appointment, others made appointments at a later date, and many teams met regularly with their M.L.A.'s in their own constituencies.

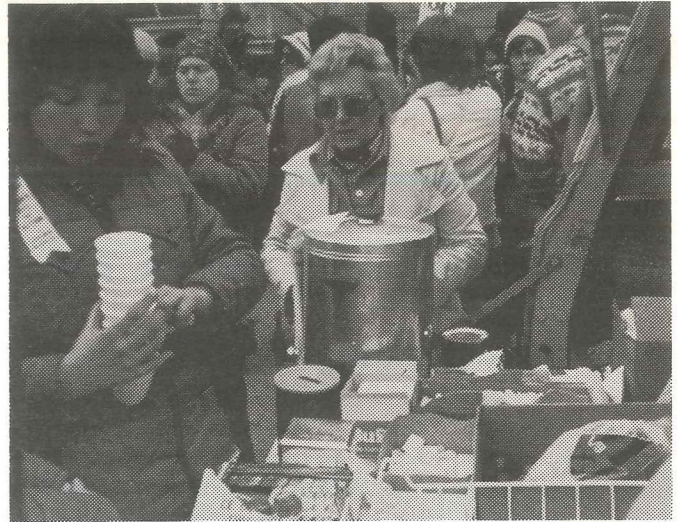
In addition, meetings were held after the Rally to discuss other follow-up actions, evaluate our organizational structure, and to co-ordinate all the remaining details. The new Social Credit government was just bringing down its Budget, and at one of our evaluation meetings, we issued a W.R.A. news release highly critical of the lack of budgetary allocations for women's needs.

A final Intercom was published containing evaluation reports from the various committees, a financial statement, and reports on further lobbying sessions.

One of the W.R.A. follow-up activities was the publication of three booklets on the Rally. This report is the third published in that series. The first two are:

1. *Our Story — The Brief presented by WOMEN RALLY FOR ACTION to all B.C. M.L.A.'s on March 22, 1976. (see W.R.A. Brief Committee Report)*
2. *Members of the Legislative Assembly Tell Stories. These are the reports of the 55 lobby teams which met with their M.L.A.'s on March 22. The reports provide a detailed account of the responses from the Members of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia to the issues brought forward by women from their own constituencies. A few of these reports, in summary form, have been included within this booklet.*

All three of these booklets can be ordered from Women Rally for Action, c/o 2029 West 4th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C.



Gordon Gibson, M.L.A., Liberal Party

Gibson strongly supported the re-instatement of the Office of the Provincial Co-ordinator of the Status of Women and supported its Affirmative Action Plan.

He was not supportive of core funding for Women's Centres. He said he would support a few and then evaluate them and that he wished to have further information on Women's Centres.

Gibson supported re-instatement of the Provincial Advisory Committee on Sex Discrimination in Public Education and renewal of the contract of the Special Advisor to the Minister on this subject. He said we were dealing with a government that didn't recognize the problem.

Gibson would like to see a draft Bill based on the recommendations of the Berger Commission on Family Law, then have public hearings around the province to test its validity because it is so far reaching in effect.

With regard to the recommendations of the W.R.A. Brief on the Maternity Protection Act, Gibson agreed with each point in the Brief except the provision of continuous benefits. He felt contributions should continue to be paid throughout the period of leave.

When questioned as to the need to increase the staff of the B.C. Human Rights Branch, Gibson said the opposition could not recommend budget matters.

He supported the Community Resource Boards and was aware of how many people were on welfare in his constituency. He said rent controls had hurt low-income people.

Gibson disagreed with the recommendations that landlords not be allowed to refuse a renter on the basis of age. His suggestion was that anyone with over fifty units make a percentage of the units available to families.

Women Rally For Action: Epilogue

The following statement appeared in the W.R.A. fold-out flyer:

"Despite International Women's Year, women are still second-class citizens in 1976. Government unwillingness to act in our interest is one factor which contributes to this status. Government has a responsibility to raise the status of women by enacting positive legislation, by providing programmes in response to women's needs and by eliminating discrimination within its own ranks. At WOMEN RALLY FOR ACTION, on March 22, we, the women of B.C., will present our most immediate and urgent concerns to our elected representatives with the goal of finally obtaining from them a firm commitment for quick and effective action."

Did we achieve our goal? While we wanted long-awaited government action on our legitimate concerns, we were not so naive as to anticipate an overwhelming and immediate success. One of the tangible results of our action was the renewed funding of transition houses and some women's service organizations. In the Legislative Assembly, there were more and longer debates on women's issues and more M.L.A.'s from all parties went on record in support of these issues. In the weeks that followed, several references to **WOMEN RALLY FOR ACTION** were noted in the provincial Hansard. Women's issues were being taken seriously by politicians, whatever their motivations, and the old sexist sniggers just weren't good politics any more.

While no major policy changes occurred, we believe the Rally demonstrated to all parties that a strong and growing women's movement exists; that women were angry at the neglect of vital issues; and that we were prepared to channel our anger into strong and united action. After the production of the W.R.A. Brief with its specific recommendations, and the lobbying action by constituents from all over B.C., no longer could any politician ask, "What do you women want?"

The Rally had far-reaching effects for the growth and the politicization of the women's movement in B.C. Many women had never participated in an action like this in their lives. Through the process of preparing for, and participating in, the Rally, women gained lobbying skills, a knowledge of the political process, confidence, and the support that came from this united effort. Myths about governments and elected

representatives were debunked — most M.L.A.'s didn't really know about women's concerns and many didn't care to know.

The increased communication with women and women's centres all over the province and the many new contacts made were directly responsible for the formation of several new women's groups in the province. The greater familiarity with the political process has meant that many more women continue to lobby their M.L.A.'s in their own constituencies and has meant that many more women's organizations journey to Victoria to lobby M.L.A.'s for changes in legislation or for funding for their projects. Even on the civic level, the experiences of the Rally have prompted women to participate more actively.

As an example of organization and collective decision-making, our Rally/Lobby was a great success. We had a good idea and a new one: we had realistic and clearly defined goals; we had regular communication among the organizers and participants all over the province; we had organizational and creative abilities in abundance and the commitment to carry our action to completion.

Our action was not without its conflicts over differing ideologies. Women participating in the Rally came from many different political orientations. Some women were members or supporters of the Liberal Party, Progressive Conservative Party, New Democratic Party, and the Social Credit Party; in addition, there were Marxists, Radical Feminists, and women who had heretofore been indifferent to the political process.

For some women it was their first experience in an action of any kind. For others, the Rally was seen solely as an effort to force the government to implement recommendations in the W.R.A. Brief and recommendations concerning local constituency issues. For still others, it was not enough to implement the recommendations because these could not produce the circumstances which would afford real equality for women in a society structured such as ours. These women viewed the Rally as part of the process of working towards the major restructuring required.

Whatever our various political views, we were united through the common history of our oppression. The issues and recommendations contained in the W.R.A. Brief and the freedom of choice for women to establish their own issues of priority provided a basis for successful collective action.

WE MADE HEADLINES

WOMEN'S GROUPS PLAN RALLY VAN. SUN, FEB. 20/76

A CALL ON M.L.A.'s VAN. PROVINCE, FEB. 16/76

PROVINCIAL WOMEN PLAN VICTORIA TRIP

CAMPBELL RIVER MIRROR, FEB. 25/76

LOCAL WOMEN RALLY SET FOR MARCH 8

SIMILKAMEEN SPOTLIGHT, FEB. /76

WOMEN PLAN MASS LOBBY DOUGLAS PINION, MARCH/76

WOMEN'S RALLY MARCH 22 WILLIAMS LAKE TRIBUNE, MARCH /76

WOMEN'S GROUPS NEED YOUR VIEWS LAKES DISTRICT NEWS, MAR. 10/76

NANAIMO WOMEN TO JOIN PROTEST

NANAIMO DAILY FREE PRESS, MARCH/76

M.L.A.'S TO FACE MUSIC OF WOMEN'S PROTEST ...VAN. PROVINCE, MAR.9/76

NORTHWEST WOMEN OFF TO VICTORIA NORTHERN TIMES, MAR. 12/76

LEGISLATIVE RALLY FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS VICTORIA TIMES, MAR.22/76

CHILLY RECEPTION FAILS TO DAMPEN WOMEN'S SPIRITS

VAN. SUN, MAR.22/76

WOMEN SEEK CHARTER ON RIGHTSVAN. SUN, MAR. 22/76

WOMEN CONFRONT NIELSEN WITH POSITIVE BRIEF

RICHMOND REVIEW, MAR. 24/76

WOMEN'S ISSUE TEST FLUNKED BY CABINETVICTORIA TIMES, MAR. 24/76

B.C. WOMEN DEMONSTRATE IN "MAGNA CARTA" RALLY

TORONTO STAR, MAR. 23/76

WOMEN GO IT ALONE.....AND WELL RICHMOND REVIEW, MAR.24/76

COLDLY COMPOSED, WOMEN vs VICTORIA

VICTORIA COLONIST, MAR. 23/76

APPENDIX: A

Lobbyists' Information Sheet

Riding: _____ MLA(s): _____
 Appointment: Confirmed on: _____ Time: _____
 Your name: _____ Phone: _____

(1) CONTACTS

a. Local Organizer(s): Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____

b. All other contacts made:

Name	Address	Phone	Group	Response, etc.

NOTES: Do not restrict your contacts to just those names you were given. Try to contact any and all groups in your riding that could possibly have women who are interested. In each riding look up church organizations, auxiliaries, political organizations, etc. . . .you never know.

This information is not just for March 22 and finding lobbyists; we also want a record of all contacts to collect later and add to the existing directories, etc.

If there isn't enough room on this sheet, attach a separate sheet of paper.

(2) LOBBYISTS (3 – 6 needed for each MLA. Remember we need two teams in two-member ridings. Any extra people who want to lobby can be used in other more empty ridings)

Lobby Team:

Name _____	Phone _____
1. _____	spokesperson _____
2. _____	spokesperson _____
3. _____	recorder _____
4. _____	

Lobby Team: (for two member riding)

Name _____	Phone _____
1. _____	spokesperson _____
2. _____	spokesperson _____
3. _____	recorder _____
4. _____	

(3) OTHERS COMING: How many?
Who?

(4) LOCAL ISSUES: What are the problems/issues for women in that area? Get as full a description as possible. We will try to print up this information for the day.

(5) BRIEF: How many are we to send?
To whom?: (names and addresses)

(6) LETTERS: How is the letter-writing campaign going?
How many can we anticipate?

(7) LEAFLETS:

a. The first leaflet is mostly an announcement, which lists the issues, and gives the dates of the events, etc. It is for posting at centres, laundromats, at work, at community halls, etc., and can be distributed by hand as well.

How many do they want? _____ Where to send? (names and addresses)

b. The second leaflet will be for handing out, and contains information on all the issues.

How many to send? _____

WHERE? (names and addresses)

(8) **BUTTONS:** Buttons are ready to send NOW.

How many to send? (to start with!)

Where? (names and addresses)

(9) **TRANSPORTATION**

a. How many need transportation?

They are coming down by car bus plane

They will arrive at what time? what day?

They will arrive in Vancouver Victoria

If coming in by plane, do they want to be met?

Who will meet them?

b. Busing to Victoria. Who is going to take the bus on Sunday?

Who is going to take the bus on Monday?

(NOTE: Do not duplicate signing people on the bus lists. Please note here if you have already signed them up on the bus lists.)

c. Costs.

How much money will they need from us to pay their transportation costs?

Do they need it in advance?

(10) **BILLETING:** Give all details of needs of billeting for each night and which location.

Name

Phone

Place (Van. or Vic.)

Which nights

(11) **CHILD CARE**

How many children do you know of coming from your riding?

When? (hopefully only for March 22) (but, if not mark down here)

NOTE: If any children to be included in billeting needs please include that under Billeting.

(12) **LOCAL DEMONSTRATIONS**

Are any happening in your riding?

Describe: (when, where)

(13) **INTERCOM**

Is everybody receiving Intercom OK now?

Remember to note down any new or changed contacts, and give to POCO.

(14) **VISUAL AIDS**

Have they made sign(s) for their group(s) to take down on March 22?

If they are not making a sign, but are coming down, we shall try to make one for them. Give name of group, and town or city where they're from:

(15) **LOCAL SUPPORT ACTIONS**

Are people going to wear red arm bands there?

What are other local support actions in the communities in your riding?

(16) **MEDIA**

The Media Committee is doing regular press releases and sending them to ALL B.C. media. The schedule of these releases is in the POCO Intercom. Each place is urged to coordinate what they are doing on their own with the Media Co-ordinator BEFORE they do it. With something as dicey as the press, we have to make sure we are all saying the same things.

Contact person(s) in your riding that the local press can contact to get info on what is happening in that riding:

Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____

(17) **MONEY MONEY MONEY**

We are going to need thousands to cover transportation, plus all the other costs!

Encourage each riding to raise as much money on its own as possible; every dollar counts. Donation pots at meetings, every time; from friends, people on the street, etc.

How much, if any, can we expect from your riding?


Record here any money raised by this riding, and dates.

APPENDIX: B

PLACARD SLOGANS

The Rally slogans listed below were compiled by members of the Visual Aids, Media and Provincial Committees. The slogans summarize as many points in the Brief as possible and were painted on placards to be carried around the Rally. Profanity and personal insults to M.L.A.'s were excluded for obvious reasons but this did not stop us from daydreaming about the hundreds of slogans we would have really liked to paint on those placards.

We tried to use factual material, traditional feminist slogans, references to specific parts of the Brief and some humorous lines, all of which were stated as briefly and concisely as possible.

1. Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value
2. We Try Harder and Get Paid Less
3. Woman Power
4. Women's Place is in the World
5. Children are B.C.'s Future — End Sexist Education
6. Equal Employment Opportunity
7. Women Make Policy NOT Coffee
8. Women's Studies Courses for B.C. Schools
9. Herstory
10. Every Child Deserves a Chance — Support Daycare
11. Every Mother Deserves a Chance — Support Daycare
12. Some Families Don't Have TWO Parents — Support Daycare
13. Fund Rape Relief Centres
14. Being Raped is NOT a Crime
15. Fund Women's Health Collective
16. Sexism is a Social Disease
17. This Is Just The Beginning
18. Uppity Women Unite
19. End Sex Discrimination
20. More Power to B.C. Human Rights Commission
21. Establish a Permanent Women's Office in B.C. Government
22. Wanted: Women's Branches in Departments of Health, Human Resources, and Education
23. Community of Marital Property
24. Wanted: Breast Cancer Screening Program — B.C. has Highest Breast Cancer Rate in Canada
25. Affirmative Action Now
26. Pensions for Housewives
27. Housework is 25% of Gross National Product
28. Only 10% of Landlords in Vancouver will rent to people with children
29. Prohibit discrimination by landlords to families with children
30. Women paid average of 58% of Male Wages
31. Minimum Labour Standards for Farm and Domestic Workers
32. Equal Partnership in Marriage
33. Women's Work is Never Done or Appreciated or Paid For or Recognized or Honoured
34. Feminism: Belief in Social, Economic, and Political Equality of Men and Women
35. Sexism: is Discrimination on basis of Gender
36. Reinstate funding for Transition Houses
37. Reinstate Committee on Sex Discrimination in Education
38. Increase Numbers of Human Rights Officers
39. Prohibit discrimination on basis of sexual orientation
40. Support your local Women's Centre
41. Core Funding for Women's Centres throughout B.C.
42. What do Women Want? Ask us, we're Experts!
43. Chivalry is no Substitute for Justice . . . "Nellie McClung"
44. Sisterhood is Powerful
45. Jobs for Women in Northern Development
46. Job Security for Pregnant Working Women
47. Support Women's Rally for Action — Victoria, March 22nd
48. VOTERS
49. 



NOTES



Typesetting by MAKARA Publishing & Design Co-operative
Printed by Press Gang Publishers
Photos by Anne Kirk

Contributions to this booklet have come from many sources — W.R.A. Committee co-ordinators, committee workers, lobbyists, and other participants. The workers who take ultimate responsibility for researching, writing, editing and layout are Judy Bourne, Diana Ellis, Carol Norman, Bobbie Patrick and Lorri Rudland.

To obtain additional copies, enquire re: postal rates for single and bulk purchases —
Women Rally for Action
c/o 2029 West 4th Avenue
Vancouver, B.C.

Chilly reception fails to dampen women's rallying spirit

By BARBARA McINTOCK
Province Victoria Bureau

Legislature Rally

For Women's Rights

By FRANCES RUSSELL
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Neither the weather nor a majority of the MLAs provided much co-operation when about 500 women from all parts of B.C. marched on the legislature Monday to demand a new charter of women's rights.

Cold, bluster winds greeted the demonstrators on the steps and general reactions ranging from hostility to ignorance met the small groups of lobbyists who attempted to speak to all 55 MLAs.

It was a well-organized, well-behaved and low-key demonstration. But the women lacked in number or boisterousness made up in earnestness.

ported to have said she couldn't understand why more women didn't apply for managerial positions.

On day care, she was reported to have said there were other priorities for government funding. The constituency group that met with her told the rally she was "very evasive, talked generalities, told us she had another appointment in five minutes."

In general, "we were well informed," Health Minister McCrellin said.

be lobbied. He reportedly admitted he had read only the highlights of the Berger royal commission on "unaware" of "needs in Kelowna."

The province requires "a lot of needs in Kelowna."

Picture, Page 2

leader Bill for unemployment but

— probably the first time that legislators had been confronted in every case by lobbyists from their own ridings.

And they had come prepared with a brief outlining government action on issues ranging from education to job discrimination. They had come well informed on the details of the bill.

Minister of Housing and Urban Development, Hugh McCrellin, was "slightly evasive" but not "unfriendly."

Minister of Education, Pat McCree, was "friendly" but "not very helpful."

Minister of Social Credit, Allan Williams, was "friendly" but "not very helpful."

Women's Issue Test Flunked By Cabinet

By NANCY BROVIN
Chief Reporter

of women in British Columbia, the provincial government has an obligation to set an example by employment within the private sector by the time the cabinet meets.

tening to speakers on a variety of issues from women's health care to women in prison.

The security staff at the legislature didn't fare well this week when their views on women didn't fare well this week.

Provincial Secretary Grace McCarthy and said she didn't see any discrimination in the public sector.

Housing Minister Curtis was "slightly evasive" but not "unfriendly."

Women seeking better B.C. deal

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — An equal sharing of property in marriage, free birth control and a requirement that all hospitals receiving provincial money establish abortion committees are among recommendations to be delivered to MLAs next week.

Women present brief lobby, present brief legislature for new rights

Sun Victoria Bureau

Several hundred women B.C. assembled on the steps of the legislature today to lobby their MLAs for a new charter of women's rights.

Bill Vander Zalm appears to have come out in support of the women's cause.

Minister of Education, Pat McCree, was "friendly" but "not very helpful."

Women seek charter of rights

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Several hundred women from across B.C. assembled on the steps of the legislature today to hear speeches, lobby and present their MLAs for a new charter of rights for women.

On a huge billboard on the legislature grounds, the delegates reported on visits to the MLAs describing their attitudes and their questions.

It was one of the best-organized rallies seen at the legislature for some time. Small delegations of women had been assigned to meet individually with cabinet ministers and MLAs, and more than 50 of the 55 members were present. A detailed written agenda was read every minute from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Women's Rally Victoria March 22

