



THE NATIONAL ACTION COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

believes that the 1993 federal election is the most important election in decades. Why? Because when you mark your ballot, you'll be doing more than just choosing between parties or between candidates. This election is about the future, about where we go as a society and about how we get there. There will be those who tell you that yes, equality is nice, but the real issue is the deficit. They'll tell you that we can't afford equality. We say that we can't afford inequality. **Equality is the bottom line.**

Over the last decade, our most important means for achieving equality have been under attack. In the name of reducing the deficit and making Canada more competitive internationally, the Tories have increased your taxes (unless you happen to be wealthy); cut the funding to or privatized some of our most important national institutions like the CBC and VIA Rail; reduced spending on health and education, and cut funding to women's groups; eroded or eliminated key social programs such as unemployment insurance, pensions, and family allowance. The result?

Unemployment remains high, the economy remains weak, and the debt is growing. Who's getting hurt? You are. On whose back are they fighting the recession? Yours. Does this seem fair to you?

NAC believes that this election campaign provides a perfect opportunity to evaluate the impact of the Tory agenda on the quality and equality of women's lives. It gives women and men in Canada a chance to ask themselves whether they — and the country — can afford another four years of neo-conservative policies. The Tories say we can't afford social justice, that profit is the bottom line. We say that we can't afford the Tories, that equality is the bottom line.

The Tory record is a broken record.

New Tory, same story, said the critics when the Progressive Conservatives made Kim Campbell the Prime Minister. They were right. While she has taken pains to distance herself from Brian Mulroney's style, she has done nothing to distance herself from his record. And indeed, how could she? As a member of Brian Mulroney's cabinet, she was a participant in making and implementing the policies of his government. Kim Campbell supported the GST and the Free

Trade Agreement. Kim Campbell helped to increase your taxes and make cuts to the social programs you and your family depend upon. If your family allowance payment or your pension isn't keeping up with inflation, ask Kim Campbell why. Make no mistake about it — Mulroney's record is Campbell's record, and the Tory record is a broken record.

You think things will be different with a Campbell government? Consider the facts. Her new cabinet has fewer women than Mulroney's had. She has moved responsibility for immigration to the Department of Public Security, implying that immigrants are a threat to the public order instead of partners in building this country. In a Campbell government, Bernard Valcourt, the man who butchered unemployment insurance, is given responsibility for social policy and the funding of women's groups. Where's the improvement? Where's the difference?

Policy, not personality

Let's talk policy, not personality. NAC wants an election in which fundamental policies are debated, where we talk about what matters to the

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people of this country. We can afford universal social programs. Parents and their children need a national child-care strategy. We deserve an open discussion of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and whether it's good for Canada. We have got to talk about job creation and about putting the country's economy back on its feet. The federal government must implement measures to end violence against women. Racism is the problem, not immigration and refugees, and we must take steps to combat it. We need to discuss the relationship between the deficit and unemployment, and decide what our priorities are. It's time to seriously consider changes to our electoral sys-

tem to make Parliament more democratic, more representative, more accountable. In October 1992, we said "No!" to the politics of exclusion and "Yes!" to equality. In October 1993, let's say "No!" to the politics of inequality and "Yes!" to the politics of fairness. Contrary to what the Tories would have you believe, prosperity need not be achieved at the expense of equality. **Equality is the bottom line.**

NAC's campaign.


NAC's campaign will do more than raise questions and challenge the parties. NAC will put forward answers developed by


the women's movement and others committed to social justice. NAC will play a major role in this federal election. Our goal is to send a strong message to all political parties — the neo-conservative agenda hurts the people of Canada; commit yourselves to policies that ensure equality or face defeat.


During the campaign, NAC will produce fact sheets designed to help you to make an informed decision, and to assist you in raising questions with the candidates in your riding. In addition, NAC will organize events throughout the country, including a leaders' debate, to ensure that our vision of Canada becomes part of the political discussion.


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You can participate.

 distribute this and other NAC fact sheets.

 attend all candidates' meetings and ask your candidates questions on women's issues. Suggested questions are in the NAC Voters' Guide, or are available from the NAC office or through your regional representative on the NAC executive.

 buy the NAC Voters' Guide, read it, then sell copies in your community. This short book outlines key issues of concern to women, NAC's position on them, and the positions of the 3 major federal parties, and is available for \$4.95 (cheaper if you buy it in bulk).

 write or send a postcard to party leaders demanding a debate on women's issues.

NAC materials are available from the national office. Call 1-800-665-5124, FAX your request to 416-759-5370, or write to 57 Mobile Drive, Toronto M4A 1H5.

Send a financial contribution to ensure NAC's strength and survival. In spite of the donation of thousands of hours of skilled woman power, NAC still needs more than \$50,000 to ensure that women's concerns are heard and addressed in this election. Call, toll free, 1-800-665-5124. To make a credit card gift or, to mail your cheque payable to "NAC", write to "Equality is the Bottom Line", c/o NAC, 57 Mobile Drive, Toronto, Ont. M4A 1H5.

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