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MEMO

NATIONAL ACTION COMMITTEE
on the status of women

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

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Our last Executive meeting was held in Vancouver and combined with a very successful conference which was put on by the North Shore Women's Centre of North Vancouver. A complete report appears in this MEMO.

Earlier in September the National Action Committee was asked to meet with the Minister of Finance, Marc Lalonde. This was the first time, to our knowledge, that a Minister of Finance has sought out women's groups for consultation on the budget. Among the topics discussed were employment, pensions, microtechnology, affirmative action and day care. We were also asked to meet with Mark McGuigan, Minister of Justice, on family law and divorce.

Later we opposed the suggestion by Marc Lalonde that the universality of the family allowance program should be cut back. Women should fight any cut-back in money going to children. There is so little money ticketed for children in our economy to begin with. Family allowance is one of the few ways in our society that we acknowledge the cost of parenting. The money goes to women and benefits low-income women most. Since it is taxed under the income tax act, the higher the income the more money the government recovers.

Instead of cutting back on family allowance, why not cut back on the child tax exemption in the income tax act? It doesn't benefit low-income families and it helps high-income men the most.

We're working hard on the revision of the NAC Constitution and want a lot of input from member groups. We're also anxious to get input from groups on the possible move of the NAC office to Ottawa. We would also welcome any suggestions about the running of the Annual General Meeting.

Cheers,

Doris Anderson, President

Membership

We welcome the following new member groups:

B.C. Women Against Violence Against Women, Rape Crisis Center, Vancouver
Battered Women's Support Services, Vancouver
Franco-Femmes, Hearst, Ontario
Renfrew County Women's Initiative Network, Pembroke, Ontario
Sheshatshui Native Women's Center, Sheshatshui, Newfoundland
Verbal Exchange, Ajax, Ontario
Working For Women, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Social Services

Three NAC Executive members attended the 2nd Canadian Conference on Day Care in Winnipeg, September 1982. Our thanks go to Action Day Care, Toronto, who organized for this conference; their work resulted in the formation of a National Universally Accessible Caucus at the conference which enabled people to debate and strategize in a constructive way. The Canadian Council on Social Development is preparing proceedings for publication; a brief report on the conference is available from the office. NAC's response paper, submitted for inclusion in the proceedings is reproduced later in this MEMO. Remember to buy and sell our day care buttons and memo pads.

Our effort to introduce International Unity Day with Battered Women, October 16, was a huge success by initial reports. In Thunder Bay, the mayor declared the day; in St. John's there were special buttons and a display in the Confederation Building, and so on.... The Committee thanks Rosemary Klotz and the NAC staff for sending letters and purple armbands to every federal and provincial member of parliament. This action created a lot of discussion in legislatures across the country.

We are continuing to improve our understanding of the needs of disabled women; two members of the committee in Nova Scotia and British Columbia are producing excellent materials and the committee is researching ways to make these available to you. We are also, perhaps more importantly, looking at ways of making the women's movement (particularly NAC) more accessible to disabled women. Recommendations regarding the AGM have already been submitted to the AGM Committee and we will be providing more information through MEMO.

Our committee is also examining ways of providing national connections for workers in battered women's services. We would like more of these services to join NAC and would like to use the AGM as a beginning step of getting together.

At the half-year mark, we feel that the Social Services Committee is working well.

- Billie Thurston, Chair -



"Are you now or have you ever been a believer in equal rights for women?"

Canadian Constitution

Letters have been sent to all provincial Human Rights Commissions and all provincial Attorneys General, and the federal Minister of Justice, asking what actions have been taken by their province or commission regarding the three year study period for section 15(1) and 15(2) of the Charter. We are beginning to receive replies.

Pat Hacker attended a conference in Ottawa, September 25. It was called a CONSULTATION on the 35th anniversary of the signing of the universal declaration of human rights and was organized by the Human Rights Institute at the University of Ottawa. Opening speaker was Professor Tarnopolsky. This consultation was attended by CLOW, CRIAW, anti-poverty groups, unions, disabled groups, multi-cultural groups, etc.

Letters have been sent to groups with specific concerns centred on 15(1) and 15(2) with a discussion beginning on possible coalition.

Letters have been sent to groups who responded to the call in MEMO for interest in a grass roots women's conference in the spring of 1984.

We have obtained a copy of Professor Tarnopolsky's "chapter" on human rights, which includes clause 28.

The committee will be writing again to Attorneys General re how many statutes and regulations are in conflict with the Charter - which ones - and what action is being taken/planned.

a sub-committee has been struck to proceed with a conference of women's groups and a provincial monitoring plan.

The committee has Executive approval to investigate a coalition with other groups to solicit money for public hearings on the human rights sections, to make outreach presentations to solicit broad-based public support and to educate and inform the public re issues that will affect the general population and those not already aligned with specific concern groups.

-Pat Hacker, Chair -----

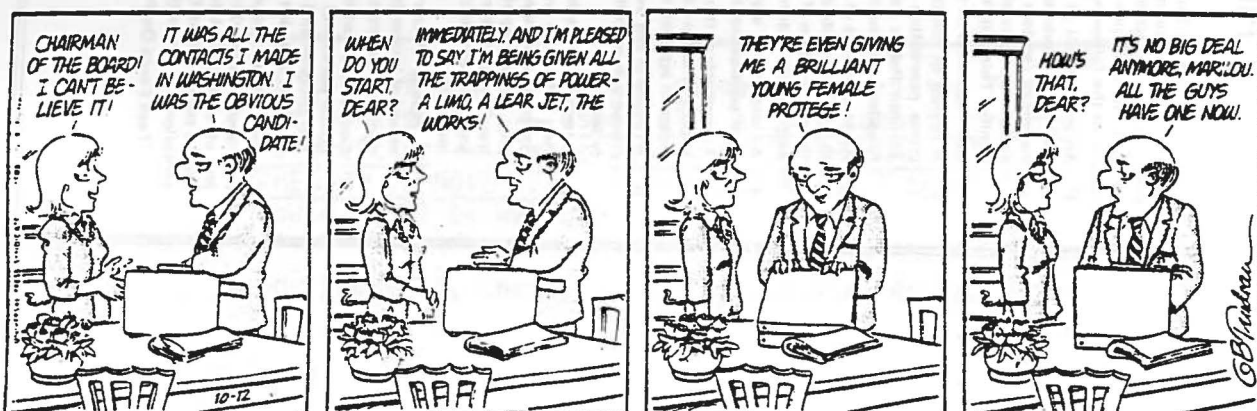
FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS - FUNDING

The Committee has received a first draft of the Federal-Provincial Funding Study. When the final draft is received, they will arrange a meeting with the Minister of Finance, Minister of Health & Welfare and Minister Responsible for the Status of Women.

A council of the Ministers of Education met in Toronto recently, but no information has been received as yet. The committee is planning a meeting with Secretary of State in February on women and post-secondary education and would welcome any ideas on the subject.

Chaviva Hosek attended the National Day Care Conference in Winnipeg, September 24/25. There was little expertise in the general audience re Federal/Provincial funding and day care, although accessibility was discussed. Assumption was current that the federal government had to be pushed on this issue. Everyone was concerned about standards vis a vis quality of day care.

- Chaviva Hosek, Chair -



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DEMAND AMENDMENTS TO C-127!!!

On October 14th, NAC Justice Committee Chair Jillian Ridington and Megan Ellis of Women Against Violence Against Women/Rape Crisis Centre in Vancouver appeared for NAC before the Senate Committee studying the new Sexual Assault Bill (Bill C-127) NAC urged the senators to request amendments to the bill. Our representatives pointed out that the inclusion of "honest belief" as a defense could have very dangerous consequences for women. The availability of this defense virtually invalidates the removal of spousal immunity. Even though a woman can now charge her husband with sexual assault, the fact that the past sexual history of the complainant and her assailant is always considered relevant and that "honest belief" that she consented is a valid defense, means that few charges by wives against husbands will be successful. NAC is also concerned that the "honest belief" defense can now be pleaded in common assault as well. This could have disastrous consequences for battered women.

DESPITE NAC'S URGINGS THAT THE BILL BE SENT BACK FOR AMENDMENT, the Senate passed Bill C-127 and royal assent was given on October 27th. NAC has sent telegrams to Minister of Justice Mark McGuigan, P.C. Justice critic Ray Hnatyshyn, and NDP Justice Critic Svend Robinson.

We have urged them to amend C-127 immediately, to abolish the honest belief defense and to ensure that testimony regarding a complainant's past sexual history can never be introduced.

CONTACT YOUR MP and the Minister of Justice and the opposition justice critics, and let them know your concerns.

TASK FORCE ON PUBLIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN

PUBLIC MEETING
NOVEMBER 23

The Task Force on Public Violence Against Women and Children is holding a public meeting in Toronto City Hall, Tuesday, November 23, from 1:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Concerned individuals and groups are at this time invited to present oral or written briefs to the Task Force with respect to the following Terms of Reference:

1. An assessment of existing and emerging services available and additional services required to assist women and children who are victims of random physical and sexual violence in terms of immediate crisis counselling and long term support of the victim and the family. This will include identification of funding resources and training needs of personnel in these services;
2. A review of the current and potential use of the broad range of crime prevention programs available through the Metropolitan Toronto Police Force and an examination of ways in which to broaden community participation in crime prevention activities;
3. An assessment of the effectiveness of the criminal justice system in deterring public violence against women and children including the prosecution of offenders, and the role of corrections, probation and parole systems;
4. An analysis of ways and means to design and improve urban physical environments for increased safety;
5. An analysis of the social environment with special emphasis on the impact of advertising and pornography on the incidence of public violence against women and children;
6. A review of the available self-protection programs designed to decrease vulnerability at the personal, neighbourhood and community level;
7. A review of existing research and literature on violent crime involving individual women and child victims; an analysis of crime statistics of violence against women and children based on geographic, demographic and socio-economic factors which may indicate trends and patterns; and ways in which these crimes are reported and recorded including an assessment of deficiencies in current methods;
8. A review of current and potential public education initiatives aimed at increasing personal safety and preventing public violence against women and children;
9. Consultation with the Metropolitan Police Force on deployment of police personnel as a deterrent to public violence against women and children and on the role of Police in responding to women and children who are victims of violence.

Subsequent recommendations will be made by the Task Force to the Metropolitan Board of Commissioners of Police, Metropolitan Council, and other appropriate bodies. Please contact Miss G. Collins at 927-9314 if you wish to make a presentation, or forward submissions to:

Task Force On Public Violence Against Women and Children
c/o Public Affairs
590 Jarvis Street
Toronto, Ontario
M4Y 2J5

attention :: Constitution drafters

Enclosed with the mailing of this edition of MEMO to NAC member groups, you will find a copy of the working draft of a possible new NAC constitution, which was prepared for discussion when the NAC Constitutional Review Committee held an open meeting at the recent Vancouver conference and Executive meeting.

After that discussion, where several B.C. groups offered comments, the Committee has begun revising this draft, and preparing to make recommendations to the Executive in December. After that, proposed amendments to the NAC Constitution will be circulated to our member organizations. The whole process will conclude with next year's Annual General Meeting.

The Committee is still anxious to have contributions from member organizations.

Some of the areas where there are major changes in this draft compared to the old constitution and on which suggestions from member groups would be appreciated are:

Membership: The main change is towards a more formalized "two-tiered" structure -- full "members" and other "co-operating organizations" with lesser obligations and rights. (Already the Committee is revising the version seen in this draft.) When looking at this, you should also refer to the rewritten Regulation outlining possible member organizations.

Severance: Some procedures have been added regarding groups wishing to withdraw from membership.

Executive: One version of a new Executive structure is given here -- a "stripped down" version of the present structure. Other forms are being discussed, including one model featuring a large "board" and a smaller steering committee within it. Unfortunately, on this topic, almost everyone has a "pet model"! Material has also been added about Executive powers and duties, some of it transferred from previous Regulations.

And under Terms of Office, grounds and procedures for removal of an Executive member have been added.

Special Meetings: More details and procedures have been added.

Voting Body: There are new proposals about delegates, including a reduction from 2 to one per member group at the Annual General Meeting, and a definition of a delegate (which is under reconsideration).

Committees: More details are given, and the Editorial Committee is less structured.

Policy Resolutions: This is an entirely new section, since our old constitution does not make provision for policy formation. The draft version is based on the Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women's proposals, but adds a provision for emergency resolutions at the AGM. A further issue here is the length of time required for circulation in advance of the AGM.

NAC Trust: This is another newly added section.

Regulations: Much of the material is not new; but some sections have been moved from the old Regulations into the new Rules. As mentioned above, there is a description of what groups might become members. There is also a revised membership fee scale and amounts; a new definition of election campaigning; and more detail on Committees, although some of this may be cut further. And there may be more shifts between Rules and Regulations.

SO -- if your group has suggestions arising from our work so far -- especially actual suggestions for re-drafting -- please SEND THEM TO THE NAC OFFICE BY THE 24TH OF NOVEMBER. (Any other helpful constitutions would still be welcome.)

Wendy Lawrence, Chair, NAC Constitutional Review Committee

Ed Note: We apologize... this mailing does not give you a lot of time to respond. Please phone us if necessary, or send suggestions SPECIAL DELIVERY MAIL.

NAC TRUST

PROJECT TO DOCUMENT WOMEN'S LOBBY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL EQUALITY

"FILE 28" is now an official NAC Trust Project. Its aim as described in a previous MEMO, is to create archive material for all women to us. On the historical lobby for women's equality, 1980-82. From this material will be produced:

- 1) an action pamphlet on making the Constitution work for women
- 2) a book telling the story of the equality lobby, tentatively titled "THE TAKING OF 28".

Principle project organizers are author and journalist Penney Kome and former NAC Executive member, Rosemary Billings.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO FUND THIS WORK!!!

First, the project will cost thousands of dollars. We are counting on raising at least \$1,000 from Friends of NAC and NAC Member Groups. Please send your cheques payable to "NAC TRUST FOR FILE 28", to 40 St. Clair Ave East, Suite 306, Toronto M4T 1M9. Tax receipts are available for donations over \$10 on request.

Second, we need you to tell us about sources of information, people to talk to, what you did during the Constitutional Lobby.

With your help, women's historical struggle and victory will not be forgotten and our rights will not be ignored. Already books by men are ignoring women's role in constitution making and/or getting it wrong. It's up to all of us to make sure that the exciting story is accurately recorded for future generations.

PLEASE HELP..... For further information, contact Penney Kome or Rosemary Billings, C/o the NAC Office.

Media Relations

An information kit for distribution is being prepared. It will include:

- a brief history of NAC's achievements over the past 10 years (this information is being gathered from MEMO, Status, President's Reports and AGM resolutions)
- a brief history of the organization and organizational history of NAC
- a page on current projects
- a page on the Persons Case (for October)
- pages on issues to be included as needed

We are attempting to get Doris Anderson on Cross-Country Checkup with a question on equal pay.

Toronto media people, press, TV and radio have been contacted and arrangements are being made for interviews.

Have contacted a volunteer named Marisa Dodaro who is interested in doing some research on the history of NAC, both for a press kit, and a longer history for our information and general use.

- Pat Hacker, Chair -

DIVORCE REFORM

Shirley Greenberg attended a day-long session with the Department of Justice officials to review positions on reform of the federal Divorce Act. Here is a summary of her report, as well as a list of questions she has drawn up for discussion groups to use. We would welcome responses from individuals and groups since the Department of Justice will be considering all of these aspects of divorce over the next few months.

The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Minister and Assistant Deputy Ministers. It began with an explanation that it was called in response to the Minister's query concerning action on divorce reform and was very much a preliminary step.

The morning was taken up with discussion on grounds and the waiting period, if any. Most persons, if not all, favoured no-fault divorce with a reduced waiting period as short as six months. It was pointed out that with one of the fault grounds, such as adultery or cruelty, divorce can be obtained in less than six months now, although there is a waiting period of three months between decree nisi and decree absolute - unless it is shortened by the judge.

The importance of settling the corollary issues of custody, access, maintenance for spouse and child, was stressed, and the consensus appeared to be that no divorce should be granted if these are unsettled. I pointed out that it is not necessary to tie final settlement of all issues in with granting of a divorce decree, although we do approach divorce today as a time for a final reckoning, and I suggested that we should consider whether a new approach was not called for in terms of contemporary problems affecting, in particular, the mature woman and her future financial security.

For example, a marriage may have lasted 20 years, but the couple be in their early forties. Although the wife (or husband) may have been in the home, not earning employment income, for twenty years, if she obtains a decent job, she has 25 years in which to build up her own future security. However, she may not, but this may not be known for ten or fifteen years. Ought she to have the right to go back and make a claim for maintenance against her ex-husband if he has in fact steadily since the early days of the marriage been contributing to a pension and is able to retire in comfort while she has never been able to accumulate retirement savings that would allow her to do the same? It is those first twenty years that can make the difference in establishing a career pattern for success. The woman who spends those years in the home may never recover.

At a later stage, when the issue of maintenance was addressed, the suggestion arose that detailed guidelines would be of assistance so that judges as well as persons undergoing separation and divorce would have standards for maintenance to rely upon. There is great variation in amounts awarded, whether periodic payments or lump sums or both, by different judges.

Most persons in attendance were aware of the problem of pensions and the fact that each province dealt with this issue differently in its law and some, like Ontario, refused to deal with it at all. Where the pension itself was not regarded as property, it could be dealt with as maintenance. The Ontario law does direct the judge's attention to the loss of pension as one factor among the several to be considered when deciding the amount of support to be awarded. In British Columbia there is a division of pension upon marriage breakdown but it is dealt with in various ways. It is a difficult type of asset and no one has done a definitive study on how it should be dealt with on marriage breakdown, and there is considerable confusion in the case law on the subject, even in British Columbia.

In Canada Pension Plan, which is a statute in itself, a formula applies for deciding how the division is effected, after divorce. Pension credits are divided for the period when the parties lived together, but this occurs only if an application is made and only if decree absolute of divorce has been granted. It is not automatic. It was suggested that this provide a model for division of other pensions.

The matter of division of assets was addressed but it was acknowledged that anything so firmly within provincial jurisdiction could not be affected directly by federal legislation. B.C. appeared to be the province in which it was assumed that partnership included business and investment property when division time came, and the indirect contribution of the homemaker was acknowledged here but not necessarily elsewhere and not at all in Ontario in respect of non-family assets, usually.

DIVORCE

There was no discussion of transfer of federal jurisdiction to the provinces. We were explicitly directed to not waste time with discussion on this matter.

Two persons from the association based in Toronto which sought to introduce formal mediation into the settlement process were in attendance and contributed to the discussion at various points. However, the question of funding was an obstacle to the introduction of such services into the judicial process, although Family Court in Ottawa utilized the practice of requiring attendance before a conciliator before any appearance in court, and this practice was very effective in reducing the use of court time. It was thought that utilization of mediation services could be rationalized on such a basis, that is, if it significantly reduced the time otherwise spent with court officials and in court, at trial.

As to fixing the amount of maintenance, one suggestion was to have explicit and detailed guidelines for the judges and lawyers, more detailed than those in Section 18(5) (a) to (p) of Ontario's Family Law Reform Act.

As to dividing pensions, it was pointed out that formulae had been developed in the Canada Pension Plan and regulations, which could serve as a model for division, but which division should be automatic, at least if ordered by a judge or agreed upon by the parties.

The problem of enforcement was also addressed: National Action Committee's position requiring a rational and effective mode of enforcement was stated. One of the Justice Department lawyers thought it sufficient that such orders be enforced as would any other debt, but others disagreed and requested a mode of enforcement which did not require the custodial parent to make the contact with the lawyer to go to court herself, as well as to pay the costs of enforcement, when this party was already overly involved in day-to-day management.

The Manitoba system of enforcement through the Crown Attorney's office was described and generally it was agreed that this method was effective. Quebec had implemented recently a similar type of enforcement model. In Manitoba, every order was computerized and upon default enforcement was automatic. In Ontario it is possible to register a court order for automatic enforcement, which requires payment into Family Court instead of directly to the recipient.

The desirability of a locator/tracing system was brought up for discussion. This should include access to records of the Income Tax Department as well as private companies such as Bell Telephone, which is not possible now. When an employee leaves a company, a central registry could be informed.

As to the Unified Family Court, not everyone clearly understood what it is and whether it should be promoted, although NAC is on record as endorsing its establishment. At present, several provinces have a model Unified Family Court. It is partly funded by the Federal government and has been found to be expensive largely because of support services which go along with it. Basically, it will replace in the community all the various levels of court and services associated with them, dealing only with family matters and divorce.

Little discussion focussed on children. Generally, there is no dispute concerning the law as related to children. It is very flexible, to allow for review should the welfare of the child require it. Problems arise in event of abduction and the removal of a child to another jurisdiction, and attempt to enforce custody orders in more than one jurisdiction. Proposed changes to the abduction section of the Criminal Code did deal with such matters.

Child support is in theory based on the costs of the child and the ability of the parents to pay, but the record of maintenance of payments is abysmal. Most payments end after one year, according to statistics. The burden of enforcing payments is often on the shoulders of the person who has custody and who is struggling with a new role as a single parent, providing a home and maintaining a full time job, and who has insufficient funds to pay lawyers.

As to custody, it would be preferable to assume continuation of joint custody and equal right to the child after separation as before, with the onus on the parent seeking sole custody to establish that the child's interest lies with reducing contact with the other parent.

Mediation was advocated as a much less wasteful and traumatic way to solve the problem of competing rights and conflict affecting a child. The use of the courtroom was not in anyone's long range interests for this type of matter.

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DIVORCE

..... action

ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

1. Is the concept of "rehabilitative maintenance sound?"
2. Is it fair to expect the displaced homemaker to devote herself to training for full-time employment for the rest of her life, at any age (40,50,60,70)?
3. Should support services be made available to the displaced homemaker, and what kind of services should they be?
Who should provide them?
Is present-day training adequate to deal with this problem?
What has to be done?
What services are necessary?
4. Can anything be done about prevention, so that people entering into relationships do not suffer as much at termination?
5. Can the concept of "equitable sharing" on breakdown include, as factors to be considered, the inequities and structural factors which prevent women from achieving full potential including equality in financial achievement and power?
6. Can we define the factors to be taken into consideration when maintenance is decided so that we reduce the amount of variation and increase the certainty with respect to:
 - a) amount
 - b) length of time maintenance is paid
 - c) enforcement procedures
7. Must divorce be the final reckoning, so that a woman finding herself without income at age 65 cannot go back and claim part of the assets and income of a former spouse?
How do we structure maintenance at divorce so that this is unnecessary?
What can be done about sharing of pension contributions? Must we look to the provinces and their jurisdiction over property to redress this?
Can the federal government with its divorce jurisdiction insist on division of pensions as a maintenance issue?
8. What is a fair settlement for the woman who has been a full-time mother and homemaker for ten or twenty or thirty years?
9. Can we improve provisions for maintenance for children to ensure that their standard of living is reduced as little as possible at separation or divorce?

THE NORTH SHORE WOMEN ARE DEEPLY INVOLVED IN A CAMPAIGN AGAINST RED HOT VIDEO STORES. They would like to contact groups in cities with such stores with the suggestion that groups check availability of certain offensive titles. If enough complaints are laid with local RCMP, we might get some action.

PLEASE CONTACT THE NORTH SHORE WOMEN'S CENTRE, Delbrook Community Centre, North Building, 600 West Queen's Road, North Vancouver, B.C. V7N 2L2 or telephone (604) 987-4822.

...important...

DAY CARE

At the close of the National Day Care Conference in Winnipeg, September 1982, an interim steering committee consisting of two people from the voluntary sector of each province and territory, the Conference Program Committee, and two Early Childhood Education Association members (an Ontario group) was formed. Their mandate is to find the best way of democratically electing two representatives of the day care community from each province or territory to form a National Steering Committee by March 1983.

Call the Canadian Council on Social Development (Ph: 613-728-1865) or the NAC Office to find out who your reps are on the interim steering committee and make sure you have input into the development of the National Steering Committee. This could be a very important body!

DAY CARE BUTTONS ARE AVAILABLE IN FRENCH AND ENGLISH AT \$1.00 EACH. Write Billie Thurston, 10 First Avenue, St. John's, Newfoundland A1B 1N4 to order quantities. NAC Regional Reps also have the buttons for sale.



And have you ordered your Day Care Memo pads from the NAC Office. \$1 each.

"It will be a great day when daycare is universally available and the Department of Defence must hold bake sales.

Beni sera le jour ou les garderies seront disponibles a tous, et ou le ministere de la Defense sera force d'organiser des bingos pour pouvoir se payer des bombes."

TODAYS TOPIC IS
"FREE DAYCARE"

BEAUTY EH?!



.. see over...

DAY CARE RESOURCES

ACTION DAY CARE, 19 Carr Street, Toronto, Ontario M5T 2V7
"For Universally Accessible Publicly Funded Non-Compulsory Day Care in Canada". \$2.00.

SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL OF METROPOLITAN TORONTO, 185 Bloor St. E, Toronto M4W 3J3
"Children at Work: An Inventory of Work-Related Day Care Services in Canada",
September 1982, 40 pgs. \$5.00.

"Work Related Day Care: An Annotated Bibliography", September 1982, 28 pgs. \$5.00.
Ask to be put on their mailing list.

DAY CARE RESEARCH GROUP, 48 Boustead, Toronto, Ontario M6R 1Y9
"The Daycare Kit - An information on organizing handbook on day care in Canada",
single \$9.00 (\$8.00 over 10 copies), handling charge 75¢.

NATIONAL DAY CARE INFORMATION CENTRE, Health & Welfare Canada, 612 Brooke Claxton Bldg,
Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1V 1B5

"Provincial Funding of Day Care Services"

"Day Care Spaces in Canada - 1982"

"Provincial Day Care Requirements" And, ask for other publications.

CANADIAN ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN, Box 1541, Stn B, Ottawa K1P 5R5
"Better Day Care for Canadians: Options for Parents & Children", August 1982.

CANADIAN COUNCIL ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, 55 Parkdale Ave, Box 4505, Stn C, Ottawa K1Y 4C1
"Proceedings of 2nd Canadian Conference on Day Care", September 1982

CHATELAINE, March 1982

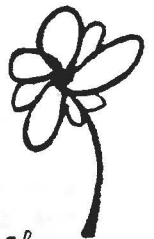
"Who Cares for the Children?", p.51, 72-78.

PEOPLE MAGAZINE, September 20, 1982

"The Lonely Life of 'Latchkey' Children, say two experts, is a National Disgrace", p.83-88.

ONTARIO FEDERATION OF LABOUR, 15 Gervais Drive, Suite 202, Don Mills, Ontario M3C 1Y8
"Parental Rights and Day Care, A Bargaining Guide for Unions", April 1982.

UNITY DAY WITH BATTERED WOMEN



Letters of explanation, flyers and a purple armband were sent to each federal and provincial elected representative in Canada. They were asked to wear the armbands on October 15. We received the following responses:

FEDERAL

Letters of Support

David Collenette, York East, Ontario
Ian Deans, Hamilton Mountain, Ontario
John Fraser, Vancouver South, B.C.
Jim Hawkes, Calgary West, Alberta
Pauline Jewitt, New Westminster-Coquitlam

Acknowledgments

Father Bob Ogle, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
Len Gustafson, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan
Lorne McCuish, Prince George-Buckley Valley
John Roberts, St. Paul's, Ontario

PROVINCIAL

Letters of Support

Don Boudria, Prescott-Russell, Ontario
Marion Bryden, Beaches-Woodbine, Ontario

Acknowledgments

H.W. Schroeder, Min. of Agriculture, B.C.
David Barrett, Leader of Opposition, B.C.
Bruce Cochrane, Minister of Tourism, N.S.
Graham Harle, Solicitor General, Alberta
Yves Blais, Depute de Terrebonne, Quebec

Our thanks to Marion Bryden and David Peterson, Leader of the Official Opposition, who spoke lengthily in the Ontario Legislature on the subject. David Peterson also issued a communique endorsing Unity Day with Battered Women and announced that his party has established a Women's Perspective Advisory Committee to participate in policy formation, etc., on this and other issues.

More news on this next MEMO.... send us news of what happened in your area....

SURVIVAL



NAC's Survival Committee has met twice and prepared the kit to help group discussion and/or to go with the showing of If You Love This Planet (National Film Board free loan) or other anti-nuclear war films.

The kit contains leaflets and pamphlets, a sample speech to be used as a guide for speeches or discussion, the Minority Report (Security & Disarmament, 1982, House of Commons) and a bibliography and suggestions for action..... from NAC Office. \$2.00.

KEEP UP THE PRESSURE: (1) Against the Cruise Missile Testing
(2) For a nuclear Freeze (U.S. Congress gaining support)
(3) For greater government leadership for disarmament action and information

AND ON.... YOUR LOCAL, PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES
YOUR LIBRARY FOR INFORMATION & BOOK DISPLAYS
YOUR SCHOOLS & COLLEGES TO PROMOTE MORE INFORMATION & DISCUSSION

The City of Toronto circulated, before the municipal election (80% voted for disarmament), a leaflet giving information on the chances of surviving a nuclear attack. This is a good example for other communities to follow. It was developed through the action of the Board of Health.

CRUISE RALLY.... NAC members were in Ottawa for the October 30 rally and the workshops the following day (15,000 people walked past the peace tower). Other centres had a full week of meetings, speeches, films, demonstrations, vigils and other actions. Voice of Women groups has spoke with the U.S. Consul in Toronto - after their 5 month weekly vigil - and visited the Nanoose Naval Base in B.C. Groups and individuals are becoming active every day. KEEP IT UP!

CBC "IDEAS". For anyone who missed, or wishes to follow up on the CBC's radio series, October 18-28 on nuclear war and disarmament, the transcripts are available for \$3.50 from CBC IDEAS, BOX 500, STATION A, TORONTO M5W 1E6. Good for group discussion, ideas on feminism & militarism, radiation hazards, etc.

A "STOP THE ARMS RACE" (STAR) CAMPAIGN has been launched in Canada by the Ottawa branch of Women's International League for Peace & Freedom (WILPF) on October 3. Initiated by U.S. WILPF and now spreading to the NATO countries, the campaign will consist of women "registering" other women in the campaign to stop the arms race by asking them to sign a "registration card". It is proposed that the card be addressed to the Canadian government and have five demands, one for each point of the star:

- 1) Stop production and refuse the testing of the Cruise Missile in Canada
- 2) Make Canada a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone
- 3) Cut Military Expenditures instead of Social & Community Services
- 4) Oppose Deployment of Medium Range Nuclear Missiles in Europe
- 5) Support the U.N. Comprehensive Program for Disarmament (CPD)

A "registration fee" of \$1 or \$2 will be asked, to help support WILPF's work. For further info write: Ottawa WILPF, 2963 Penny Drive, Ottawa K2B 6H6.

OUR APOLOGIES..... IN THE LAST MEMO WE GAVE OUT A WRONG PHONE NUMBER!!! VOICE OF WOMEN IN TORONTO can be reached at 922-2997. Sincere apologies to Voice of Women and anybody who was inconvenienced by the mistake.... AND WE HOPE YOU ALL MANAGED TO GET TOGETHER!

ATSUKO SHIKUMA, Director, National Women's Education Centre, Ranzan-machi, Hiki-gun, Saitama-ken, 355-02, JAPAN.... (pew) wrote to Voice of Women, B.C. to say how difficult it is for them to obtain information on women's issues in other countries. They would be most grateful to receive such information.. PLEASE SEND MATERIAL....

Vancouver Meeting

The B.C. Persons Day Conference in Vancouver on October 23/24 was attended by nearly 100 women who participated in workshops on, amongst other things, Pornography and Violence, Disabled Women, Abortion, Nuclear Disarmament and the Canadian Constitution.

Held at Capilano College and organized by the North Shore Women's Centre, the conference afforded an opportunity for B.C. women's groups to make contact with each other and also with the Executive of NAC which held its October meeting in conjunction with the conference. NAC Executive members conducted workshops and held valuable discussions with western women, who have sometimes felt isolated from involvement with issues vital to them. These issues were reflected in resolutions coming out of workshops. Some of these were:

- 1) Recommendation that NAC endorse freestanding abortion clinics
- 2) Input into calculation of GNP should include unpaid labour
- 3) (a) Convey to Allan Williams, B.C. Attorney General, a protest regarding the open exhibits for sale of a catalogue (already a prohibited publication) describing the pornographic films available at Red Hot Video Stores
(b) Recommend prosecution for violation of Section 159, subsection 8 of the Criminal Code of those selling the catalogues
- 4) Amend the federal Human Rights Act to include protection from discrimination for mentally and physically handicapped people
- 5) Request ongoing information from Attorneys General on legislation regarding changes which might be prejudicial to the interests of women. We must maintain our awareness of changes and ask for clarification and definitions in writing
- 6) Fight Legal Aid cuts
- 7) The Nuclear Disarmament workshop demanded that nuclear war be renamed nuclear extermination

Comments from those at the conference were enthusiastic. We all got a chance to meet some wonderful women and the easterners saw our city and met our own Rosemary Brown who spoke to us (in her usual dynamic style) at the dinner on Saturday night.

Once again, thanks to all the North Shore women who worked so hard and so successfully on the conference.

- Jane Evans, B.C. Reg.Rep. -

position vacant

YOUR COUNTRYWOMEN NEED YOU!!!

"WHAT THEY SAID IN THE HOUSE" (Our column on which MP's spoke out for women) is not being reported this month..... but don't worry..... we're still listening.

Our Hansard reporter has a million other pressing assignments and must tearfully relinquish the post.... However, we know there must be dozens of women in the Ottawa area who are willing to take on this exciting challenge..... Our reporter is very willing to give some non-traditional job training... She says it's a breeze!!! Please phone us at the NAC Office if you are interested.

AND MANY, MANY BOUQUETS TO "OUR PERSON IN OTTAWA" FOR HER DEDICATED PURSUIT OF TRUTH & JUSTICE.....



PERSONS CELEBRATE

At a ceremony in Rideau Hall on November 10, the governor general presented this year's Persons Awards to five distinguished women from across Canada. They are:

Nancy Adams, Saskatoon. Teacher, farmer, she has been International V-P of Associated Country Women of the World and a strong advocate of women's rights.

Sarah Binns, Toronto. Although confined to a wheelchair for many years, she has been a keen activist for fights of women, the handicapped and the elderly. Her working life, 11 hours a day, 6 days a week, began in a textile mill in England. She was Agnes MacPhail's campaign manager and she is still active in lobbying for reform to benefit women and the handicapped.

Dr. Hilda Hellaby, Whitehorse. Has served as a role model for women in the Church in which she has served as an ordained deaconess for over 50 years, working with many social service groups in British Columbia and the Yukon.

Liliane Labelle, Montréal. Has worked in the labour force and as a volunteer to improve the status of women in Quebec. She has long been active with Les Cercles des Fermières du Québec, with adult education programs and with the Canadian Home Economics Association.

Edith McLeod, Thunder Bay. A volunteer organizer in the Ontario Native Women's Association, the Native Women's Association of Canada and the Thunder Bay Friendship Centre & Community Resource Centre. She has been recognized for her outstanding work among native people.

After the ceremony and introductions, a happy and friendly reception was held for friends and relatives of the five women.

AWARD TO HONOUR THERESE CASGRAIN

Health & Welfare Minister Monique Begin has just announced the establishment of an award to honour the memory of Therese Casgrain. The award will be given annually to a Canadian woman and man "whose avant-garde spirit, social commitment and persistent endeavours have contributed significantly to the advancement of a social cause and the well-being of their fellow citizens."

Candidates must be a Canadian citizen involved in social action at the national level, one who has recognized a previously unnoticed problem or social need and had a strong influence in making others aware of it. The first award ceremony will take place in the Spring. For more infor

For more information, contact: Therese Casgrain Award, Public Affairs Directorate, Health & Welfare Canada, Ottawa, K1A 0K9 Ph: (614) 995-8452.

NON-SEXIST PLAYING CARDS

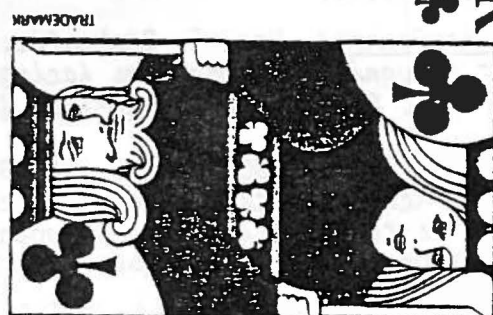
Only .. Days till Xmas...
Only .. Days till Chanukah...
(who's counting?)

Don't be caught without your stocking stuffers, party favours

These cards are terrific....
(they are going like hotcakes and potato latkes)
ORDER NOW!!!!

Send \$5.99 (incl. tax & postage)
to:

UNISEX CARDS
3440 Pharmacy Ave, Unit 8
Toronto, Ontario M1W 2P8



R♣

R♣

disabled women: some facts

Estimates of the number of physically disabled people range from 8 to 15%. Mentally handicapped persons constitute an additional 1%. Since most of these estimates do not include chronically ill or injured people, it is likely that the real figure is closer to 15-20%. This means that one in six or seven women is disabled.

Most people's reaction to this statistic is shock. They hardly know any disabled people. This is because disabled people have unbelievably low incomes, high unemployment, and are generally segregated from the rest of society.

1. In 1978, 70% of disabled people had incomes less than \$230 a month; 90% had incomes less than \$530 a month (B.C.)
2. Unemployment rates: mentally handicapped - 90%; physically handicapped - 80-99% (estimates vary).
3. The criteria for receiving a handicapped persons pension is being certified as being permanently unable to work.
4. The Canadian Human Rights Act does not protect disabled people from discrimination.
5. Most housing is inaccessible.
6. Persons in quasi-institutional settings (intermediate and long-term care facilities) have no tenancy rights. If a person has to be gone from their room for over a month, they may lose it.
7. When a man becomes disabled, the marriage breakup rate is about 50%; when a women becomes disabled, the rate is 99%.
8. Most services set up for women (shelters, women's centres, health centres) are not accessible to disabled women.
9. The vast majority of people with hidden disabilities are women (arthritis, rheumatism, pelvic inflammatory disease).

From a report prepared by Jill Weiss, Social Services Committee Member.

WHAT YOU CAN DO!!!



Get informed. NAC will continue to provide you with information. You can also join most coalitions and get their newsletter.

Become accessible and reach out to disabled women, breaking their isolation. Be aware of the needs of disabled women when planning meetings.

Looking for a gift for a disabled friend or yourself?

The Visual Language Cookbook, Joyce and Gallimore. Recipe instructions given in sign language diagrams as well as English. Photographs and line drawings show each step of preparation. 115 pgs. Joyce Media, hard cover, Code MY-100. \$12.95.

The Wheelchair Gourmet, Mary E. Blakeslie. A tantalizing array of delicious recipes that recognize the problems facing a disabled cook. Spiced with humour. 219 pgs. Spiral-bound, lay-flat format. Beaufort, Code MY-102. \$8.95.

Order from: JESSICA'S BISCUIT, P.O. BOX 301, NEWTONVILLE, MA. 02160.
(Give quantity required, title, code number, your complete address or address to which book is to be delivered. Shipping is \$1.00 first book to each address, 50¢ each additional book). Remember U.S. Exchange rate.

You can also approach your local bookstore and ask them to order for you, but check the price they'll charge.



WOMEN ARTISTS IN FILM - THE ARTIST, PARASKEVA CLARK

The world of art, like many other areas, notably history, has been largely a man's world. Women artists have consistently been denied access to this sphere and recognition of their lives and contributions has systematically been omitted from general knowledge. Thus, many women believe that women's contribution to art is negligible at best.

We at Studio D, the Women's Studio of the National Film Board, have begun to address this aspect of the story of women, and have begun to look at contemporary women artists - their lives and their art. We have attempted to make films about them, our most recent attempt being the film - PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST AS AN OLD LADY: A FILM ABOUT PARASKEVA CLARK. This film, a 16mm documentary in colour, is 27 minutes and 3 seconds long, and is about Paraskeva Clark, a Russian born artist now in her 80's, who has made Toronto her home since the 1930's. The film traces her life-story - through her studies in the 'Free Studios' of the Russian post-Revolutionary era, her brief and tragic first marriage, her life in Paris and how she supported herself and her son doing household chores, her chance meeting and eventual marriage to a young Canadian resulting in a move Toronto. Her art, which the film discusses, reflects a strong social conscience and would have a hard time to earn a respected place in the nation's ultra-conservative galleries. She has stopped painting at 80, but she has not lost her disconcerting ability of both alienating and charming her listeners. The film should be of interest to general women audiences - young and old, students, teachers and anyone particularly interested in art.

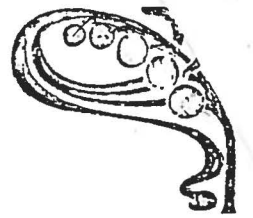
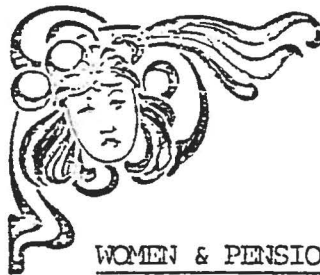
Other Studio D Films available:

MAUD LEWIS: A WORLD WITHOUT SHADOWS - a short 10 minute documentary about a virtually unknown Nova Scotian woman painter. A tiny frail woman, crippled with arthritis, Maud Lewis started painting at 30 - she never saw a work of art nor took an art lesson, but her canvases reflect her honesty and the reality of the world in which she lived - a world that stretched no more than 100km in any direction.

EVE LAMBART - a documentary, approximately 52 minutes long, about an internationally known Canadian film animation artist, now semi-retired and living alone in a country home she designed herself. Resourceful and independent, she makes full use of her energies and talents and makes into art everything she does - but it quilting, wood carving or weaving, while still devoting time to her art of film animation which she carries out in her own attic animation studio.

TO OBTAIN THESE FILMS, CONTACT YOUR NEAREST NATIONAL FILM BOARD OFFICE or write or phone: Joy Johnson, Audience Researcher, Studio D, P-43, National Film Board of Canada, Box 6700, Montreal, Quebec H3C 3H5 (514) 333-3265

DON'T FORGET TO LET STUDIO D KNOW WHAT YOU THINK OF THEIR FILMS!!! IF YOU USE THE FILMS AND LIKE THEM, LETTERS OF SUPPORT, ENCOURAGING THEM IN THEIR WORK ARE EXTREMELY BENEFICIAL, ESPECIALLY IN TIMES OF ECONOMIC RESTRAINT WHEN WOMEN'S PROGRAMS TEND TO BE THE FIRST AND HARDEST HIT!!!



Events

NEWFOUNDLAND STATUS OF WOMEN

"10th" Anniversary
Celebration

10 YEARS & STILL GROWING

- Wed. Nov. 17 City Council Meeting
Film: Not a Love Story
- Thurs. Nov. 18 "What is Feminism"
- Fri. Nov. 19 Open House-Women's Centre
- Sat. Nov. 20 Sharing Session
Arts & Crafts Display
Films
Dinner - guest speaker
DORIS ANDERSON

Info: Anniversary - Women's Centre
P.O. Box 6072
St. John's, Nfld. A1C 5X8

WOMEN & PENSIONS: TOWARDS A POSITIVE FUTURE

November 19 & 20 Kitchener, Ont.
Rockway Gardens Senior Citizens Centre
1405 King St. W.

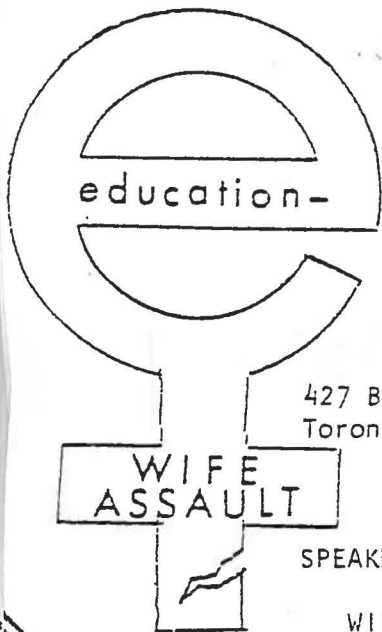
Sponsors:

- Kitchener-Waterloo Status of Women
- Community Resources for Women
- Rockway Gardens Senior Citizens Centre
- Waterloo Adult Recreation Centre

Speakers include:

- Ken Battle, National Council of Welfare
- Corabel Penfold, Canadian Pensioners Concerned
- Louise Dulude, Author

Info: Address above or Phone 579-3800



427 Bloor St. W.
Toronto 968-3422

SPEAKERS TRAINING WORKSHOP on WIFE ASSAULT IN CANADA

Thursday, November 25th
6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Regis: \$6.00



IMAGES OF WOMEN IN THE MEDIA

Saturday November 27th, 1982
8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
531 Pelissier St. Windsor
Regis: \$22.00 includes lunch

SPEAKERS: Doris Anderson, John Coleman
Suzanne Keeler, Louise Imbeault

SPONSORS: Windsor Women's Incentive Centre
253-1117



National Association of
Women and the Law

Fifth Biennial National Conference

Women In The Workforce:

Affirmative Action and Parental Benefits

February 23 to 26, 1983

The Empress Hotel
Victoria, British Columbia

To ensure you receive program and registration
materials, please phone or write:

Women In The Workforce
University Extension Conference Office
University of Victoria
P.O. Box 1700
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 2Y2
(604) 721-8475

THE VANIER INSTITUTE OF THE FAMILY

Theme: "The Second Stage of the
Women's Movement"
PUBLIC LECTURE Meanings for Women, Men and
Familial Life

Place: Ballroom. The Château Laurier
Hotel, Ottawa

Date: Wednesday, November 17, 1982

Time: 8:15 p.m.

Admission: \$3 — Tickets available at the door

Il y aura un service d'interprétation simultanée

Guest Lecturer: BETTY FRIEDAN

Thurs. Nov. 18 & Fri. Nov. 19
Invitational Seminars

- I For Educational Institutions,
Social Agencies & Voluntary Groups
- II For Government Departments
and Agencies

Info: Anne Kay (613) 232-7115

** ** ** ** **

NEWS, Publications ... etc.....

THE WORKING WOMEN'S EDUCATION COMMITTEE of Halifax, N.S. has three reports currently available to all who are interested. They are reports on conferences held in Nova Scotia:

1. Sexual Harassment
2. Equal Pay for Equal Work
3. Women and Technological Change

They are very informative and excellent resource material. Copies may be obtained from Marilyn Keddy, 5534 Columbus Place, Halifax, N.S. B3J 2G8

A small donation for printing and postage would be appreciated.

*** **

HERSTORY (Saskatoon Women's Calendar Collective)

Due to circumstances beyond their control, HERSTORY 1983 will not be published. Manuscripts and plans for 1984 are currently underway. HERSTORY 1984 should be on the market by the summer of '83.

*** **

E.P.I.C. (EQUAL PAY INFORMATION COMMITTEE), an ad hoc group of trade unionists studying the issue of equal pay has produced an EQUAL PAY KIT entitled:

OF EPIC PROPORTIONS ACHIEVING EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

The kit is divided into 4 main sections:

- (1) The Position of Women in the Work Force
- (2) The Struggle for Equal Pay
- (3) The Opposition to Equal Pay, and
- (4) A Bibliography of Material on Equal Pay.

Copies available through EPIC, Box 4237, Vancouver, B.C.

Cost: \$12.50 single copy; \$10.00/each (10 copies or more); \$15.00 mailed copy.

*** **

INEQUALITY AT WORK, 32-page booklet on male-female inequality in employment. Facts on labour force participation, wages, occupations of women, plus an assessment of the problems with present approaches to improve the situation such as equal pay for equal work and affirmative action.

Copies available from the Social Planning Council of Metropolitan Toronto, 185 Bloor St. E. 3rd floor, Toronto M4W 3J3 (961-9831)

Cost: 1 - 9 copies \$2.00; 10 - 49 copies \$1.75; 50 - 99 copies \$1.50; 100 - 999 copies \$1.25; 1,000 + \$1.00.

*** **

SOMEBODY HAS TO DO IT: WHOSE WORK IS HOUSEWORK? examines homemaking as an occupation and discusses how responsibility for housework affects every other career choice a woman makes.

by Penney Kome, McClelland & Stewart \$9.95

*** **

WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST, by Michele Landsberg, Toronto Star's award-winning ... A Provocative Look at Modern Canadian Women at Work & at Home ...

This enlightening introduction to feminism and the family written by a Canadian award-winning newspaper columnist is also a source of new and rueful insights for those who have agreed with the author for years. (Publisher: MacMillan) (\$19.95) 256 pages.

*** **

What is happening
to women in Canada?

*It's
About
Time...

*It's about
time to
recognize
the rights of
Indian Women.

*It's about time
to give welfare
mothers a chance.

*It's about time to change
court procedures for rape cases.

*It's about time women pen-
sioners had a decent income.

*Isn't it about time you
subscribed to *Status of
Women News*?

Together, with a strong,
unified platform like
"Status" we can change
the way women live.

*It's about time.



The best way to find out
is to subscribe to

STATUS OF WOMEN NEWS

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Rate: \$8.00 for 4 issues Tarif: \$8.00 pour 4 numéros
Institutions: \$12.00 Organismes: \$12.00
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mon cheque pour le montant de \$ _____

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National Action Committee on the Status of Women
Le Comité National d'Action sur le Statut de la Femme
40 St. Clair Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario, M4T 1M9

SYMPOSIUM ON INTER-SPOUSAL VIOLENCE

Published by the Canadian Association of Social Workers

55 Parkdale Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 1E5 (613) 728-1865

156 pages

\$12.95 per copy (includes postage)

THE LABRADOR WEST SAFE HOUSE PROJECT has been busy since it began in June. Three houses and a system of volunteers are providing shelter for abused women. The RCMP and social service system are supporting this project.

In another Labrador town, the Mokami Status of Women Council is working in cooperation with a community group to pursue the possibility of using Federal/Department of Public Works buildings as shelters. Many buildings are kept in repair, but remain unused because of an armed forces pull out.

EVERYWOMEN'S ALMANAC 1983 - appointment calendar & handbook

Theme: Women & Culture

by The Everyday Collective - avail

\$6.95 each

available for The Women's Press, 16 Baldwin Street, Toronto, Ont. M5T 1L2

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON WELFARE has produced an excellent report on Canada's Health Insurance System. It deals with the subjects of extra-billing & user fees & vividly makes the point that these kinds of practices have in the past and will, if reinstated, adversely effect large portions of the Canadian population.

For copies write: National Council on Welfare, Brooke Claxton Building, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9



The Honourable Monique Begin and Provincial Ministers of Health
must hear our views on these very important issues.

DEFEND UNIVERSAL MEDICAL CARE.

ACTION