

CONFERENCE ONLY

NATIONAL ACTION COMMITTEE  
on the status of women

LE COMITÉ NATIONAL D'ACTION  
sur le statut de la femme



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A  
C

MEMO

Suite 306  
40 av. St-Clair est  
40 St. Clair Ave. E.  
Toronto M4T 1M9  
(416) 922-3246

Y. W. C. A.  
RESOURCE CENTRE

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

MAY 1981

NAC Charitable & Educational Trust Meeting, May 1  
NAC Executive Meeting, May 2/3

This meeting followed quickly on the heels of the previous one. The main purpose of the meeting was to set priorities for the coming year, not an easy task given the range of issues NAC is involved in and the general complication of a national organization. However, we had a very successful session and priorities were set, taking into consideration Resolutions from the Annual General Meeting, plans set by the previous Executive, ongoing responsibilities and operational necessities. We were helped in these deliberations by a meeting facilitator, Carmen Paquette. Her efforts helped us.

The next step is to cost the implications of the priority setting exercise - always a tough task. This will be done for the next meeting.

In the meantime, I am empowered to ask Cabinet to meet with us to review the main priorities of NAC for 1981/82. NAC wants to see these priorities reflected in the throne speech. After the June meeting the MEMO will lay out how member groups can actively participate in this lobby.

In addition to setting priorities the Committees of NAC met and laid their plans for the year -- can you imagine 12 committees in full flight? -- it was quite a sight and lots of productive action emerged. The Media Policy Committee now has a chairperson - Alicia Lawrence - and a willing working committee in B.C. Housing is headed up by Caroline Ennis; housing is one of those issues on which little has been done and much more needs to be done.

Other regular business was completed and decisions are reported on in this MEMO. The NAC Trust met and a report is also included here.

If you have any comments on priorities or the method of reporting we are using, please drop me a line.

Jean Wood  
President

NOTE: Please add to the list of NAC Executive, April MEMO, page 5:  
Member-at-Large Terry Padgham Edmonton

To Terry and all who voted for her... We did not deliberately leave you off the list... the harried production team extends humble apologies....

PRIORITIES SET AT EXECUTIVE MEETING (listed in order of priority)

NAC POLICY/LOBBY AREA

- Pensions
- Employment
- Social Services
- Constitution
- Federal/Provincial Fiscal Arrangements
- Native Women
- Justice
- Media Policy
- Educational Opportunities
- Culture
- Women in Sport
- Housing
- Volunteerism

NAC OPERATIONS/COMMUNICATIONS AREA

- Annual General Meeting
- MEMO
- NAC Membership
- Membership Meetings other than AGM
- Finance
- Editorial (STATUS)
- Fundraising
- Executive Meetings
- Staff - Executive Secretary
- NAC Trust ) equal
- Media Relations) equal
- Friends of NAC ) equal
- Staff - Fundraiser) equal
- NAC Constitution

Decisions

1. Dates of Executive Meetings

- June 20/21
- September 12/13
- October 24/25
- December 5/6
- January 16/17
- February 20/21

Location

- Toronto
- undecided
- Mid Year Meeting - St. John's, Nfld\*\*\*
- Toronto
- undecided
- undecided

2. Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women

The following motion was passed unanimously:

"MOVED that Jean Wood, representing NAC, will join with other national women's groups such as CLOW, CRIAW, Ad Hoc Committee, NAWL, to approach the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, Status of Women Canada, Labour Canada Women's Bureau, Secretary of State Women's Programmes, to discuss how women will be represented to the government in the next ten years. The discussion will include the structures, functions, roles, responsibilities and relationships of government groups and voluntary organizations. The results of these discussions will be made public."

We believe that lots of changes in the women's movement have taken place since the Royal Commission Report. There is a need not only for an examination of the roles and responsibilities of CACSW, but of all groups representing women to government. How do we inter-relate, how can we work together on our common goals for the next 10 years? Progress on this motion will be covered in future MEMOS.

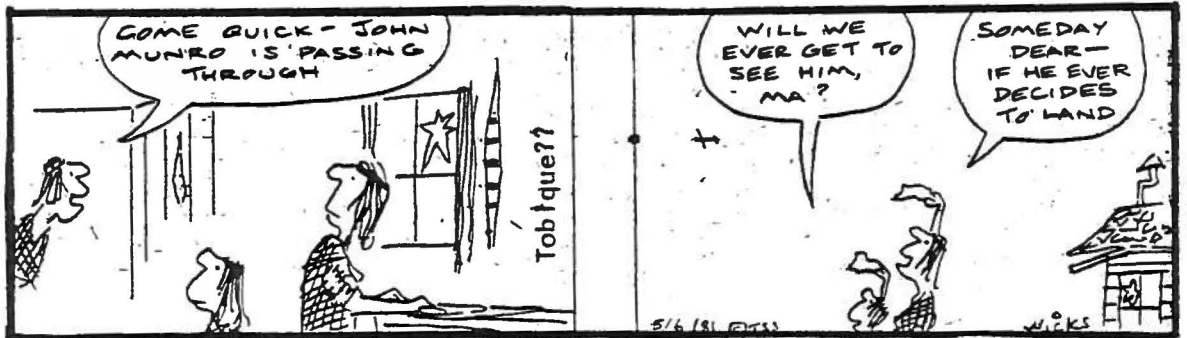
3. Native Indian Women

The NAC Executive passed the following motion:

"Moved that a campaign be developed immediately to fight the discrimination of Native Women as legislated in the Indian Act."

Money has been allocated to get the campaign underway immediately. Follow-up letters will also be sent to Indian Rights for Indian Women and the Native Women's Association asking for their contributions to this campaign. Watch for further details about NAC's campaign or contact Caroline Ennis of the NAC Executive (see more information and details, page 9 )

THE OUTCASTS  
by Ben Wicks, TSS



OTHER ITEMS COVERED AT EXECUTIVE MEETING

- ++ Secretary of State Women's Programmes Consultation with groups, funded by them, will take place June 10, 11, 12. NAC will be represented by Jill Porter, Vice-President. Objectives of session are:
  - a) to acquaint women's groups with the revised and enlarged Women's Programme;
  - b) to conduct a short (one day and a half) seminar on fund raising, specifically addressing the needs of women's groups; and
  - c) to consult with groups on the future direction of the Women's Programme.
 If you want NAC to cover any topics in this meeting, please contact us.
- ++ Roles and Responsibilities of Vice-Presidents and Past Presidents were established.
- ++ Federal Cultural Policy Review Committee - a NAC brief has been developed.

**T**HE NAC CHARITABLE & EDUCATIONAL TRUST

The First Annual General Meeting of the NAC TRUST was held on May 1, 1981. The financial report showed over \$14,000.00 in the Trust on March 31st, the end of the fiscal year.

While the Trust is a funding mechanism for NAC, its activities are legally required to be of a "Charitable or Educational" nature. It will therefore commission its own briefs and research, make films or audio/visual presentations, or run conferences, etc., in accordance with certain criteria. - Donations may be claimed as exemptions under the Income Tax Act. Ways and means are being considered for developing the Trust financially.

Seven proposals for Trust projects were discussed by the five Trustees (appointed by the NAC executive). The decision was taken at the NAC Executive Meeting that proposals to the Trust be presented to and endorsed by the NAC Executive to ensure conformity to NAC's objectives. Proposals in writing by May 18th will be considered in June, and others later on.

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## Committee Reports

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

The NAC Constitution Committee is compiling recent information on federal/provincial jurisdictions, fiscal policy arrangements and their effects on women. Although the NAC Executive, at its April meeting, decided not to participate in the conference sponsored by the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, we are continuing our work in the area and want to ensure that as much information as possible is available to our members. The book of discussion papers which was prepared in August for the CACSW is now available from government bookstores or by mail from the Canadian Government Publishing Centre, Supply & Services Canada, Hull, Quebec K1A 0S9, for \$2.95.

?? We are actively soliciting additional material (if you have any "good stuff", or can recommend some, please let us know), which, if received by June 1, will be mailed to you at the end of the month. Women have not been idle -- there has been lots of work done on these issues. Help us to collect and distribute it, so that we're all armed for the next round of negotiations.

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MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

In order to simplify and standardize office procedures, our member year will be from January 1 to December 31 each year. Annual membership reminders will be forwarded December 1 each year and a group will be past due on February 28 when a final reminder will be sent notifying those groups that they are not in good standing.

Annual membership fees are not less than \$25 for groups with fewer than 300 members and not less than \$50 for groups of 300 and more. New memberships accepted during the year will be pro-rated at \$2.25 per month, or \$4.50 per month, depending on size.

\*\*\*\*\*

**and more ....**

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# good news !!!

## EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

A Summer 1981 issue of STATUS is in the planning stages for publication!!!  
Deadline for articles: MAY 24, 1981

The Editorial Committee is looking for ideas for future articles as well as local writers. Any ideas? Contact: Cath Devlin, Editorial Committee, C/o NAC Office.

STATUS is preparing an article on the situation of homeless women in Canada. If you have any information on contacts on this topic, please send it to the Editorial Committee... RUSH by May 24, 1981

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## IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

The Committee has produced a brief on the impact of the micro-electronics revolution. "The Chips are Down" is available for \$1.00 from the NAC Office.

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## PENSIONS COMMITTEE

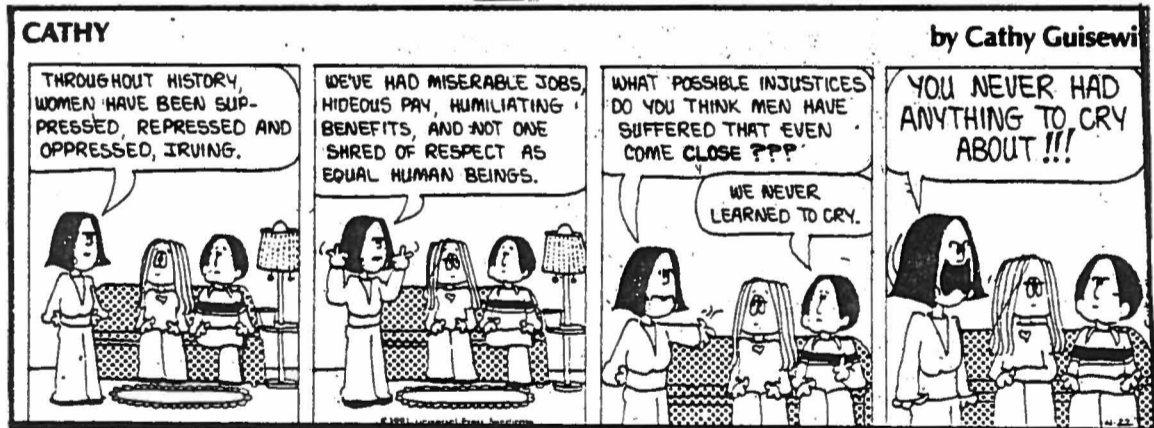
The Committee applied to Monique Begin and Maureen O'Neil, Status of Women Canada, to fund a series of regional pension seminars. Objectives stated:

- \* to provide information and education to women's groups on the current pension system and the problems inherent in it for women
- \* to provide information and education to women's groups on areas of change required in the system to meet the needs of women in the pensions system
- \* to develop strategies for disseminating this information to other women, financial industry, labour, plan sponsors, retired groups, and government

\*\*\* This issue has emerged as NAC's top policy priority in the next year-- we need your support in getting funding for these very important seminars -- write or call Monique or Maureen. THIS YEAR IS THE YEAR TO DEAL WITH PENSIONS!!!

The Pensions Committee are revising their position paper and plan to put together a kit on "All you wanted to know about Pensions..."

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## AGM COMMITTEE

The AGM Committee for 1982 is already meeting and planning has begun. Three prospective meeting dates are considered:

- March 12-14, 1982
- April 23-25, 1982
- May 14-16, 1982

Feedback is required about possible conflicts with any of the above dates. Send to NAC before June 20-21, 1981 Executive Meeting.

Analysis of 1981 AGM continues. If your delegates have not returned their evaluation form of the 1981 meeting, please send them before June 5 to the NAC Office.

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SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Child Care: NAC sent letters on the 1981 NAC AGM Child Care resolutions to:

- the Prime Minister, asking transfer of 1% of defense budget to child care, income tax deductions allowed equal to real cost of care, federal leadership in developing quality standards, etc.
- the Canadian Labour Congress, and to Canadian Council on Social Development re above, and noting possibilities for cooperative action.

Alicia Lawrence (NAC) and Hazel Wigdor (CCW) are representing NAC Social Services Committee at a Child Care Meeting, May 4, called by the Ontario Coalition, representing fields of early childhood education, unions, parents, women, teachers, nurses, social workers, social planners.

Committee also:

- Preparing brief to Ontario government based on hearings at eight Forums around province on child care
- Planning immediate action on Throne Speech, calling for Ontario government budget to include \$5-day grant per child in non-profit day care, 10,000 new child care spaces, and Task Force to report on real needs in Ontario for 5-year plan.

Other issues on the plan for this year:

- Reproductive Rights (see coverage in this issue) and continued support of CARAL and other organizations working in this field
- Women's Health - a sub-committee is operating to review all areas of women's health and to check out the support for a national Women's Health Conference
- Women & Aging, Sexual Abuse of Children --prepare to follow up these issues as reports on them become available

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EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

Canadian Human Rights Commission: There is growing pressure being put on the CHRC to widen the guidelines for exemptions to equal pay for equal work legislation (Section). There is a consideration to add "labour shortage in a particular job classification" and "a change in technology". The following addition to the Equal Wages Guidelines is being proposed:

"Where an employer is able to demonstrate to the Commission that a better paid group of employees with whom an equal value comparison is being made, is paid at a higher rate of wages than a third group of employees of the same sex as the better paid group, and where the work done by all three groups is found to be of equal value, the following factors are acceptable to the Commission as justifying the higher wages paid to the better paid group:

- (1) a labour shortage in the particular job classification;
- (2) a change in technology where the job value has decreased but where the wages of the employees in the classification have been maintained at levels established prior to the technological change."

\*\*\* The Commission is looking for responses from women's groups before changing the guidelines. Deadline for Submission - May 30, 1981!!! Send to:

Canadian Human Rights Commission, Attn: Equal Pay Guidelines  
257 Slater Street, 4th Floor  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1E1 Attn: Equal Pay Guidelines  
\*\*\*\*\*

The NAC 1981 AGM passed the following resolution and NAC needs your support to see it realized:

"Be it resolved that NAC Encourage all member groups and the general public to pressure provincial governments to ratify the U.N. "Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women" before all the provincial laws are amended to comply with the intent of the Convention.

The Committee asks NAC Member groups and Friends of NAC to send telegrams and letters to their provincial premiers demanding ratification of the convention. Suggested wording is on Page 6.

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\* FRIENDS OF NAC COMMITTEE \*

\* The Friends of NAC Committee have decided to concentrate its efforts \*  
\* on holding small "Friends of NAC" Parties and mail-outs to prospective \*  
\* members (volunteers to hold parties or to help, and anyone with suitable \*  
\* lists or mail-outs, please let us know). The committee suggests that \*  
\* large events like "Friends of NAC" dinners, be organized by Ad Hoc \*  
\* Committees (volunteers welcome)..... see over \*  
\* \*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* Sample letter from groups to their respective premiers:  
 \*  
 \* Dear Premier X:  
 \*  
 \* As you know, Canada signed the United Nations Convention on the Elimination  
 \* of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, last July in Copenhagen, on  
 \* the occasion of the United Nations Mid-Decade Conference on Women. All the  
 \* provinces had to agree before the Convention could be signed, and apparently  
 \* this agreement was given in record time. Signature indicated intention to  
 \* ratify, but the Convention does not come into force until ratified. A  
 \* number of countries have already ratified the Convention, and we hope  
 \* Canada will also, without further delay.  
 \*  
 \* The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against  
 \* Women contains a number of measures that will improve the status of women,  
 \* and bring us closer to equality. We urge you to act immediately to give  
 \* your province's approval to Canada's ratification of the Convention.  
 \*  
 \* Sincerely yours,  
 \* \*\*\*\*\*

HELLO FRIENDS OF NAC

We are now approximately five hundred members strong and working hard for many more. In this past year we have formed a strong nucleus in Toronto and we are reaching out to all regions of Canada for a more extensive network and funding body. Which leads us to the next campaign for FRIENDS OF NAC

## w a n t e d

# Area Coordinators

Friendly, outgoing women who like to meet new people. She would help to stimulate interest in Friend of NAC Parties, be a support to her hostesses, and have direct contact and support from the Friends of NAC Committee. If you are interested, contact your nearest regional NAC Representative, or the NAC Office in Toronto, phone 922-3246.

<p>Jill Schooley          58 Edmonton Place          St. John's, Nfld          A1A 2N7          (709) 726-0936</p>	<p>Stella Baudot          790 Outremont #2          Outremont, Quebec          H2V 3N2          (514) 277-0715</p>	<p>Dorothy Richardson          10934-116 Street          Edmonton, Alberta          T5H 3M6          (403) 454-8096</p>
<p>Marilyn Keddy          5534 Columbus St.          Halifax, N.S.          B3K 2G8          (902-454-5763</p>	<p>Mary Rakowski          146 Cottonwood Cres.          Thunder Bay, Ont.          P7A 3L9          (807) 345-7045</p>	<p>Alicia Lawrence          Box 1242          Vernon, B.C.          V1T 6N6          (604) 542-4525</p>
<p>Anna Bors          Box 37          Marengo, Saskatchewan          S0L 2K0          (306) 454-8096</p>		

SHELLEY ANN CLARK LEGAL DEFENCE FUND

Shelley Ann Clark was Doris Anderson's secretary at the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women. She resigned from the Council when Anderson did. The council executive has accused Clark of inaccurately recording the minutes of the Executive meeting which decided to cancel the CACSW's February Constitutional Conference. Shelley Ann is fighting back to save her professional reputation and has launched a 1.3 million dollar suit against the CACSW Executive. Please help her cause by sending donations to:

Shelley Ann Clark Legal Defence Fund  
 C/o Mr. Ron Houlihan, Houlihan & Baldwin  
 Suite 1115, 130 Albert Street, Ottawa

or by contacting her directly with suggestions for fundraising, speaking engagements, etc., at: 82 Pentland Place, Kanata, Ontario K1K 1V8, Telephone: 592-4890.

# REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

The anti-choice movement is threatening the rights and freedoms of Canadian women from British Columbia to Newfoundland. According to a 1979 Gallup Poll, 84% of Canadian women were pro-choice and only 5% anti-choice. Yet, through a highly organized and well-financed campaign, politicians on the federal, provincial, and municipal levels are gradually limiting what little abortion freedom there is under the Canadian Law.

## ITEM: ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND

It is now virtually impossible to obtain an abortion in Newfoundland. A year ago, three doctors were performing terminations. Today, there is only one. Approved applications for terminations have been cut by approximately seventy-five percent, so that at the present, only three to four applications are approved each week. Since the waiting list is six to seven weeks' long and regulations here do not allow abortions after the twelfth week, many women cannot even get a referral in time. MCP (the provincial medicare program) regulations have also been modified to rule out payments to women using clinics on the mainland. Travel costs have never been covered, even for journeys within the province.

## ITEM: HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

Halifax and Dartmouth anti-choice Mayors declared Valentine's Day as anti-choice day. They both refused to consider pro-choice tag days. More and more women are being forced to rely on the Victoria General Hospital in Halifax for abortion services.

## ITEM: TORONTO, ONTARIO

While on one hand, Cardinal Carter has demanded that Toronto priests stop using the public to distribute anti-abortion, anti-choice literature of the pressure group, Campaign Life, he has also stated that he will "constantly strive to seek legislation to eliminate legal abortion via the Criminal Code or any other item."

Karen Hammond (President, Canadian Abortion Rights Action League) states the problem women face eloquently:

## Cardinal's disavowal doesn't meet problem

Emmett Cardinal Carter's move to dissociate the Catholic Church from the anti-choice, anti-abortion pressure group Campaign Life (Pro-Lifers Bitter Over Carter on Militant Group — April 30) is laudable but deserves closer scrutiny.

While distancing his Archdiocese from one anti-abortion organization, Cardinal Carter continues to share the objectives of that organization and all other anti-choice groups. He has stated that he will "constantly strive to seek legislation (to eliminate legal abortion) via the Criminal Code or any other avenue."

Canada is a pluralistic society. There are many religions and many views on abortion; it is unacceptable for one religious group to enshrine its dogma in law. Pro-choice individuals and groups do not seek to impose one morality on all Canadians. No matter how their strategies may differ, anti-choice individuals and anti-choice groups such as the Catholic Church are determined to do just that.

These so-called "pro-life" groups attempting to eliminate access to safe, legal abortion would ensure the return of unsafe, illegal abortion and unwilling motherhood, along with all the misery and human suffering these entail. Contrary to the message delivered by Cardinal Carter, we are all pro-life and pro-love. A society that allows safe, legal abortion for those who choose it is a humane society demonstrating its concern for the woman, the family and the community as a whole.

Karen Hammond  
President  
Canadian Abortion Rights  
Action League (CARAL)  
Toronto

Globe & Mail May 2, 1981

CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR CHOICE  
ON ABORTION  
P.O. BOX 24617, POSTAL STN C  
VANCOUVER, B.C.

This group has developed strategies and materials to challenge the anti-choice movement. Write for info.

See Page 13 - Who said what  
in the House of Commons -  
for a list of MPs who  
OPPOSED Reproductive Rights  
for Women

# Action!!!

The pro-choice movement is alive and well, but on the defensive. Anti-choice is anti-women. It represents a significant force in eliminating what rights and freedoms we have gained.

WRITE YOUR: MP, MPP, or MLA and remind him or her that you vote and your vote is PRO-CHOICE.

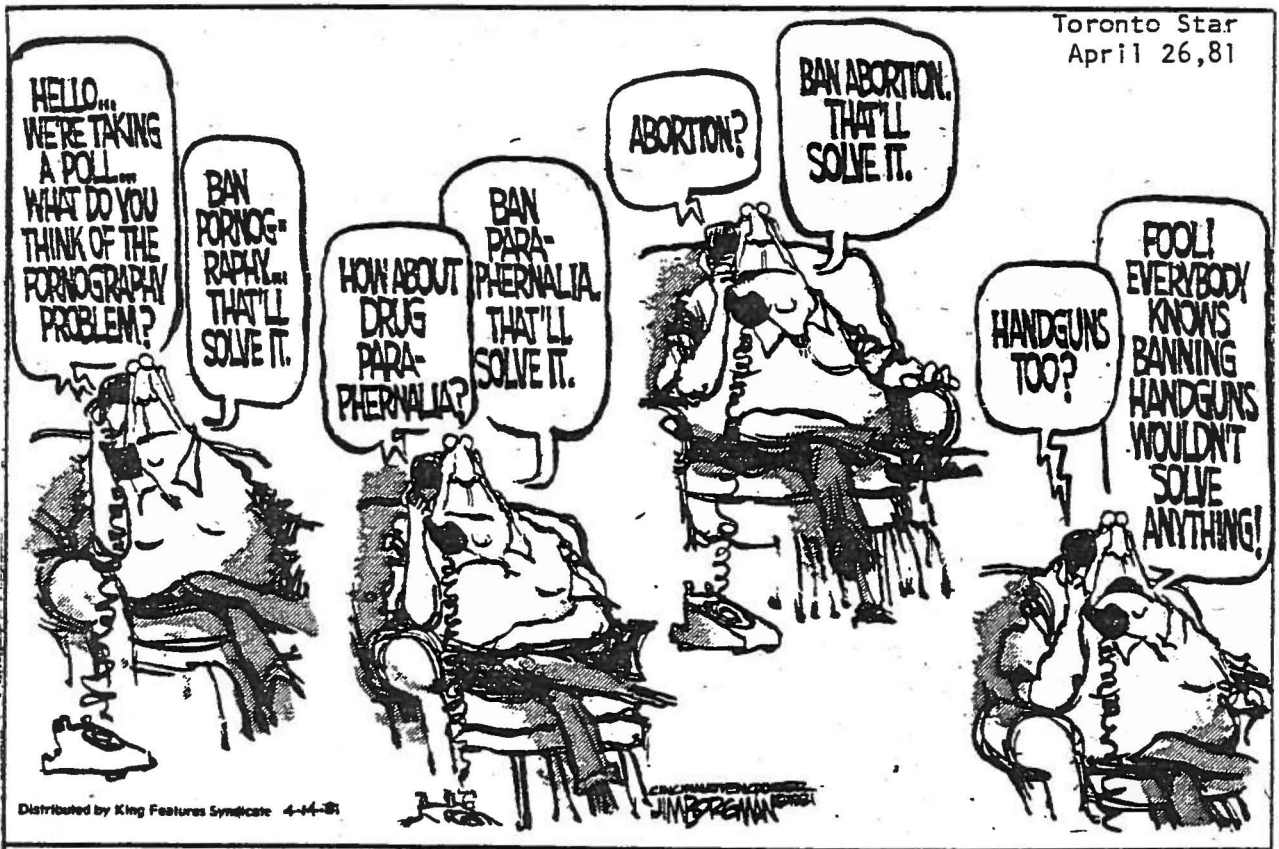
Use the postcard from CARAL and deluge them in Ottawa and every provincial capital.

DEMAND!!!!: Full funding for family planning services, and the establishment of full abortion services at hospitals receiving federal and provincial tax dollars.

WRITE: Letters to Editors and state your position.

JOIN: CARAL, P.O. Box 935, Station Q, Toronto M4T 2P1, Ph:961-1507 (write CARAL for details on obtaining more postcards)

Remember the "Moral Majority is Neither". The anti-choice movement continues to put all the emphasis on the fetus. As Dr. Jeanne Stellman has said, they represent the growth of the fetus fetish. Once the child is born, there is no support from this group for quality child care, safe working conditions, clean environments, nuclear disarmament, etc.



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RESOLUTIONS FROM NAC 1981 ANNUAL MEETING - REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM  
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Be it resolved that NAC:

1. Adopt action strategies beyond lobbying to implement its resolutions. These would include working with constituted groups and other popular organizations in local areas in participating in educational forums, coalitions, demonstrations, etc., and mobilizing with other forces in appropriate extra-parliamentary action.
  2. Constitute a committee which will deal with the issue of reproductive rights and the rise of the anti-women and other reactionary groups, and mobilize and coordinate actions in conjunction with other organizations around these issues.
  3. Endorse the demand of the Women's Constitutional Conference held February 14-15, 1981, in Ottawa, that reproductive freedom be included in the proposed Constitutional Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
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FACTS ON CANADIAN NATIVE INDIAN WOMEN

The BNA, Section 91(24) states that Indians are exclusively within the legislative authority of the Federal Parliament of Canada.

1970 - Federal Parliament enacted the Canadian Bill of Rights. Queen vs. Drybones - courts ruled that Indian Act violated the Canadian Bill or Rights. Drybones had been found guilty before by the Indian Act for being intoxicated off reserved lands.

1974 - Supreme Court of Canada vs. Lavell  
Supreme Court of Canada vs. Bedard

5 of 9 judges ruled that the Canada Bill of Rights did not apply to Section 12(1)(b). Lavell and Bedard had lost their Indian status by marrying non-Indians.

1977 - Canadian Human Rights Commission was enacted by the Federal Parliament.

1978 - Sandra Lovelace, a victim of 12(1)(b) appealed to the United Nations. Interim decision - the UN recognizes that the relevant Indian Act poses serious disadvantages for Indian Women.

Mary Two Axe Earley of Caughnawaga Reserve, Quebec, is 71 years old and is looking toward the time when she passes on to the other life. Her most pressing fear now is that she will not be buried in her family plot. She says: "It is easier for a dog to be buried on Indian land."

PLEASE CIRCULATE, PHOTOCOPY, SIGN AND SEND THE PETITION ON THE REVERSE.

Tobique Office Occupation

# Maliseet Women Win Appeal

By MARIE BRAGDON  
Staff Writer

WOODSTOCK — Five Maliseet women have won their appeal of conviction for occupying the Tobique Indian Reserve band council office last May.

In allowing the appeals heard here April 14, Queen's Bench Court Justice Ronald C. Stevenson quashed the convictions Thursday and entered verdicts of acquittal.

Sandra Lovelace, Cheryl Lynn Bear, Glenna Perley, Sharon Elizabeth Paul and Barbara Nicholas were convicted under a new reserve bylaw in Perth-Andover Provincial Court last December.

Each was ordered to pay a fine of \$50, but the women said outside the court at that time they would serve the five day default time in jail and take their children with them — with one defendant adding they could afford neither the fine nor babysitters.

The women were seeking action on housing problems when they went to the band council office a year ago, on the reserve near Perth-Andover. They arrived an hour before noon asking Chief George Francis for a band council meeting to hear their problems, and when employees returned after lunch, the chief told them to work at home for the next three weeks or more.

The women and their children left the office that night, after one band councillor came to talk with them. The new bylaw had been proposed by Chief Francis after injunctions proved fruitless in dealing with sit-ins earlier.

In one of the few cases to test the validity of reserve bylaws under the Indian Act, Mr. Justice Stevenson said the Crown failed to present proof that the bylaw was properly enacted or presented to the court in admissable form "and on that ground alone, the appeals must succeed."

The appeal judge also found that Crown counsel Daniel Watters failed to prove the band office had been designated by chief and council for public purposes. He said, however, that he agreed with trial judge T.W. Tomlinson that the band office was in fact occupied, and the bylaw was validly enacted by a majority of the band council.

Defence counsel Paul Janssens said in an interview that he feels "justice has been served," and the bylaw is being amended to provide for "consultation before confrontation," as some band councillors testified they thought that had been the intention all along.

He said the bylaw cannot now be used only to get at certain people, as the defendants alleged during trial. He raised the point of selective prosecution at the appeal, even though it is not a valid legal argument, he said.

But Mr. Justice Stevenson said it is "not up to the court to decide who will be charged, and who will not. The fact that some are not charged is no defence."

UPDATE -- VICTORY FOR WOMEN IN TOBIQUE!!!

Telegraph Journal, St. Johns, N.B.

BUT DISCRIMINATION GOES ON and ON and ON-----

SECTION 12(1)(b) of the Indian Act continues. The Indian women of Tobique continue to face opposition from the Band Council and the Department of Indian Affairs continues to do nothing. Watch for further details about NAC's campaign or contact CAROLINE ENNIS (NAC Executive), General Delivery, Station A, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 4Y1. Phone (506) 454-9533.

AND SEND THE PETITION TO THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE IMMEDIATELY. Copy to your MP.

P E T I T I O N

Since 1869, Canada has practiced legalized discrimination to the Native Indian Women by virtue of the Indian Act, Section 12(1) (b) which states:

12(1) The following persons are not entitled to be registered, namely

(b) a woman who marries a person who is not an Indian.

This section in the Indian Act denies a Native Indian Woman who marries a non-Indian, her legal title to remain on Indian land on which she was born, and by her exile, she loses legal title to her family inheritance, her choice to be buried in the family plot, and further, she is no longer Native Indian, by law.

We, the people of C A N A D A petition to the Government of Canada to abolish Section 12(1) (b) of the Indian Act immediately, and to re-instate the Native Indian Women, also immediately, who have had to live in this injustice.

This Petition is addressed to:

The Minister of Justice  
Room 438N - Centre Block  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6  
(send a copy to your MP)

NAME

Horizontal lines for writing names.

UPDATE

A VICTORY (OF SORTS!!!)

# Canadian women win fight for equality

By Andrew Szende Toronto Star

OTTAWA — Canada's three political parties have agreed to guarantee women equal rights under the constitution, a goal that has eluded American women for more than nine years.

After much lobbying by various women's groups, the proposed new constitution will include an amendment enshrining sexual equality. The wording was tabled by the New Democratic Party last night and both the Liberals and Conservatives say they agree with it.

The clause reads: "Notwithstanding anything in this charter, the rights and freedoms referred to in it are guaranteed equally to male and female persons."

The amendment will be voted on by the House of Commons tomorrow night and it will be part of the new constitution, provided the Supreme Court of Canada rules the whole constitutional resolution legal. The

## Parties back women on rights change

OTTAWA (CP) — The three major federal parties have announced they support a feminist demand for changes to the proposed constitutional charter of rights.

Liberal, Conservative and New Democratic spokesmen say they support the key demand of women's organizations for a clause saying rights and freedoms are guaranteed equally to men and women.

Statements of support by the three parties for the sexual equality clause were made by Marc Lalonde, quoting Justice Minister Jean Chretien, by NDP Leader Ed Broadbent, and by Conservative Leader Joe Clark.

The demand came from the more than 150 member organizations of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women and from a conference of more than 1,000 women organized by the Ad Hoc Committee of Canadian Women, a network of feminists.

The change depends on whether the parties reach a compromise on how to proceed. The Liberals and NDP are accusing the Conservatives of a filibuster — purposely delaying the current constitutional debate.

They say the Conservatives have bogged the House of Commons down for a month on one amendment and much more delay could drive the government to impose closure, cutting debate and prohibiting further amendments, including the women's proposals.

However, all parties appear to agree that if there are more amendments, the sexual equality clause will be one of them.

Toronto Star Apr. 22, 1981



Court begins hearing arguments about the whole package of proposals next Tuesday.

Women's groups in the United States have been trying without success to enshrine an Equal Rights Amendment in the U.S. constitution since March 1972.

"We have been able to get an equal rights amendment which the U.S. hasn't been able to achieve and it's a clear and concise guarantee," commented Deborah Acheson, a member of the National Association of Women and the Law.

Acheson, a lawyer in Victoria, B.C., said last night that the amendment is "a substantial improvement" of the charter of rights.

"It goes a long way towards mitigating the criticisms women's groups have had of the charter," she said.

For example, women had feared that the guarantee of multicultural freedom might perpetuate discriminatory practices against women, she explained.

By guaranteeing equality, the charter should lead to the striking down of existing discriminatory laws — such as a section of the Indian Act which doesn't give Indian women who marry white men the same rights as it does to Indian men who marry white women.

"The women of Canada should view this amendment as a victory," Acheson said. "It took a lot of hard work to get it."

Jean Wood, president of the national Action Committee on the Status of Women, also welcomed the amendment. "It's good to see that after all the lobbying we got this into the charter."

"It's amazing that it's taken this long," she added.

Wood also said she would have preferred a further amendment to prevent any discrimination against any minority groups, rather than

leaving it up to the courts.

Beverly Baines, a law professor at Queen's University, Kingston, said she was concerned "an intransigent court would need more than that (the amendment)."

Baines, who was one of the speakers at an ad hoc national conference on women and the constitution held in Ottawa last February, said women are still "vulnerable to a court that is determined to go its own way."

"As a political statement, it's a good statement," she said. "But as a message to the Supreme Court, it doesn't go far enough."

Baines said she would have preferred an amendment defining equality and inequality and applying certain tests to them.

She said the record of the Supreme Court on cases involving women's issues is not very good. "... I'd like to be told more clearly how to test equality and inequality."

## WHAT THEY SAID IN THE HOUSE

JANUARY 12 - APRIL 23, 1981

Is your MP listed in the following review of Parliamentarians who spoke up for Women in the last sitting? If not, why not? If s/he is listed, find out what was said and let your MP know if you agree. Letters to MPs don't need stamps.

Please note: Although as comprehensive as possible, this listing may not be 100% complete. Also, government official responses to questions, etc., are not indexed unless they are telling us something new and positive.

Appointments of Women to the Bench

Ray Hnatyshyn (PC) March 6  
Flora MacDonald (PC) March 16

Battered Women

J. Robert Howie (PC) Feb. 13  
Nelson Riis (NDP) Feb. 13  
Flora MacDonald (PC) Feb. 13  
Normand Lapointe (LIB) Feb. 13  
Gary McCauley (LIB) Feb. 13

Breast Milk Substitute (Safety Code)

Stan Hodecki (LIB) Apr. 9, 21  
Ursula Appolloni (LIB) Apr. 21

Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women

Flora MacDonald (PC) Jan. 12, 13, 19, 21, 22  
Pauline Jewett (NDP) Jan. 13, 19, 21, 22,  
Feb. 16, Mar. 5, 6,  
Apr. 13  
Joe Clark (PC) Jan. 13  
John Crosbie (PC) Feb. 10  
Walter McLean (PC) Jan. 21, 22, 23, 28, 29,  
Feb. 16, Mar. 10, 12,  
Mar. 16, 24  
Ed Broadbent (NDP) Jan. 26  
Bill Clarke (PC) Jan. 22  
Ray Hnatyshyn (PC) Jan. 22  
Margaret Mitchell (NDP) Jan. 22  
Harvie Andre (PC) Jan. 22

Child Abuse

Ed Broadbent (NDP) Apr. 21  
Monique Begin (LIB) Apr. 21

Child Tax Credit

Bob Rae (NDP) Apr. 9  
Margaret Mitchell Apr. 10

Constitution (AD HOC Conference)

Margaret Mitchell (NDP) Feb. 6  
Flora MacDonald (PC) Feb. 13, 16  
Pierre Trudeau (LIB) Feb. 16  
Jean Chretien (LIB) Feb. 16  
Pauline Jewett (NDP) Feb. 16, 17

Address to Men-Only Club

Tom McMillan (PC) Feb. 20  
Walter McLean (PC) Mar. 26

Entrenchment of Equality Rights

Pauline Jewett (NDP) Feb. 20, Mar. 4  
Walter McLean (PC) Feb. 20  
Celine Hervieux Payette (LIB) Feb. 23  
Svend Robinson (NDP) Feb. 23  
Mark Rose (NDP) Mar. 12  
Coline Campbell (LIB) Mar. 18  
Ed Broadbent (NDP) Apr. 1, 23  
Jean Chretien (LIB) Apr. 22

Persons Case

Dan McKenzie (PC) Feb. 26

Domestic Workers

Margaret Mitchell (NDP) Mar. 23

Employment for Women

Contract Compliance  
Pauline Jewett Apr. 15  
Equal Pay/Equal Value  
Walter McLean (PC) Jan. 27  
Impact of Technology  
David Orlikow (NDP) Mar. 30  
Job Creation  
Lloyd Axworthy (LIB) Mar. 30  
Non-Traditional Occ.  
Aideen Nicholson (LIB) Apr. 13  
Outreach  
Ed Broadbent (NDP) Mar. 16  
Public Service  
J.R. Gauthier (LIB) Jan. 26  
Rod Murphy (NDP) Jan. 26, Mar. 5, 25, 26

Family Law - Divorce

Ron Huntington (PC) Feb. 10  
Bob Rae (NDP) Feb. 10  
Benno Friesen (PC) Feb. 10  
Celine Hervieux Payette (LIB) Feb. 10

Housing

Margaret Mitchell (NDP) Jan. 14

Income Support

Maternity Benefits  
Chas Caccia (LIB) Feb. 2  
Pensions  
Monique Begin (LIB) Jan. 19  
Marcel Lambert (PC) Jan. 19  
Ralph Ferguson (LIB) Jan. 20  
Bob Rae (NDP) Feb. 3  
Stanley Knowles (NDP) Jan. 20, Feb. 3, 12, 26  
Mar. 25  
Doug Frith (LIB) Jan. 20  
James McGrath (PC) Apr. 3  
Walter McLean (PC) Mar. 25

Native Women

Jim Manly (NDP) Feb. 17, Mar. 5, Apr. 6

Rape

Jean Chretien (LIB) Jan. 12 (BILL C-53)

Rural Women

Bill McKnight (PC) Jan. 22

Sexism in the House of Commons

Monique Begin (LIB) Jan. 22

Sexual Harassment

Svend Robinson (NDP) Feb. 11

Sports Equality

Bill Blaikie (NDP) Feb. 23

The following MP's made statements OPPOSING Reproductive Rights for Women:

Doug Roche (PC)	Feb.20,Mar.5,16	Sinclair Stevens (PC)	Mar.19
Ursula Appolloni (LIB)	Jan.22	Bill McKnight (PC)	Mar.23
Walter Dinsdale (PC)	Jan.22	Gordon Taylor	Mar.26,Apr.21
Stan Hodecki (LIB)	Feb.3,Mar.23,Apr.7,23	Stan Korchinski (PC)	Apr.2
Vina Dantzer (PC)	Mar.2	Fred King (PC)	Apr.3
Bill Vonkoughnet (PC)	Mar.3	Otto Jelinek (PC)	Apr.7
Gus Mitges (PC)	Mar.11	W.C. Scott (PC)	Apr.21
Girve Fretz (PC)	Mar.12,19	Alex Patterson (PC)	Apr.23
Gordon Gilchrist (PC)	Mar.12	Robert Bockatael (LIB)	Apr.23
Bob Corbett (PC)	Mar.18		

The following MPs ABSTAINED from voting on the Constitutional Amendment Guaranteeing Equality for Women:

- John Gamble (PC)
- Lorne Greenaway (PC)
- Stan Korchinski (PC)
- Frank Oberle (PC)

AND -- SOMEONE NEEDS TO TELL THE FOLLOWING MPs THEY SHOULD KNOW BETTER:

- Ursula Appolloni, who, on January 22 said: "The Women of Canada do need help, perhaps not the ones who complain because they are not a MRS; they are probably a MISS, but they do not want to be known as such,so they call themselves MS."
- Bill Vankoughnet who, on March 3, said "..... over the issue of women's rights and opportunities for women, we tend to forget the capable and highly respected standard set overthe years by our gracious head of state, Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. With estimates of somewhat over half our national population being women, their place as equal human beings is certainly established in Canada and should be ensured for the future."
- Pat Carney who, on March 17, called for the entrenchment of men's rights in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and, on March 18, called for the establishment of an advisory council on the status of men.
- Bryce Mackasey who, on March 25, said ".... the average Canadian worker will change jobs no less than six times in his career, and female workers more than six times."

... more on CWONC (CANADIAN WOMEN OF NOTE COMPUTERIZED)

CWONC - "THE ULTIMATE WOMEN'S NETWORK"

Lists, including abstracts and biographies of Canadian Women of Note. Valuable research tool in matters relating to women.

Access to CWONC (nominal cost): Jean Janes, York University,  
Institute for Behavioural Research  
4700 Keele St., Downsview, Ont. M3J 2R6

Suggestions for updating: Marjorie McEnaney  
3282 Tallmast Cres. Mississauga, Ont. L5L 1H5

## June 3 - Census Day

### COUNT YOURSELF IN

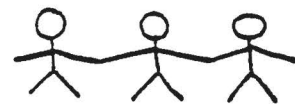
Statistics Canada has developed two initiatives: a Child Care Questionnaire to be attached to the February '81 Labour Force Survey and has planned for an 81-82 first edition of a Compendium of Statistics on Women. Included in the '81 Census of Canada Information kit is a flyer on "Number of Women in Labour Force Reaches All-Time High and Still Rising". Also included is a sheet outlining "How Canada Uses Census Information". This sheet states: "Women: Women's expanding role in Canadian society will be demonstrated by the census, especially with respect to labour force participation, income and marital status, at the national, provincial, and local levels". Now that women are an area of interest, let's make sure all our contributions to our society are counted!



# Upcoming Meetings



MAKING CONNECTIONS - BUILDING THE NETWORK



M A Y  '81	<p><u>VANCOUVER</u> - May 16-17-18 Langara College</p> <p>"LESBIAN POWER: ORGANIZING FOR THE 80's" Info: Lesbian Conference 1981 Box 65563, Station F, Vancouver, B.C.</p>	<p><u>TORONTO</u> - May 23 (9:30 a.m. - 12 noon) "MARCH" - "SUPPORT THE NESTLE BOYCOTT" Holy Trinity Church, behind Eaton Centre</p> <p>Info: (967-9195) <u>Infant Formula Action Coalition</u> INFAC T TORONTO 85 St. Clair Ave. E. Toronto, Ont. M4T 1M8</p>
	<p><u>OTTAWA</u> - May 25 Skyline Hotel 101 Lyon St. N.</p> <p>WARP (WOMEN AGAINST RISING PRICES) OTTAWA LOBBY Info: WARP, 2 Bartlett Ave. #4 Toronto, Ont. M6H 3E6</p>	<p><u>HALIFAX</u> - May 29 Dalhousie Univ.</p> <p>"POLITICS OF FEMINISM: HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, STRATEGY &amp; SIGNIFICANCE" Part of 1981 Learned Societies meetings. Contact: Toni Laidlaw, Dept. of Education Dalhousie Univ., Halifax, N.S.</p>
J U N E  '81	<p><u>VERNON</u> - June 5-6-7 (Folkland-Vernon) Okanagan Women's Coalition - 3rd Annual Festival for Women "THE WHOLE WOMAN - BODY, MIND &amp; SPIRIT" Info: Okanagan Women's Coalition P.O. Box 1242, Vernon, B.C. V1T 6N6 (604) 542-7531</p>	<p><u>REGINA</u> - June 6-7 "WOMEN ORGANIZING FOR ACTION" Sponsors: CLOW - Regina (Canadian Committee on Learning Opportunities for Women Info: Sheila McFadzean (306) 569-3811 or Jane Coombe, c/o Women's Division, 1914 Hamilton St. Regina, Sask.</p>
	<p><u>TORONTO</u> - June 1-2 (correction to last MEMO) <u>Royal York Hotel</u> THE SECTION OF WOMEN'S PSYCHOLOGY OF THE CANADIAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION Info: Paula Caplan, OISE, 262 Bloor St. W. Toronto, Ont. M5S 1V6</p>	
N O V  '81	<p><u>HALIFAX</u> - November 13-14-15 Dalhousie University CANADIAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (C.R.I.A.W.) Annual Conference <u>A CALL FOR PARTICIPATION ON THE THEME: "WOMEN'S CULTURE"</u> Today's society has radically altered these patterns women have related to other women through family, relatives &amp; friends. Have we networks &amp; support systems or not? Do we have a women's culture or is it invisible? Do we want to preserve certain traditional values? Where do women today derive support &amp; strength? Submit proposals re research &amp; experience as soon as possible. Info: Olga Neal, CRIAW Conference 1981, Institute of Public Affairs Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S. B3H 3J5 (902) 424-2526</p>	

## Action

THE CANADIAN ADVERTISING ADVISORY BOARD has set up a committee on Sex-Role Stereotyping and they are asking for INPUT.

"Members of the public are encouraged to send to the committee complaints about advertising which they feel is not in accord with the guidelines."

The guidelines are set to encourage more realistic portrayals of men and women in advertising messages.

Send for the guidelines and SEND YOUR COMPLAINTS to:

C.A.A.B.  
1240 Bay St. Suite 305, Toronto, Ont. M5R 2A7

# MEMBERS.....

The Membership Committee is sending Member Groups the following letters, under separate cover. The letters deal with Resolutions from our 1981 Annual General Meeting. We are very anxious to have your responses.

Dear Member Group:

At our 1981 Annual General Meeting, the following resolution was passed:

"Be it resolved that NAC member groups (a) issue invitations to NAC elected personnel to address meetings of their groups and other potential member groups in their areas, (b) provide space for NAC issues in their newsletters and advise NAC of other newsletters for their areas, (c) invite NAC to participate in their annual meetings or fora."

We would be delighted to participate in meetings organized by your group.

Dear Member Group:

At our 1981 Annual General Meeting, the following resolution was passed:

"Be it resolved that each member group select a liaison person to communicate NAC's issues to their membership and their members' concerns to NAC, and notify NAC who that person will be."

We hope that your group will provide us with the name of the one individual who would be most interested in receiving and responding to NAC material, MEMO, and other information. We would hope she would report our activities to you, and yours to us. Please give serious consideration to sending this person to our Annual General Meeting in Ottawa, from Friday evening to Monday afternoon, in the Spring of 1982.

Please complete the form at the bottom of this letter and return it to us as soon as possible.

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TO: NATIONAL ACTION COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN  
 40 ST. CLAIR AVENUE EAST, SUITE 306, TORONTO, ONTARIO M4T 1M9

OUR LIAISON PERSON IS:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: (HOME) \_\_\_\_\_ (BUSINESS) \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER GROUP:

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_