

Minutes of the Steering Committee Meeting. Northern Ontario Women's Conference. Tuesday April 3, 1979, 7:30 p.m. St. Andrew's Place.

Present: D. Knuff (in chair), Susan Fisher (substituting for Joan Kuyek), Cathy Duhaime, Linda Obonsawin, Chris Headon, Gerti Manitowabi, Susan Cheyne, Joan Worsfold.
Regrets: Helen Langford, Donna Draper, Joan Kuyek

Chairperson's report:

- a) A meeting was held with Donna Leblanc on March 23, 1979. Purpose was to discuss funding from the Secretary of State. Attending the meeting were D. Knuff, J. Worsfold, C. Headon and D. Draper. The application forms should be submitted by the end of May.
- b) Five northern communities have been contacted so far:
- i) North Bay Women's Centre -- will participate, probable topic will concern the lack of role models for northern women. They suggested we have a session to develop an umbrella group for northern women. They also suggested contacting the Ontario Arts Council for funding for the play.
 - ii) Thunder Bay Decade Council--Leona Lane will be presenting their research on the effects of the boom and bust economy on single industry towns in northern Ontario. Gert Beadle, feminist poet and playwright, will write a short play and send it to us.
 - iii) Kirkland Lake Women's Centre--Judy Rees Thomas will be making a presentation on the problem of isolation.
 - iv) Sault Ste. Marie Women's Council--plan to participate but have not chosen a theme.
 - v) Elliot Lake think they might participate. They might make a presentation on housing problems.
- c) Conference date: November 3 and 4, 1979
place: Teacher's College, Laurentian University.

Treasurer's Report: (C. Headon)

We have a balance of \$235.78 in our account.

Matters Arising:

- a) Gerti suggested we contact the Ontario Native Women's Association in Thunder Bay for assistance in getting a group to make a presentation.
- b) We must try to get input from the francophone women.
- c) Susan Fisher will contact "Explorations" -- Canada Council for information re application for funding.
- d) Susan Cheyne will check on transportation costs from the participating centers to help us establish a budget. She will also find out departure times to help us decide on a conference closing time.

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e) Gerti will contact hotels and motels for rates, particularly those on airport bus route and those near to bus service to the University. The possibility of renting the Laurentian University bus was discussed.

f) Fund raising activities which were discussed include:

- i) selling advertising space in a brochure that would contain the agenda and feminist poetry and articles
- ii) raffle
- iii) donations
- iv) registration fee--suggested that \$10.00 for those who are employed and \$5.00 for the unemployed.
- v) Secretary of State would provide 50% of conference costs.

g) Daycare and billets will be offered.

Structure of the Conference:

Saturday: 9:00 Introductory Remarks
 Play and related debate
 12:00 Lunch
 1:00 Workshops
 3:30
 8:00 Coffee House

Sunday: 9:30 Workshops
 12:00 Lunch
 1:00 Plenary Session
 TBA Closing

Susan Fisher will contact the Red Light Theatre (from Toronto) to perform at the coffee house. She will also look into possible northern talent. It was suggested that tickets to the coffee house be \$5.00 and that the general public be invited to attend.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

- * The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 15, 1979 at
- * 7:30 p.m. at St. Andrew's Place

- * If you are unable to attend please contact Deborah
- * Knuff 566-4982 or Joan Worsfold 675-1613.