

# Coalition for Fair Wages and Working Conditions for Homeworkers



33 Cecil Street, Toronto, Ontario M5T 1N1 Phone: 977-1384 Fax: 977-6999

April 2, 1993.

Dear Friend,

## We need your help.

In October 1992 at the Ontario Federation of Labour Women's Conference, the Minister of Labour, Bob MacKenzie promised changes to the Employment Standards Act that would improve wages and working conditions for homeworkers. The changes would ensure that homeworkers have the same rights as other workers. The Coalition first introduced a series of proposals to the Government in November 1991!

We have yet to hear formally from the Minister regarding when amendments to the legislation will be brought forward. A year and a half has been far too long to wait.

Homeworkers, as immigrant women, are among the most vulnerable workers in the province. Homeworkers need these legislative changes now.

Please become part of our letter campaign. Write a letter to Bob MacKenzie, Minister of Labour or attach your letterhead to the enclosed sample letter. Send copies to Premier Bob Rae and Marion Boyd, Minister Responsible for Women's Issues. Let them know you support fair wages and working conditions for homeworkers and expect legislative changes to the Employment Standards Act as soon as possible.

It is only with your help that amendments will be made. Your letter will help to ensure that immigrant women in the garment industry are not left off the legislative agenda.

The Coalition has been very active over the past year: launching the Clean Clothes Campaign, organizing a conference on homework, participating in the International Women's Day rally at the Eaton's Centre, and pushing for legislative changes to the Employment Standards Act. If you need further information, please don't hesitate to call us at 977-1384. Please send us a copy of your letter to the Minister.

We greatly appreciate your help.

In solidarity,

Shelly Gordon  
Workers Information and Action Centre of Toronto

Alex Dagg  
ILGWU

Sample Letter

Hon. Bob MacKenzie,  
Minister of Labour  
14th Floor  
400 University Ave.  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 1T7

April 10, 1993.

Dear Sir,

We/I support the Clean Clothes Campaign. We are writing to urge you to implement legislative changes to the Employment Standards Act as a priority. Do not delay. Homeworkers need these changes as soon as possible.

In October 1992, you stated publically at the Ontario Federation of Labour Women's Conference, that legislative changes would be made.

The number of immigrant women who do homework in this province is growing. Homeworkers are among the most vulnerable workers who rarely receive minimum wage or have decent working conditions. By taking direct action and introducing legislation, you can assure homeworkers a better chance of receiving decent wages and working conditions.

We will be watching closely to see that you live up to your publically stated promise.

Yours Sincerely,

**c.c. Premier Bob Rae**  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park,  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 1A1

**Hon. Marion Boyd,**  
Minister Responsible for Women's Issues.  
Ontario Women's Directorate  
2 Carlton Ave.  
12th Floor  
Toronto, M5B 2M9

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