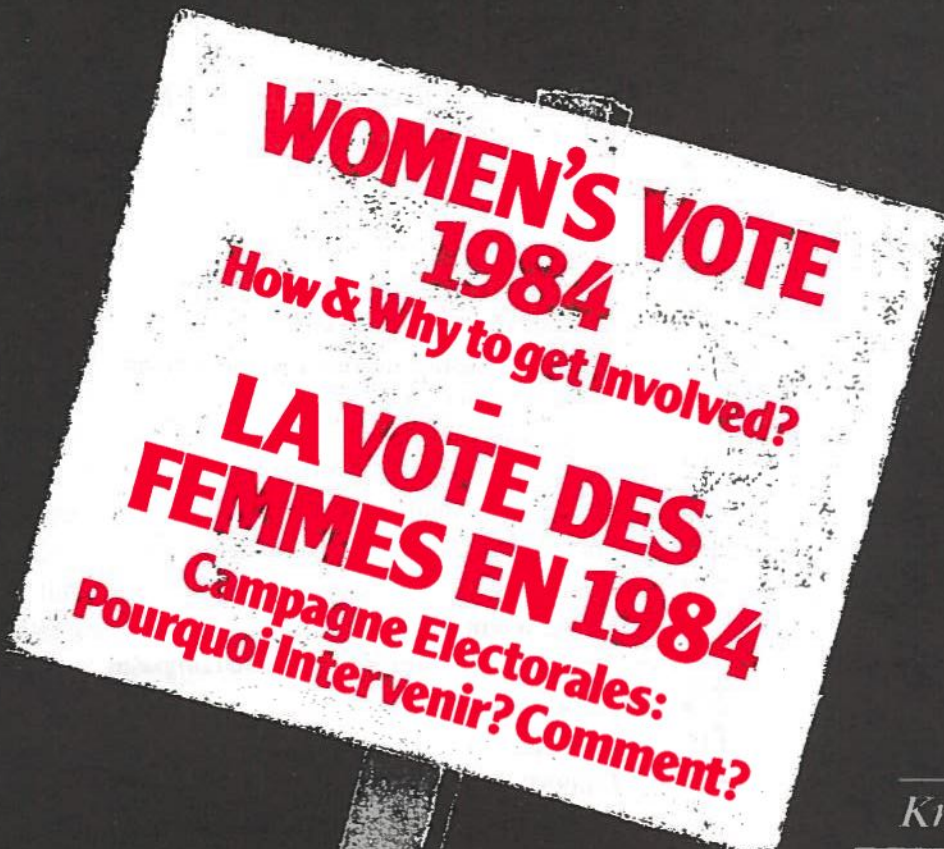


MEMO — See
Subscribers — See
Abonnées au
MEMO — voir à l'intérieur

STATUS OF WOMEN NEWS LA REVUE STATUT DE LA FEMME

Federal Elections Issue

Spécial Elections Fédérales



Know the Candidates

Pressure the Candidates

Support your Candidate

Get Out the Women's Vote

Know the Issues; Ask the Questions

Renseignez-Vous sur les Candidat-e-s

Demandez-Leur des Comptes?

Appuyez les Candidat-e-s Qui Vous Intéressent

Incitez les Femmes à Aller Voter

Sachez Poser Les Bonnes Questions

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on the Status of Women

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Editorial

This issue of STATUS is a special one prepared with the expectation that a federal election will be called for this summer. National attention has been focussed on the race for the leadership of the Liberal Party and political analysts are predicting an election in August. Media attention to the factor of the "Women's Vote" has made the public and the candidates increasingly aware of the necessity to be well informed on women's issues.

NAC has consistently lobbied the federal parties for implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women and for other policies to improve the status of women. For this election, we need an informed membership actively questioning the candidates on their positions and pushing the parties to improve their records on their stated policies on women's issues. After the Annual Meeting in March, 1984, NAC lobbied the party caucuses and recorded their responses on major issues affecting the status of women.

In this issue of STATUS, we have departed from the usual STATUS format to include a report of the

March lobby. We hope you can use it to assess the parties' stands and to influence your candidates. We have decided to devote this issue to the NAC ELECTIONS KIT, a simple guide for getting involved. We hope that the wide circulation of this issue will assist the members of our member groups to mobilize during this critical election. We urge you to call all-party meetings and question the candidates on these issues. We urge you to make the Women's Vote make a difference in '84.

Another new feature for MEMO subscribers is the inclusion of MEMO as an insert in STATUS. Over the next few issues we will be changing STATUS to a completely bilingual magazine and we will be increasing the number of issues to 8 times per year to facilitate publication at the same time as the regular Meetings of the NAC Executive Board. All these changes are aimed at contributing to an informed rank-and-file membership of NAC. We need your support. Please participate in the subscription drive we are undertaking and display this issue in your region. We want more regional submissions and more graphics and art work. We're going from GOOD TO GREAT!

"The country is yours ladies; politics is simply a public affair. Yours and mine and everyone's. The government has enfranchised you, but it cannot emancipate you, that is done by your own processes of thought."

Nellie McClung (1917)

"An emancipation process is meaningless unless its objective is to take power or share power."

Claire Bonenfant

NAC Lobby 1984

Native Women

Q. Will you support registering the women and the first generation children on the band lists when the section 12(1)(b) of the Indian Act is repealed?

NDP support this as a strong priority

CONSERVATIVES have supported this for a long time

LIBERALS expect the legislation to be forthcoming soon.

Charter of Rights

Q. What will you do to ensure that an omnibus bill which brings existing legislation into compliance with Section 15 of the Charter is introduced into Parliament before April 15, 1984?

NDP has raised this with the Minister of Justice in the House and in the Justice Committee asking that the bill not be a last minute one and they will continue to press.

Q. Will you change your position on the entrenchment of property rights, given the threat that such an amendment to the Charter poses to women?

CONSERVATIVES looked at property rights from the concept of real property and are now re-examining their position in light of the arguments that NAC has brought on this.

LIBERALS give a commitment to release a draft audit by the end of September 1984 so that women's groups will have time to respond to it prior to April 17, 1984.

Survival

Q. Will your party include women who are active in peace research and who have negotiating skills in making foreign policy decisions and in disarmament negotiations at the UN?

NDP has asked the Minister in the House to give serious consideration to having at least one woman involved in the arms control and disarmament division of the Department and has asked if the Minister would fill the position of Ambassador for Disarmament which has been vacant for many months with a prominent woman who is concerned about the issues of disarmament and peace.

CONSERVATIVES appointed a woman as the first Secretary of State and would hope to fully utilize women at the highest level and in all delegations and at the negotiating table.

LIBERALS have appointed women to the UN Status of Women Commission.

Pensions

Q. Are you prepared to allow homemakers to get pensions through the Canada Pension Plan?

NDP agree that homemakers require better pensions but do not agree that this should be done through the CPP; want an expansion of the CPP.

CONSERVATIVES support the inclusion of homemakers in the CPP, support changing the present tax deduction system to a tax credit for people who have locked money into retirement plans.

LIBERALS agree to the inclusion of homemakers in the pension plan but require the consent of the provinces; agree to the expansion of the CPP but not in relation to the average industrial wage.

Job Creation

Q. Do you endorse the principle of creating permanent jobs for women by increasing funding in the areas of community and social services? To you support 50% of the projects being funded in the sectors where women work and 50% of the positions created to be filled by women?

NDP have proposed it in the House of Commons a number of times and support the proposal brought forward by the Canadian Council on Social Development for long-term, full-time, adequately-paid, direct job creation.

CONSERVATIVES support funding jobs in the sectors where women are employed and support creating permanent jobs, but would not guarantee that 50% of the jobs go to women.

LIBERALS: no.

Canada Labour Code

Q. Will you support the pro-rating of benefits for part-time workers and health protection legislation for workers who are using VDT's?

NDP have advocated pro-rata benefits and have called for a limit of 40 minute-periods working on VDT's.

CONSERVATIVES would support only part-time workers in the labour force on a full-time basis throughout the year (i.e. permanent part-time).

LIBERALS: under consideration. (EDITORIAL NOTE: Andre Ouellet, Minister of Labour did not include these provisions in the bill. NAC is to appear before a Parliamentary Committee in June to protest this. This is a key election issue for NAC. Please promote it along with the Labour Code Card Campaign. See post cards in this issue.)

Daycare

Q. What steps would your party take to set up a daycare system which is not income related, but accessible to all and totally subsidized through public funds?

NDP have suggested increasing the number of daycare centres in Canada and passed an extensive policy on daycare at the last convention.

CONSERVATIVES would allocate funds to ensure that daycare needs of the women of Canada are met but would not say if it would be direct grants to a day care system.

LIBERALS would participate through the Canada Welfare Plan but social services are the jurisdiction of the provinces. (EDITORIAL NOTE: Task Force on Day Care announced in June/84)

Canada Health Act

Q. Would you change "medical practitioners" to "health care practitioners"?

CONSERVATIVES: yes

LIBERALS: will consider.

Abortion

Q. Given that 72% of Canadians believe that the abortion decision rests with the woman, will your party support repeal of Section 251 of the Criminal Code?

NDP: yes.

CONSERVATIVES would favour a free vote.

Power and Politics

We are the Gender Gap

*Power and politics do not belong to men only. If women want social change, we must shed the dependency syndrome, as well as the belief that political systems will respond with corrective action when injustice is brought to their attention. We must assume ever-increasing responsibility for participation in setting political, economic, and social directions. One route is the election process.
BUT VOTING IS NOT ENOUGH.*

The National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC)

NAC is a voluntary feminist organization working to improve the position of women in Canada. NAC consists of almost 300 non-governmental organizations across the country — some regional, others Canada-wide.

NAC grew out of the Committee for the Equality of Women which sought the establishment of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women.

NAC has been called "the most powerful lobby for women in Canada". NAC promotes reform in laws and public policies through:

- developing feminist positions;
- presenting briefs to Government, legislators, Commissions;
- lobbying Members of Parliament.

NAC informs the public about women's concerns through:

- Status of Women News;
- open meetings on issues;
- enhanced media coverage;

NAC fosters co-operation among women's organizations by:

- sharing information;
- organizing conferences;
- building a national network.

Federal Elections Kit

Elections can offer us, as women, an opportunity to exercise power, responsibility, and consciousness. They offer us the further challenge of using that power, responsibility, and consciousness to define, organize, and implement a new kind of government — one which recognizes, values, and makes visible our female experience.

The commitment of political parties to the interests of women is mainly expressed in election promises and bandaid measures. To get even these, women have to raise the issues in the first place and keep them squarely in front of the politicians. That requires awareness of the issues, and of organizing resources.

This ELECTION KIT will help you:

- Know the Candidates
- Pressure the Candidates
- Support your Candidate
- Get Out the Women's Vote
- Know the Issues; Ask the Questions.

For additional copies, contact the NAC Office.

We can make
the difference.

Know the Candidates

Campaign Literature

Scrutinizing candidate literature is the simplest way of collecting information about candidates in your riding. Virtually all election campaigns publish information about their candidate, the candidate's platform, and sometimes that of her/his party, unless s/he runs as an independent.

Pamphlets are dropped in your mailbox. If you're used to throwing them out, consider keeping all pamphlets this time. If, for some reason, you don't get all literature from all candidates in your riding, phone their campaign headquarters and ask for it.

Campaign literature is an important source of basic information:

- it tells you what the candidates would like you to know, and believe, about them;
- it gives you an idea of what they think the important issues are;
- you can assess what has been said and what has been omitted;
- you can make comparisons between candidates.

And, you can use it for ACTION:

- you can design questions for candidates, based on what you have learned from their pamphlets (and from statements they have made for the media or in other settings), and on comparisons between them and other candidates;
- you can ask these questions when the candidate knocks on your door;
- you can go the next step and attend or organize all-candidates' meetings and forums to ask the questions publicly.
- send copies to the NAC office.

In 1915 the Women's Auxiliary to the United Farmers Association was formed, a provincial suffrage group, after the Alberta Mock Women's Parliament.

Forums

Usually, several public forums are held in a riding. They are publicly advertised and are open to anyone. You may not always have a chance to ask questions, but you will be able to hear candidates' statements and observe their behaviour.

If you attend forums in a group, you can debrief and compare notes afterwards. And you can plan further actions.

Questionnaires

An interesting avenue to explore is the use of a questionnaire, with questions to be asked of all candidates in a riding. The same questionnaire can be used in other ridings.

You, your group, or a coalition of groups determine the questions. Keep their number limited, to perhaps five at the most. Phrase them clearly so that ambivalence and misunderstanding are avoided. Precede them with factual background information. State a reasonable date by which you want the questionnaire returned. You may have to make follow-up calls. Leave yourself plenty of time.

When you have the answers, you will want to use them, perhaps in condensed form. Here are some suggestions:

- Publicize them through your networks.
- Publicize them in your riding, by dropping them in mailboxes, by using a community newspaper or newsletter, by taking them to forums and all-candidates' meetings.
- Mail out news releases to relevant media. Identify "friendly" contacts in the media and make sure they get a copy.

All of these possibilities, and any others you add, are, of course, dependent upon your resources. Weigh the advantages and disadvantages of each strategy and method.

The first petition to enfranchise women containing 1700 signatures was presented to the Newfoundland Legislature in 1920.

All Candidates' Meetings

You don't have to wait for others to organize an all-candidates' meeting. You can organize your own. That means that you can determine, or participate in determining, the strategies and goals of the meeting.

How to organize an all-candidates' meeting

EARLY

1. Gather a small committee of members of your women's organization, or form a short-term women's election coalition.
2. Select several possible dates for the meeting.
3. Consult the campaign managers as soon as the election is called and major candidates are nominated.
4. Set a final date.
5. Inform the candidates and get acceptance confirmed.
6. Arrange place, logistics (e.g., sound system suitable to the space); select a competent chairwoman.
7. Inform the media.

NEXT

1. Develop questions (see Know the Issues; Know the Questions: NAC priority demands). Apply them locally where possible.
2. Print questions for candidates and audience.
3. Decide on meeting plan (e.g., room lay-out, oral or written questions from audience).
4. Publicize the meeting.

5. Distribute pre-determined questions to campaign managers a week prior to the meeting.
6. Arrange for:
 - large name cards in front of the candidates;
 - water for speakers;
 - someone to welcome the candidates;
 - someone to collect additional written questions, if these are allowed;
 - someone to record answers.

FINALLY

1. Keep the records of answers given. Spread them around.
2. Keep a record of media coverage, including details of T.V. and radio spots.
3. Debrief, and evaluate the meeting for future use.

How to use All-candidates' meetings

AHEAD OF TIME

1. Participate in or organize a short-term women's election coalition or a small election task force.

2. Educate your members on the issues. Use this NAC Federal Elections Kit.
3. Decide on a strategy.
4. Develop questions for local candidates. Print a question sheet. Avoid questions which invite evasive answers. "How" questions are best.
5. If possible, prepare for effective participation by role playing. Use people to help you (e.g., media people, people who have worked on elections).
6. Publicize the meeting among women.
7. Mobilize women to attend.

AT THE MEETING

1. Bring paper and pens, and take notes.
2. Distribute your questions at the door, to all who attend.
3. Sit close to a microphone. Be the first one "up". Have supplementary questions ready if the answers are ambiguous.
4. If the meeting allows for written questions only, try to include a fact in your questions.

Pressure the Candidates

The Women's Vote

Lately, there has been evidence that the women's vote counts in Canada. More women are voting. More women are casting their own vote rather than following their husbands, fathers, and grandfathers. Women tend to be more concerned with progressive social issues than are men.

The politicians are beginning to pay attention. Whether candidates merely play the numbers game or are seriously concerned, the task for women is to get them to pay attention to our issues, and to keep their election promises in front of them throughout their candidacy, and after they have been elected.

1916: Manitoba women win the vote.

Postcards

Postcards are quick and easy tools to communicate to candidates what you expect from them. They serve to educate them about issues important to women. And they give you the satisfaction of knowing that you have told them and that they know your vote is conditional.

Following this page are three "tear-off" post-cards. If you need more, please duplicate them. Give copies to other women. The more the candidates get, the more they will have to pay attention to our issues.

- Mail the cards to local candidates in your riding (NOT the party leaders). Use the address of their campaign headquarters.
- Address the candidate by name.
- Sign the card.
- Include your home address on the address-side of the card to show you live in the candidate's riding.

Letters

A major advantage of letters to candidates is that they allow for two-way communication. You can state your points and ask questions. Be sure to request an answer.

If you don't receive an answer within a reasonable period of time, follow up by calling campaign headquarters. Ask to speak to the candidate. Press for an answer.

Of course, you can call any time. But a letter carries more weight. It also gives the candidate time to respond to your points.

Postcard- and letter-writing parties can be energizing and fun. They usually spark creative ideas. Organize a gathering and write away. And talk about other actions, such as phone-ins and all-candidates' meetings.

Phone-In Shows

After the election has been called, candidates are often asked to be guests at phone-in shows. There may also be phone-in shows which do not feature candidates, but are relevant to election issues. These shows are opportunities to state your points and to get ready-made media coverage.

- Find out when radio and TV phone-in shows are scheduled.
- Tell other women about it. Gathering together to plan and call is a good strategy.
- Prepare a question (or questions) in advance. You may want some options, depending on the direction the show is headed. Where possible, start with the fact on which your question is based.
- Call the station as early in the program as possible. Be at the head of the line-up of callers. Be prepared to give a name when asked.
- When your call has gone through and you are waiting to be put on the air, you will normally be able to hear the program on the phone. Turn your radio or TV sound off, to avoid the "echo" effect.
- Be concise and firm.

A CAUTION: Avoid getting into dead-end arguments or into discussions which are so complex no one understands your point. Your credibility with the audience is vital.

All-Candidates' Meetings

When you plan your strategy, keep in mind that you want to be effective, both in message and in method.

These are some things you want to accomplish:

- Getting straight answers/positions.
- Getting election promises.
- Being understood, not only by the candidates, but also by the audience of voters.

These are some things you want to avoid:

- Getting into useless arguments and harangues.
- Becoming too much of a focus of attention.

A simple tactic is:

- Go as a group.
- Agree that group members will act as a team and apply pressure by taking turns.
- Scatter yourselves throughout the room.
- Sit close to the floor-mikes.
- Know when to continue the pressure and when to stop.
- Rely on group members to press on where you had to leave off.

Dear Mr. Ouellet;

I insist that the federal government move to introduce the following changes to the Canada Labour Code:

1. EQUAL WAGE RATES AND PROPORTIONAL BENEFITS FOR PART-TIME WORKERS.
2. MORE FREQUENT REST PERIODS FOR EMPLOYEES WORKING ON VIDEO DISPLAY TERMINALS.

75% of part-time workers are women and the majority of workers using V.D.T.'s are also women. Canadian women want action *now*.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

No
Stamp
Necessary

The Honourable André Ouellet
Minister of Labour
Centre Building
Room 511
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

No
Stamp
Necessary

The Honourable André Ouellet
Minister of Labour
Centre Building
Room 511
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

No
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Support your Candidate

At some point, you may have determined who you want to see elected in your riding. This candidate will receive your support. Support can be extended in many forms. You can express it through phone-in shows and all-candidates' meetings. But you can also choose to get involved in a campaign. You can do so at several stages and in several capacities.

Nominations

Anyone wanting to run under a party banner in a riding first has to be nominated by that party. This is an internal process. Therefore, your effective participation at this stage requires membership in that party.

There is no limit on the number of nominees. It is entirely possible for you, or a group, to "recruit" someone of your choice. Or, you can support someone who already has decided to run for nomination.

Campaigns

Candidates need votes to get elected. This is why campaigns are run. Campaigns are intensive pieces of work. They require planning, organization, and lots and lots of workers.

Women have always participated in elections and, in fact, many political campaigns are won on the backs of Canadian women. But key organizing positions are often denied us. If you want to become involved in a campaign, ask yourself these questions and decide if, how, and where you want to get involved in a campaign:

- What do you want to learn and accomplish through working on a campaign?
- How can you ensure that your interests are met?
- What kind of work do you want to do?
- How much time and energy are you prepared to spend?

Then go to the headquarters of the candidate of your choice and offer your support. Negotiate with the workers for jobs you want to do which will demonstrate your skills and/or teach you new ones.

Timing:

You don't have to wait for an election call to start work on a campaign. The elections are coming. Start NOW and decide how and where to get involved.

Organizing:

- Identify your resources NOW. For example:
- Form, or join a women's short-term elections group.
 - Hook into national, provincial, and local networks to learn more about issues, platforms, and campaigns.
 - Decide on broad strategies.
 - Choose your own piece of work, in a short-term elections group, and in a campaign.
 - Negotiate with a candidate to form a campaign committee, or to work on a committee.

Jobs:

People are needed to coordinate a campaign, others to carry out jobs such as phoning, canvassing, mail-dropping (dropping campaign literature in mail boxes), accompanying the candidate, and so on.

Basic Conventional Campaign Structure

Candidate
Campaign Manager(s)
Office Manager
Treasurer
Fundraiser
Sign Coordinator
Canvass Coordinator

This group makes up the Campaign Committee.

Many campaigns add functions, for example, media, campaign literature, research, strategy, and election day. An "aide" to the candidate is a useful and supportive feature. One all-woman campaign committee, wanting to record the experience, had photographers, and the campaign co-managers acted as historians.

In 1922 the Provincial Franchise Committee was formed in Quebec.

The first woman cabinet minister in the Empire was Mary-Ellen Smith, elected to the B.C. Legislature in 1918. She campaigned for wages for women in industry, equal pay for equal work, and pensions for "indigent mothers with dependent children".

In 1914 Nellie McClung played the role of Premier in the Women's Parliament held by the Manitoba Suffrage League.

Resources:

"Alberta Municipal Elections 1983: The ASWAC Handbook". Edmonton: Alberta Status of Women Action Committee, 1983.

Brodie, Janine M. and Jill McCalla Vickers. *Canadian Women in Politics: An Overview*. The CRIAW Papers No. 2. Ottawa: Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women, 1982.

"For Women: Problem Solving and Action Planning Kit." Regina: Women's Division, Saskatchewan Department of Labour, undated.

"Sharing of Power". Ottawa: Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, undated.

Election kits produced by other women's and social change organizations.

Special Women's Questions, Women's Party, Toronto, 1918:

Absolute recognition of women by the government.

Equal pay for equal work.

Equal marriage laws including conditions of divorce.

Equal parental rights between mother and father.

Raising the age of consent so that a girl's person is as fully protected as her property.

Equal opportunity of employment.

Equal homesteading rights.

Amended immigration laws allowing women from the British Isles to settle in Canada on equal terms with men.

Parents to share financial support of children according to ability to pay.

Every child to be guaranteed by the community, from birth until it becomes fully grown and self-supporting, the material conditions of life, the medical supervision and treatment, and the general education followed by specialized education, necessary to render the child a worthy citizen.

Creation of a co-operative housekeeping system to replace the present non-co-operative system of housing, which involves injustice to the housewife and an incalculable waste of national wealth, which would provide: laundry service, infirmary and isolation hospital and creche, nursery school, gymnasium and reading room for the use of families in each co-operative dwelling.

The Women's Party is of the opinion that, in the mind of every Canadian man and woman, a sense of national duty and responsibility must go together with the sense of individual political and economic rights.

Get out the Women's Vote

The women's vote will be courted and counted. More women vote than in years past. But not all support our issues. Not all understand them. And there are still many women who do not vote or do so sporadically. So, a major task is to get the women's vote out, in support of our issues and positions. That means education and encouragement. Just make sure that in doing this work, you don't forget to cast your own vote! It has happened. If you follow up on any of the suggestions below, keep in mind education and encouragement. Focus on issues and positions.

Talking

Discussions with friends, neighbours, co-workers. Commit yourself to talking with at least one (or two, or more) women per day. Get them involved.

Booths

Arrange for a booth in shopping malls, at conferences, music festivals, any place where many people gather. There may be a small fee involved. Be prepared to talk to people and have literature ready.

Advertising

Paid advertising is expensive. But it reaches a lot of people. Hold a quick garage sale to raise money for ads.

Cable-TV

Arrange for time on your Community Cable TV. You can negotiate for what you want: to be interviewed, to produce your own program, to have a film shown, and so on.

NAC Elections Kit

Share the kit. If you have access to a photocopier, copy it for others. Otherwise, write or phone NAC for additional copies.

Newsletters, Newspapers, Magazines

Write articles. Send letters to the Editor. Keep your readership in mind. Content for women's publications would likely differ from something for mainstream or mixed readership publications.

Postcards

Use the cards in this kit. Copy them, and give them to other women. Or develop your own. If necessary, take the time to explain the background.

Media

Friendly media representatives may be able to arrange for interviews with you or your group.

Brochures, Leaflets

Much cheaper than ads and easy to make. You have to distribute them. Drop them off in mailboxes, take them to meeting places, insert them into newsletters.

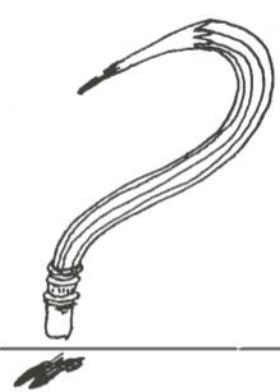
Provincial and Local Action Committees

Form your own group or work through existing groups and networks. For example: women's organizations, women's caucuses, International Women's Day Committees, unions. Publicize, increase membership, enter into coalitions and working relationships with other groups. Exchange information, methods, analyses.

Posters

Best to keep text short, concise, and highly visible. The words VOTE ON (date) may catch people's eye.

NOTES



Know the Issues; Ask the Questions

Affirmative Action

Canadian employers have argued since 1975 that the best path for hiring women into positions previously preserved for men is the voluntary affirmative action approach. Since the voluntary approach has not been successful, mandatory affirmative action is required.

Facts

- **Women's Employment:** Though discrimination against women has been illegal in Canada for nearly a decade, women continue to face policies in recruiting, hiring, promotions, and lay-offs which function to deny equality in employment. Voluntary measures clearly have not worked.
- **The U.S. Experience:** American experience has shown that in making business contracts with the government conditional upon the adoption of affirmative action programs, the U.S. federal government has been able to force employers to end discriminatory practices and open up job opportunities to women and to blacks.

- **In Canada:** Section 19 of the Canadian Human Rights Act empowers Cabinet to require that employers licensed by, or doing business with, the federal government set up affirmative action programs. The Canadian Human Rights Act was passed seven years ago. Yet, Cabinet has failed to act on Section 19.

Questions for Candidates

1. Is your party, if elected, prepared to ensure that the federal cabinet will act upon Section 19 of the Canadian Human Rights Act to require mandatory affirmative action programs of employers who do business with the federal government?

Charter of Rights

EQUALITY RIGHTS: An essential part of the Charter of rights is not in effect and will not be until April, 1985 — the equality rights provisions. This portion of the Charter contains crucial protections for women and other groups who have not been treated equally by the law and give affirmative action programs the protection they deserve. The wording of these sections is as follows:

Equality Rights

15(1) Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination and, in particular, without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability.

(2) Subsection (1) does not preclude any law, program or activity that has as its object the amelioration of conditions of disadvantaged individuals because of race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability.

Facts

- When the political compromises were made which resulted in bringing the Canadian Constitution back to Canada in 1982, all levels of government wanted time to bring their legislation in line with these provisions. They were given a full *three years*. This period ends on April 17, 1985. During those three years both provincial and federal governments are to review their laws and bring them into line with Section 15. This process is known as a statute audit. Little has been heard to date about the status or findings of these audits.
- NAC has called for full disclosure and publication of the results of the statute audits so that women in Canada can respond prior to 1985. After governments have completed their review and revision process, women will have to go to court to press their cases in order to remove discriminatory provisions in the law. This will be expensive and time-consuming. It will also put the onus on individuals when the matter of compliance with the Charter should be work done by the government.
- Federal money has been available to fund cases developing the Charter law in the area of language rights. Funds should be available to develop the law in the area of equality rights as well. Women have a great stake in the way the law is developed, as do other groups protected in Section 15.

Child Care

The majority of Canadian children are now being raised in families where the mother is in the labour force. The participation of women with children in the labour force is rapidly increasing. At the same time, publicly supervised and supported child care services are extremely underdeveloped. Economic equality for women is a meaningless slogan if, as a society, we do not have accessible, affordable, high-quality, publicly-funded child care. Women in this society should not be penalized for having children.

Facts

- During World War II, when society wanted women in the labour force, a good day care system existed in Canada. After the war it was dismantled.
- In 1980 only 3.8% of infants of working mothers were in licensed day care, and only 15.8% of children 2-5 years old were in licensed day care. Unlicensed child care arrangements are, at best, of questionable quality.
- Current day care funding in Canada was designed as a service to people in financial need. This is entirely out-of-step with current realities. Day care should not be a welfare service. It is a service required for the vast number of children of working parents.
- The federal government now spends about \$150 million a year on day care. The money goes on the one hand to a small number of fully subsidized day care spaces for people on social assistance, and, through the tax system, to the wealthiest people who purchase child care.
- The vast middle range of Canadians and the working poor are not served by the federal government's involvement in day care funding at all.
- The cost of licensed day care has now become prohibitive for most middle income parents at about \$3000-\$3500 a year per child.
- Day care should be available in a variety of ways, as long as these are licensed and supervised. It should be possible to fund adequately-supervised child care centres, family day care services, parent-cooperative day care centres, workplace day care, and round-the-clock care for families in emergency or for shift-workers. A mix of possible ways of delivering child care is desirable.
- Most child care workers are women and they are radically underpaid, at \$8000 a year on the average.
- Using tax vouchers and tax credits for parents to buy child care will not create the infra-structure for a high quality day care system in Canada.

Questions for Candidates

1. What steps would you take to publicize the results of the government's statute audits and allow response from interested groups and individuals?
2. What steps would you take to publicize the results of the governments' rights sections of the Charter are funded as language rights challenges have been?

Let your MP and candidates know:

- You want to see the statute audit as soon as possible and have an opportunity to respond in sufficient time prior to April 17, 1985.
- You support funding for equality rights challenges as well as challenges under other sections of the Charter.
- You will not vote for someone who does not support these points.

Work with your own groups to:

- Develop your position on how the Charter can help you achieve the change for which you are organized.
- Educate people about the Charter and the audit process that is currently taking place.

Questions for Candidates

1. Do you support the goal of affordable, high quality, accessible, publicly-funded day care services in Canada? How do you propose to have that happen?
2. Do you support a new cost-sharing mechanism to be worked out between the federal government and the provinces to fund day care services adequately across Canada?
3. Will you, or will your party, resist the use of tax credits and tax vouchers as a way of funding child care?

Divorce and Maintenance

Like it or not, modern family patterns include ever-increasing numbers of marriage break-ups. To deal with this new reality, the National Action Committee on the Status of Women believes that Canada's divorce laws should reflect the following principles.

Facts

Grounds for Divorce:

- Once a wife or husband has decided that the marriage is not working, the relationship has clearly ended and no legal rule will make it work.
- As a result, marriage breakdown should be the sole ground to obtain a divorce. A declaration by either spouse should be sufficient, and no proof of separation or fault should be required.

Maintenance Award and Enforcement

- In modern marriages where both spouses had equal opportunities to develop their careers, the general principle used in established maintenance awards on divorce should be that each spouse is responsible for her or his own support.
- The federal government can and should take the responsibility for correcting the shameful fact that the vast majority of Canadian maintenance awards are not respected.
- The principle of each spouse's responsibility for her or his own support should *not* be given priority in establishing maintenance awards when

1. young children are involved
2. one spouse was a long-term homemaker and a permanent dependency was created
3. a spouse suffered economic losses because of the marriage
4. one of the spouses is disabled.

Questions for Candidates

1. Are you in favour of the abolition of all grounds for divorce other than that of marriage breakdown?
2. Do you support the inclusion in the Divorce Act of specific criteria entitling long-term homemakers to continuing maintenance payments allowing them to have a standard of living similar to that of their ex-husbands?
3. Will your party set up an effective national system of enforcement of maintenance payments that would include a registry drawing information on defaulting spouses from all federal government data banks?

Equal pay for work of equal value

The average wages of women in the labour force are about 60% of the average wages of men. This is partly because work which is seen as "women's work" is systematically underpaid. The public health nurses in a number of communities in Canada earn less than the people who collect the garbage. Many secretaries earn less than the people who park the cars in the parking lot. In order to correct such inequities there is a guarantee in the Canadian Human Rights Act of equal pay for work of equal value. If an employee or a group of employees under federal jurisdiction feels that they are paid unequally compared to others in the same operation, they can request that the Canadian Human Rights Commission evaluate the relevant positions.

Facts

- Equal value is judged on the basis of four criteria: skill, effort, working conditions, and responsibility.
- The Canadian Human Rights Commission is processing equal value cases extremely slowly. We do not see the Commission taking an active role.
- Equal value provisions exist in Quebec human rights law. In Quebec, this provision has been applied successfully in the private sector.

Questions for Candidates

1. Would you require that companies doing business with the federal government pay their employees on the basis of equal pay for work of equal value?

NOTE: DO NOT ACCEPT COMMENTS that equal value is unworkable. Several consulting firms have worked out detailed ways to do it. It can be accommodated in current methods of evaluating jobs. It does not require the government to set up a huge bureaucracy to evaluate everyone's job. This argument against equal pay for work of equal value is used as a scare tactic for the uninformed.

Job Creation

Canada's unemployment rate has remained at record levels for the past two years. This means that the only job possibilities open to many Canadian women are those offered by short-term federal job creation projects. Yet, such projects are increasingly inaccessible.

Facts

- Under the federal government job creation program, money has been increasingly targeted to construction and public works projects which employ men almost exclusively.
- As a result, women's share of the jobs created under federal programs fell from 39.1% in 1976-77 to 32% in 1983-84.

Questions for Candidates

1. If elected, will your party make sure that half of federal job creation monies are targeted to community projects in which women are employed, and will you ensure that half of the jobs created go to women?
2. Will you put more federal money into direct job creation?

Native Women

STATUS OF NATIVE INDIAN WOMEN: NAC supports the full reinstatement of Indian women who have lost Indian status and rights as a result of marrying someone who is not a status Indian. NAC supports the registration of the children of these women as status Indians.

Facts

- Despite national and international condemnation, the federal government has not yet introduced legislation to amend the Indian Act in a manner which will restore the lost rights of these women and children, while safeguarding these rights for the future.
- On March 8, 1984, Pierre Elliot Trudeau issued a media release stating that legislation to end discrimination would be introduced shortly. These amendments to the Indian Act were introduced in the House of Commons in June, 1984. It is questionable whether they will be introduced during the 1984 Spring Session of the House, and before the elections.

Dear _____

- I am a woman, and I vote. Among the issues I care about are:
- equality in employment for women;
 - accessible, affordable childcare;
 - accessible birth control and choice on abortion;
 - violence against women, including pornography;
 - poverty of women, especially elderly women;
 - reinstatement for disenfranchised Indian women and their children
 - world peace and survival
- _____

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- equality in employment for women;
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 - world peace and survival
- _____

- Following April 17, 1985, when the Equality Rights Section of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms comes into force, it will be possible to apply to the courts to have the discriminatory sections of The Indian Act rendered void on the grounds that they discriminate against women. However, it is not at all clear whether the powers granted to the courts under the Charter are broad enough to enable them to require the reinstatement of Indian women and children. Most likely, the only effect of a court challenge would be to prevent the continuation of loss of status. For this reason, it is necessary that the federal government enact legislation to reinstate women and register children who have already lost their Indian status.
- Following federal elections, the party in power will have responsibility for introducing legislation since each of the three federal parties has made a commitment in their policy statements to correct the

discriminatory situation. This issue should remain in the forefront of the women's demands when reviewing the performance and promises of each of the parties.

Questions for Candidates

1. Will you support the immediate full reinstatement of Indian women who have lost their status as Indians under The Indian Act, due to their marriage to men other than registered Indians?
2. Will you further support the registration of their first-generation children, and the inclusion of these children on the Band list of their mothers' Band?

Constitutional Protection for Native Women

***F**REEDOM AND DISCRIMINATION: NAC supports native women in their struggle to attain the right to freedom from discrimination in any form of native self-government which is created.*

Facts

- The patriated Constitution contains both the Charter of Rights and a part on native rights (Section 35). At the 1983 First Ministers Meeting, native women had Section 35 amended to include the right to equal treatment under native self-government. However, the women are still concerned that the wording of Section 35 is too weak to fully protect them and continue to press for another amendment.

This issue will undoubtedly emerge at the next First Ministers Meeting in March 1985 and Native Women want their own seat at the meeting in order to participate fully. At present, native women have no independent representation at these meetings.

The party which is in power after the election will have a leadership role in this issue, and will be able to grant a seat at these meetings to Native Women.

Questions for Candidates

1. Will you support the introduction of entrenched equality rights for native women in section 35 of the Constitution, and ensure the equal participation of native women at all subsequent meetings of the First Ministers on Native Rights?

Part-time Work

***O**ne quarter of Canadian women now on the labour market work part-time and three quarters of all part-time workers are women. In comparison with full-time workers, part-timers rarely receive benefits and are frequently paid less. This kind of discrimination against part-time workers must be legislated out of existence if Canadian women are to achieve equality on the labour market.*

Facts

- Labour Canada has been studying the advisability of amending the Canada Labour Code to legislate pro-rata pay and benefits for part-timers since 1979.
- In 1983, the Wallace Commission, appointed by the federal Minister of Labour, recommended that the Canada Labour Code be amended to force employers under federal jurisdiction to accord pro-rate pay and benefits to part-time workers.
- Amendments to the Federal Labour Code (which received first reading on May 17, 1984) failed to address this issue.

Questions for Candidates

1. If elected, will your party amend the Canada Labour Code so that all part-time workers under federal jurisdiction will be entitled to pro-rata pay and benefits?

NOTE: THE CONSERVATIVE POSITION, as articulated by Brian Mulroney at the NAC lobby in March 1984, is that he would limit changes to the Canada Labour Code to permanent part-time workers. It is important to impress upon Conservative candidates that this position is not acceptable. Very few part-time positions are permanent and the changes Mulroney is proposing would therefore be meaningless.

Pensions

Most Canadian women spend their last years alone. And two out of three elderly women who are alone live below the poverty level. Many reasons contribute to this state of affairs, including the fact that most of the work women do is underpaid or not paid at all. But a totally inadequate pension system — both public and private — is another big reason so many of us end our lives in poverty.

Facts

- **OLD AGE SECURITY AND GUARANTEED INCOME SUPPLEMENT:** These two programs are supposed to provide an adequate minimum guaranteed income to Canadian seniors from coast to coast. But...these OAS/GIS pensions amounted to \$534 a month in June 1984, while the poverty line for people living alone in large cities was \$825. As a result...in 1982, six out of every ten spouseless women aged 65 and over — widows for the most part — were living in poverty in Canada.
- **CANADA/QUEBEC PENSION PLAN AND EMPLOYER PLANS:** These plans were set up to allow people to keep the same standard of living after they retire. But...the C/QPP replaces only 25% of people's earnings and does not recognize the value of homemaker's work, while employer plans are almost totally unrealistic. As a result...few people can maintain their standard of living when they get old, and widows typically receive less than 30% of the couple's previous income.

- **FAMILY LAWS** were recently changed throughout Canada to recognize the equality of the wife's contribution to the marriage. But...pension credits and retirement funds are still mainly considered personal assets that do not get shared between the spouses. As a result...men receive much higher pensions than their wives, and ex-wives rarely get a share of their ex-husbands' pension rights and savings after a divorce.

Questions for Candidates

1. Will your party raise the Guaranteed Income Supplement for the aged poor to bring the federal guaranteed income of all seniors to the poverty line for large cities?
2. Do you favour the expansion of the Canada/Quebec Pension Plan in such a way that it will provide substantially higher pensions to all its participants?
3. Will you fight for the direct inclusion of long-term homemakers in the Canada/Quebec Pension Plan, as recommended last year by the Parliamentary Task Force on Pension Reform?

Property Rights

NAC is opposed to any amendment of the Charter of Rights to include the right to the enjoyment of property because we believe it would be detrimental to women's concerns. Section 7 of the Charter of Rights and Fundamental Freedoms currently provides:

Legal Rights

7. Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of the person and the right not to be deprived thereof except in accordance with the principles of fundamental justice.

It has been proposed to include the words "the enjoyment of property" within this clause. This proposal has been defeated in the federal parliament, but was adopted as an acceptable amendment to the Charter by New Brunswick and British Columbia.

Facts

- Under most family statutes, even if a home is in a husband's name, a wife can apply for exclusive possession (keeping the man out of the home he has title to) if she is in physical danger. This is obviously crucial for the safety of the woman and any children involved.
- Prohibition from discrimination in employment on the basis of sex or marital status could be said to infringe on the right of enjoyment on one's business property. The anti-discrimination laws are clearly necessary for the achievement of equality in the society at large.
- Problems of pollution and environmental control, as well as occupational health and safety are dealt with by the law through restrictions on the use of property, such as threshold limits on asbestos. These laws are important to women interested in preserving a safe world for themselves and their children.

Questions for Candidates

1. Given the likelihood that such a property rights amendment would be detrimental to concerns of women, would you oppose any such amendment?
2. Will you work within your own party to have the party officially oppose such an amendment?

NOTE: LET YOUR MP/MPP/MLA AND CANDIDATES KNOW BY LETTER OR PHONE THAT:

- *You are opposed to the inclusion of a property rights amendment in the Charter.*
 - *You will not vote for anyone who supports such an inclusion.*
- IF THE MATTER IS AGAIN RAISED IN PARLIAMENT:*
- *Demand full, fair, and representative public debate.*
 - *Demand full disclosure to the public on the issue by government.*

Reproductive Rights and Choice

NAC believes that abortion is a matter of private conscience.

Facts

- The federal government appointed Committee on the Operation of the Abortion Law (The Badgley Report, February, 1977) reported that: "...the procedure provided in The Criminal Code for obtaining therapeutic abortion is in practice illusory for many Canadian women".
- A Gallup poll survey (June 1982) showed that 72% of adult Canadians believe that the decision whether or not to have an abortion should rest with the consenting patient and should be performed by a licensed physician in conformance with good medical practice.

Questions for Candidates

1. What steps will you take to ensure that abortion is removed from The Criminal Code?

Facts

- According to recent Statistics Canada figures, 257 hospitals in Canada (approx. 30% of public general hospitals) have Therapeutic Abortion Committees (TAC's). Of these, 18% performed *no* abortions. Nearly 75% of the abortions were done by only 17% of the hospitals with TAC's, making for tremendous regional disparity for women trying to obtain an abortion.

- Increasing numbers of Canadian women wanting abortions are travelling to the U.S.A. and Quebec, where free-standing abortion clinics exist. But not all women can afford travel cost.
- Procedures through TAC's are lengthy and complicated, thus prolonging waiting time. Free-standing clinics are not subject to the same procedures and do early, safer, abortions. Combined with comprehensive counselling, clinics provide good, and cheaper, health care.

Questions for Candidates

1. Will your party support the legalization of free-standing abortion clinics? Will you?

Survival

Unless we — women, men, and children — make sure that our planet will survive by putting a halt to the threat of nuclear war, to pollution, starvation and sickness, and to other man-made catastrophies, it will be useless to work for jobs, equality, human rights, and better living conditions.

Facts

- **Jobs:** Far more jobs are created from expenditures on peaceful production than on armaments. Women are badly hit by lack of jobs.
- **Inflation:** Weapons production is a major contributor to inflation. Workers are paid to produce goods which do not supply civilian needs or services. This leaves more money chasing fewer goods — prices rise in inflation.
- **What about the Russians?** We don't have to trust the Russians. We don't have to accept their system. We do have to live on the same planet and they are people — women, men, children — with fears and hopes like ours.
- **Negotiations:** The U.S. and U.S.S.R. tend to reject each other's proposals for disarmament. The U.S. says everything must be verified. The U.S.S.R. thinks this will be an excuse for spying. The U.S. says it must "negotiate from strength" then the Russians will do what is demanded. Instead, every time the U.S. increases its arms, the Russians do likewise. Verification procedures no longer need on-site inspection. Radar and satellites improve techniques all the time. Surely it's time to trust each side just enough to begin the process of freezing, reducing, and stopping the race. It *may* work.

Questions for Candidates

1. • We ask that the Parliament of Canada act to refuse the testing of the

Cruise missile from Canada and to reject research, production, testing and transport of any nuclear weapons, their delivery systems or components in Canada.

- We ask that Canada be declared a Nuclear-Weapons Free Zone in accord with similar initiatives by other nations and become actively involved in working for the multilateral de-escalation of the arms race.
- We further ask that wasteful spending on the arms race be diverted to fund human needs so as to ensure prosperity through peace.
- Finally, we ask that the above-stated objectives be subject to ratification through a "free-vote" in the Parliament of Canada.

Do you support any or all of the Peace Petition Caravan Campaign's requests?

- IF YES, will you work to obtain Government action on these points?
- IF NO, will you respond to your constituents' views and public opinion on these points?

2. At the recent United Nations session, Canada voted in opposition or abstained from voting on banning all nuclear tests, on freezing production of nuclear weapons, and on banning chemical and biological weapons.

Will you press for changes in Canada's position on these and other disarmament questions?

3. Each party leader has spoken in favour of employing more women with knowledge and experience in peace and disarmament issues in Canada's negotiations with other nations.

Will you press for, and support, much greater participation of such women in security and peace negotiations?

Unemployment

The present unemployment rate cannot be disassociated from the introduction of new technologies which result in vastly increased productivity. This phenomenon, which economists call jobless growth, poses a major challenge to Canadian governments.

Facts

- In spite of the economic recovery which Canadian businesses are enjoying, the unemployment rate remains above 11%.
- A January 1983 report prepared for the Minister of Science and Technology, estimates that the introduction of new labour-saving technologies will result in a net loss of 1-2 million additional jobs in the

private sector by 1990. (The report is entitled "The Rocky Road to 1990!")

Questions for Candidates

1. If elected, how will your party deal with massive job loss resulting from the introduction of new technology?

Video-Display Terminals

The introduction of microtechnology has resulted in centralized operations in various industries, leading to further displacement of workers and unemployment for those workers unable to move. Among the grim consequences of these trends are increasing monotony, health problems, and electronic surveillance for many women who will be working in jobs affected by the new technology. The long-term effects of low-level radiation are unknown, but women are concerned that assurances about the safety of dosages emitted by VDT's are not scientifically verified. NAC advocates greatly expanded health and safety legislation.

Facts

- The technical revolution has transformed clerical work so that hundreds of thousands of Canadian women spend their days working at video-display terminals.
- Every study done on the health effects of VDT's has documented the widespread existence of eye strain, headaches, and stress which result from exposure.
- In 1982, the federally appointed Fulton Task Force on Microtechnology recommended that continuous work on VDT's be limited for health reasons.

- Several American states as well as the Province of Saskatchewan have legislated a mandatory 15 minute rest period for each hour of work on a VDT.

Questions for Candidates

1. If elected, will your party amend the Canada Labour Code to provide for an hourly rest period of at least 15 minutes for workers under federal jurisdiction who work on video-display terminals?

Violence Against Women

At least one Canadian woman in ten is beaten by her husband or mate each year; a woman is raped every 17 minutes in this country; 4 out of every 10 girls are sexually abused before they reach the age of 18. Violence permeates the lives of all women — through actuality and fear. Pornography acts as the advertising flyer for this violence, spreading the message that women want to be brutalized.

Facts

Pornography

- "Pornography" is material that combines sexual stimulation and violence. By all accounts, pornography has become much more widely available and explicitly violent in the last few years in Canada.
- Numerous studies have found that men exposed to pornographic films in which women are seen as enjoying violence are more likely to believe the myth that women enjoy rape and are also more likely to behave aggressively toward women.
- Pornography harms women because it teaches that the acceptance of victimization is a normal component of female attractiveness and sexuality.

Battered Women

- Services for women who are victims of violence are subject to a patchy and complicated funding system which was not designed to meet this kind of problem. The main responsibility for delivering the services lies with the provincial government. However, under the Canada Assistance Plan the federal government pays half the cost of providing these services to women who are deemed to be in financial need.

- The crime of sexual assault goes largely unreported and unprosecuted.
- Women who are victims of violence range all over the economic spectrum. The main reason they are beaten is because they are female and vulnerable.

Questions for Candidates

1. Would your party implement a program providing community-based shelters and crisis centers for women victims of violence?
2. Do you support amending the Criminal Code's provisions on obscenity to take the emphasis away from healthy sexuality and to place it instead on the combination of violence and sex?
3. Would your party demand that the C.R.T.C. protect Canadians from pornography on the airwaves?
4. Would your party ensure that no material that is offensive to or degrading of women will be sold or distributed on premises controlled by the federal government or its agencies?
5. Do you support the expansion of staffing and education at the Customs Department so that the flow of pornography presently entering Canada can be curtailed at its entry points?

This kit was produced by the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, with funding from the Department of the Secretary of State. Content prepared by: Re-Source/Re-Search Service, Edmonton and the NAC Executive. Typesetting by Resistance Graphics, Edmonton.

STATUS OF WOMEN NEWS INVITES YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

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We're anxious to hear from you. Of course, we love pats on the back, but we learn from constructive criticism, comments and advice, so drop us a line and speak your mind.

SEND US YOUR ARTICLES.

We welcome articles with a feminist perspective on a great range of topics—pensions, health care, daycare, survival, pornography, reproductive choice, employment and social injustice to name just a few. We are especially interested in expanding our regional coverage. Preferred length: 1000 to 1500 words, typed and double-spaced. Write or call the NAC office and we'll send you a copy of our style sheet for contributors.

CALLING ALL ARTISTS.

Ever wonder how we come up with such outstanding graphics and photographs? It's all in who we know, and if you'd like your work printed in *Status of Women News* we'd like to know *you*. Send samples to the Editorial Committee.

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ECRIVEZ-NOUS.

Nous attendons vos commentaires avec impatience. Bien sûr, nous ne détestons pas les compliments. Mais la critique constructive est aussi bienvenue. Donnez-nous vos avis, exprimez-vous!

ENVOYEZ-NOUS VOS ARTICLES.

Nous accueillerons avec plaisir tous les articles qui abordent dans une perspective féministe une multitude de sujets: pensions de retraite, santé, garderies, survie, pornographie, libre choix à l'avortement, emploi, injustices sociales, pour n'en nommer que quelques-uns. Les informations régionales sont particulièrement bien-venues. Longueur conseillée : 1000 à 1500 mots, dactylographiés à double interligne. Ecrivez ou téléphonez au bureau du CCA; nous vous enverrons notre feuillet indicatif pour les collaboratrices.

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**STATUS
OF WOMEN
NEWS ...**

**LA REVUE STATUT
DE LA FEMME**

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GOING FROM

SEPTEMBRE 84:

GOOD TO GREAT

UNE DATE

IN SEPTEMBER '84

A RETENIR ...



Now we are 280 strong—and growing all the time. That's the number of NAC member groups from coast to coast. And we are pleased to announce that *Status of Women News* is growing too. We will now be publishing 8 bilingual issues a year, with *Memo* incorporated as an insert for *Memo* subscribers. That means more news, more articles, more up-to-the-minute coverage on matters of interest to all Canadian women. Pensions, survival, employment, daycare, health care, pornography, reproductive choice, developments in the law, regional perspectives, reviews, correspondence, interviews and more, featuring the work of feminist writers, illustrators and photographers. Our commitment is to keep you informed about NAC policies and activities, and we need *your* support. Subscribe today—and spread the news!

Nous sommes maintenant 280 et nous grandissons de jour en jour. 280? C'est le nombre de groupes membres du CCA d'un océan à l'autre ... et la revue *Statut* suit le mouvement. A partir de septembre 1984, nous publierons huit numéros bilingues par année. Avec le *MÉMO* inséré pour celles qui y sont abonnées Septembre 84: une revue encore plus substantielle, mieux ajustée à l'actualité. Des sujets qui concernent toutes les Canadiennes: pensions de retraite, survie et désarmement, emploi, garderies, santé, pornographie, libre choix à l'avortement, évolution des lois, informations régionales, revues, courrier des lectrices, entrevues, promotion des écrivaines féministes, illustrations, photographies ... Notre mandat: vous informer sur les politiques et les activités du CCA. *VOTRE* appui nous est précieux. Abonnez-vous dès aujourd'hui, et faites passer la nouvelle!

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