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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

SEPTEMBER 1981

\* \* \* \* \*

\* The summer is over and we are at it again - meeting as an executive, \*  
not that work actually stopped in the summer as the committee reports \*  
showed. \*

\* The Employment Committee's activity throughout the summer supporting \*  
the maternity leave demands of CUPW we like to think helped to make \*  
that clause a feature of the settlement. The Pensions Committee \*  
planned, privately raised money (\$25,000.00), and further developed \*  
a series of pension seminars to be held across the country. The \*  
Native Women's Committee continues to improve its campaign on the \*  
Indian Act. The Editorial Committee slaved away at the production \*  
of STATUS due out very soon. Justice, Task Force on Representation \*  
of Women, Social Services, Federal/Provincial Fiscal Relations, \*  
Membership, Permanent Funding, Friends of NAC, NAC Trust, Constitution, \*  
and Annual General Meeting Committees were no slouches either. In \*  
other words, a full summer!! The results of all these labours are \*  
reflected in the attached reports. \*

\* Once again we faced the financial facts of life at this meeting. We \*  
reviewed our commitments for the remainder of this year and our income, \*  
and we revised our plans accordingly. Some of the items in the original \*  
plan which we dropped were professional fund-raising services, the \*  
hiring of an executive secretary, and we redirected the level of expenses \*  
devoted to committee work. The permanent fund-raising committee proposed \*  
several ways to increase our self-generated income and you can read more \*  
about this in the rest of MEMO. We are committed to diversifying our \*  
funding and we need your support for the Two Bit Campaign - a lot of \*  
Two Bits will go a long way! The Executive will continue to review the \*  
financial picture at each executive meeting and adjust priorities as \*  
necessary. \*

\* Our next meeting is the Mid-Year Meeting in St. John's, Newfoundland. \*  
Jill Schooley and her committee have put together an exciting agenda. \*  
We look forward to meeting with our member groups and Newfoundland \*  
women. \*

*Jean Wood*  
Jean Wood, President.

\* P.S. Next MEMO and NAC Executive Meeting will contain regional \*  
representatives' reports. \*

\* \* \* \* \*

# DECISIONS

## 1. United Miners' Wives Association of Cape Breton (U.M.W.A.)

The UMWA was formed on August 14, 1981. The Association rose out of concern for the plight of approximately 4000 families during this, the first strike in Cape Breton's coal fields in 34 years. The United Mine Workers head office in Washington have told us there is no strike pay and the strain is starting to show.

If you wish further information you may contact Julia Anderson (902) 849-1637, Secretary of the UMWA and the woman responsible for making the UMWA a reality. Donations may also be sent to:

Julia Anderson, 228 Shaft St., Glace Bay, N.S. B1A 6A4

**A C T I O N** - The NAC Executive has sent a telegram of support and a \$50.00 donation. We encourage our member groups and interested individuals to take similar action.

## 2. Notes from Executive Meetings

At our June meeting, the following motion was passed:

"That NAC establish a task force on how the women of Canada should be represented to the government of Canada, with participation by other national women's organizations to invite submissions by our member organizations, and any other interested groups or individuals, to hold a public meeting on the issue in Ottawa on the occasion of the NAC December Executive meeting."

T. Padgham was appointed to lead this.

In line with the resolution and coinciding with the recent NAC Executive Meeting in Toronto, a small representative group of women was called to together to discuss the future of the relationship between Canadian women and the government.

The meeting began by examining successes and failures of the 10-year period since the Report of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women. It then considered what government departments and procedures are available to promote women's concerns. It was felt that tremendous efforts on the part of women have tended to lead only to short term band-aid solutions.

The group agreed that there is a pressing need for an overall review and analysis with a long range strategy plan for women in Canada, so that we may assume equal partnership and responsibility for the government of our country.

The group was enthusiastic about the possibilities of such an examination. A "Women's Commission" was mentioned as a possibility. They agreed to initiate wide ranging discussion involving as many women as possible and we are calling now for ideas and suggestions from NAC's member groups and other individuals and organizations.

Please contact Terry Padgham with your ideas and suggestions:

Terry Padgham, 13806-101 Avenue, Edmonton, Alta. T5N 6R4

Telephone: (403) 452-3865



"Typical! The file on women is in the very last drawer."

# NAC'S COMMITTEES REPORT:

## Constitution Committee

CHAIRPERSON - JILL PORTER

The Constitution Committee regrets there is no formal report from this Committee of two. Due to the recent lack of postal service, we have not yet received responses to our request for contributions for an information package for our member groups.

Please send your material NOW! (See May 1981 NAC MEMO.)

## Employment Committee

CHAIRPERSON - KATHY MOGGRIDGE

1. In August 1981 NAC filed a third party equal pay for work of equal value complaint vs. Bell Canada. The complaint concerns the wage differential between operators and garage service men.
2. The NAC Employment Committee is preparing a response to the two task force reports - Labour Market Development in the 1980's and the Unemployment Insurance Report. Comments about these reports and the implications of micro-technology on women in the 80's from NAC member groups would be appreciated.

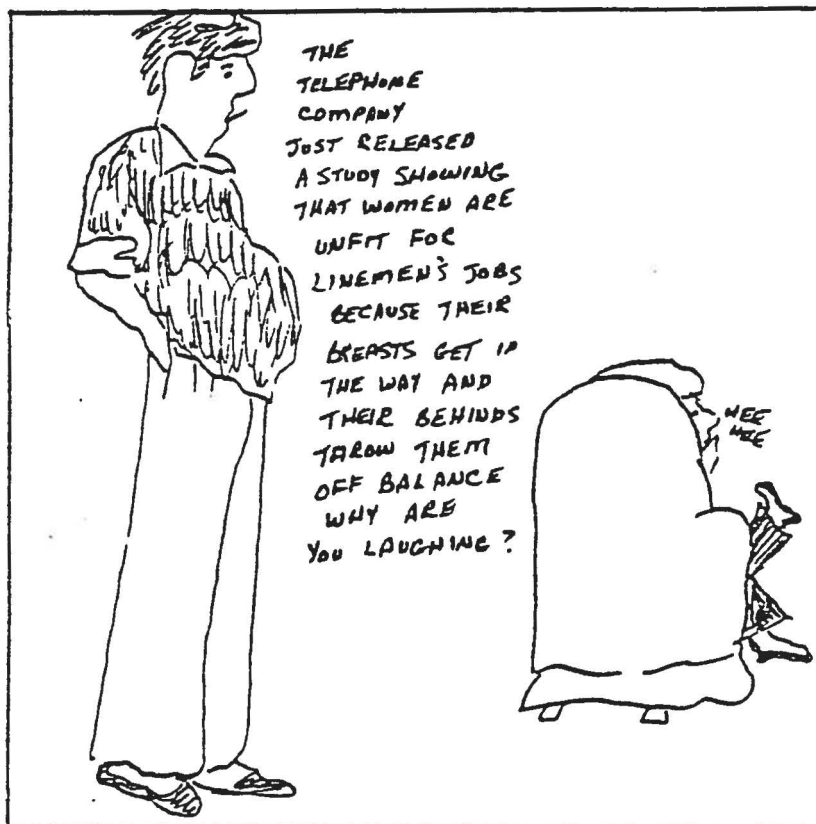
Send to: K. Moggridge, 2710 Gottingen St. Halifax, N.S. B3K 3C7 by October 17th.

3. The Economic Council of Canada is considering a major study on women's work experience in Canada. NAC is concerned about the proposed study - the qualifications of the two men who are doing the study and their framework of analysis.

Contact: David Slater, Economic Council of Canada, P.O. Box 527, Ottawa K1P 5V6, and express your concern about this proposed study.

4. NAC welcomed the leadership role CUPW has played in its struggle to win paid maternity leave during the 1981 contract negotiations. The 17-week paid maternity leave agreement will pave the way for a new standard of contract settlements on parental rights. Parental rights will be a key issue in the 1980's. Childbearing is a public and social function, as well as a private choice. Canada recognized this social function when it signed the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women in Copenhagen last summer (1980).

Again, congratulations to CUPW and NAC encourages other employees who follow their lead and that of the public sector workers to win paid maternity leave at the bargaining table.



# Membership Committee

New groups welcomed into membership:

- Peterborough Rape Relief, Peterborough, Ont.
- Section on Women & Psychology of the Canadian Psychological Association, Downsview, Ont.
- Working Women's Education Committee, Halifax, N.S.
- Women of Halton Action Movement (WHAM), Oakville, Ont.
- YWCA of St. Catharines, Ont.
- YWCA of St. Thomas, Ont.
- Zonta Club of Halifax, N.S.

Member Groups : We are under-represented in domestic workers, immigrant women, native Indian women, younger women, non-urban women. Please contact and/or let us know of groups such as these in your area.

Please let us have the information re your LIAISON PERSON as soon as possible. (See May 1981 NAC MEMO.)

# Pensions Committee

The discussion paper prepared by the Pensions Committee was brought to the Executive for discussion. This paper represented the evolving views of the Pensions Committee and will continue to evolve through future discussions. There was not time to approve the total document and this will be continued further at another executive meeting.

The Pensions Committee in conjunction with local member groups confirms three regional pension seminars to be held across Canada as outlined below and is including the pension education program as part of the St. John's Mid-Year Meeting, October 23-26. An information kit - "All you ever wanted to know about pensions ....." will be available at the seminars and will be made more widely available. - read the next MEMO.

The seminars are funded through a contribution from the Jackman Foundation to the NAC Trust. The federal government also is making some funds available. At a meeting of women's groups held in Ottawa, September 18, they agreed to consider funding proposals for regional pensions seminars which reached a wide and representative audience.

PENSIONS SEMINARS:

TORONTO	October 17
CALGARY	November 28
WINNIPEG	January 23

# Finance Committee

NAC AUDITED STATEMENT

NAC has received its audited statement for the year 1980-81 (April 1, 1980 to March 31, 1981) from our chartered accountants Koster, Spinks and Koster. This statement is available on request to NAC member groups. It will also be available at the Annual General Meeting in March 1982.

The following information is supplied in order to clarify some misunderstandings about NAC's audited statement that arose at the 1981 Annual General Meeting.

The audited statement is always one year behind in being tabled at the Annual Meeting since the meeting occurs before the end of the fiscal year. There is also some lag time between fiscal year end and completion of the audit. However, an unaudited statement to the end of January or February 1982 will be available at the Annual Meeting (along with the audited statement for 1980-81). The audited statement for 1981-82 will then be tabled at the Annual Meeting in March 1983.



CHAIRPERSON - MARY-ANNE NIXON

The Justice Committee has been lobbying for the appointment of women to the bench. To this end we have made contacts with the media to publicize the forthcoming retirement of Mr. Justice Martland from the Supreme Court of Canada. It is seen as an imperative by the NAC Justice Committee that the next appointment to that Bench is a woman. There are four women who are clearly at the level to justify appointment to this bench. Any one of those four women would be more than acceptable for our purposes. We will continue to publicize this issue in the media and send letters and telegrams and make phone calls to the Minister of Justice and the Prime Minister to urge the appointment of a woman to this important position.

We are also going to make mention of the appointment of women to other levels of the judiciary and to important government positions, therefore;

- We sent the Hon. Flora Macdonald a telegram of support for her new appointment as the Shadow Cabinet Minister Responsible for the Status of Women.
- We are sending a letter of congratulations to Rita Cadieux to recognize her re-appointment to the Canadian Human Rights Commission.
- We are writing a letter to congratulate Madame Justice Joanne Veil for her recent appointment to the Alberta Queen's Bench.
- We are also sending a letter to Roy McMurtry, Attorney-General of Ontario condemning him for his appointment of a male real estate lawyer over a more qualified female family law practitioner to the the Thunder Bay Family Court.

We will attempt to continue this pattern of monitoring the appointments to the bench, commissions, etc.

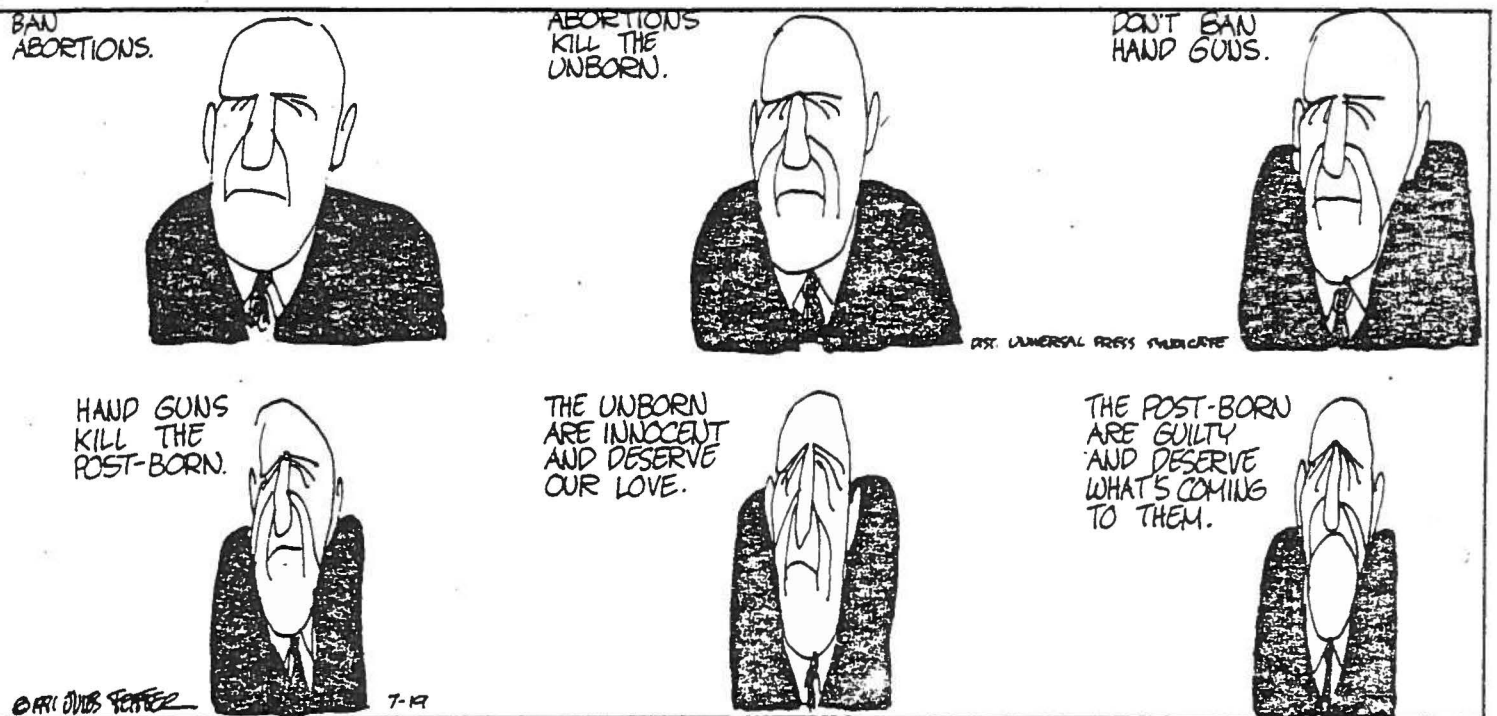
### Sexual Assault;

The Sexual Assault Bill is still tabled pending the return of Parliament to Ottawa. There is a good possibility that Parliament will meet solely to discuss the Constitutional decision from the Supreme Court of Canada. They may then dissolve this session. If this happens, all the Bills that have currently only made it to first reading will be permanently defeated and will then have to be re-drafted and brought back for first reading. If this happens we may lose the progress already achieved on Bill C-53. We have, however, been advised by sources in the Federal Department of Justice that if all three parties consent, Bills can be passed en bloc through second reading and there is a good possibility that this may happen. We must therefore, direct our lobbying activities to the three government house leaders to cooperate and pass the Bill without any further discussion. The Bill can be discussed at the Committee stage which is the stage at which we wish to have input.

**ACTION** - Please continue to lobby the P.M., the Minister of Justice and the three House Leaders for the passage of this Bill.

### Canadian Bar Association; (CBA)

After the CBA Conference in B.C. last month, there has been a back lash from women in the legal profession re the number of "sexist jokes" at the conference. We are, therefore, going to send a letter to the CBA criticizing this type of attitude in the profession.



**Native Indian Women**

Support the "Concerned Aboriginal Women".

For eight days in July this group of women occupied the Department of Indian Affairs (DIA) offices in Vancouver. They tried to negotiate and lobby to have three demands met;

- (1) a meeting with John Munro, Minister of Indian Affairs, in Vancouver.
- (2) the immediate dismissal of Fred Walchli as Director General of DIA in B.C.
- (3) a full and independent public inquiry into the activities of the DIA in B.C.

As yet, these demands have not been met.

Fifty-three of the people have been charged with willful mischief.

We urge you to send a support telegram or night-letter to:

- (1) John Munro, Minister of Indian Affairs  
Dept. of Indian & Northern Affairs  
21st floor, Terrasses de la Chaudiere, Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0H4
- (2) your local Member of Parliament
- (3) Fred Walchli's local DIA office, 700 W. Georgia St., Vancouver, B.C.
- (4) Write to the British Columbia Attorney General,  
Alan Williams, Parliament Building, Victoria, B.C.  
to the effect, "I/we support the Concerned Aboriginal Women in their struggle with Indian Affairs and with them demand charges be dropped. This occupation was not a criminal, but a political action.
- (5) Send copies of your letters to:  
The Concerned Aboriginal Women, c/o U.B.C.I.C.  
440 W. Hastings, Vancouver, B.C.



# Indian women keep status in three bands

Globe & Mail  
28/7/81

OTTAWA (UPC) — Women members of three Indian bands will be allowed to retain their native status when they marry non-Indians, the federal cabinet has ruled.

The precedent-setting move yesterday gives the Massett band in British Columbia and the Carcross and Carmacks bands in the Yukon exemptions from the discriminatory section of the Indian Act which stipulates that Indian women and their children automatically lose their Indian status upon marriage to a non-Indian.

Another 24 bands have requested similar exemptions.

Indian Affairs Minister John Munro opened the door to altering the Indian Act last year when he promised the cabinet would honor any request by a band for the exemptions.

Native women, female MPs and women's groups from across the country have been pressuring the federal government to change the act to ensure native women would be treated in the same way as native men.

Under the act, native men retain their native status and rights to live on reserves if they marry a non-Indian woman. Their wives and any children also assume full native status.

Under yesterday's exemptions, children of women from the three bands who marry non-Indians will become status Indians, but the status will not be extended to their spouses.

The changes will not be retroactive to women who have already married non-Indians.





# FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IGNORES CANADA'S CHILDREN

At the end of the International Year of the Child, 1979, the Canadian Commission published For Canada's Children, A National Agenda for Action. The Canadian Commission presented over 250 recommendations, aimed at federal, provincial and municipal governments. The Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs met in February and March of 1981, and has recently submitted a report. It will soon be two years since the end of the International Year of the Child, the government of Canada has two comprehensive reports in its hands, and yet there is still no organized initiative to respond to these reports and plans. These issues cross several ministerial jurisdictions and there is now no clear focus of responsibility for children's concerns in the federal government. Without a clearly responsible cross-ministries body charged with these issues, nothing can or will be done.

It is significant to compare the government's behaviour in other areas of cross-ministry concern. The Special Parliamentary Committee on the Disabled and the Handicapped published its first report in February 1981, and already the wheels of government have moved to the point where a comprehensive response to the needs of the disabled has been initiated. Why should it take three times as long to respond to the needs of children?

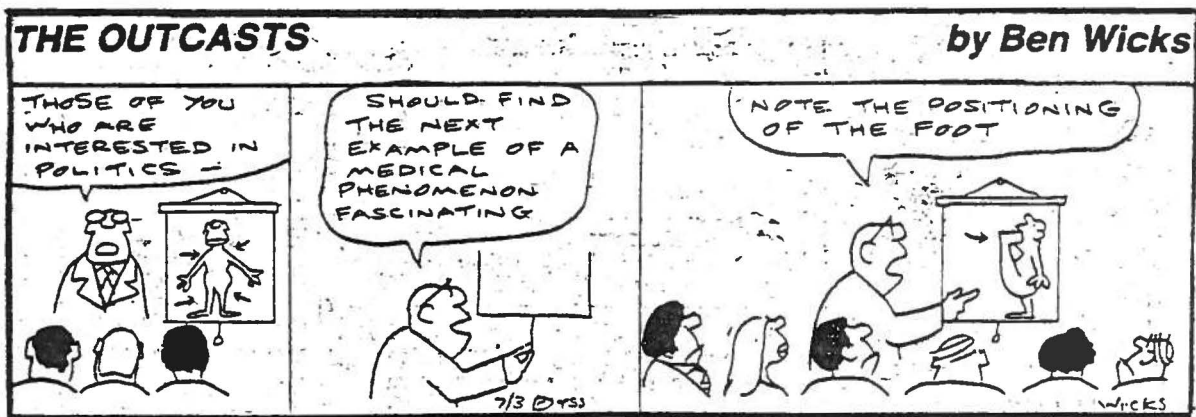
While the government delays, children grow up urgently in need of child care; better income support; respite care for their families; laws to protect against childnapping and traumatic divorce procedures; with a desperate need for better parental leave and safe working conditions for their parents, better communications policies for TV and advertising, and many other unmet needs.

We urge the government of Canada to initiate, without further delay, a comprehensive, federal government response to these two reports on the needs of Canada's children, and, as soon as possible, to give policy relating to children the high priority and formal organization it deserves.

\* \* \* \* \*

The National Action Committee has sent the letter printed above to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Health and Welfare. We urge our member groups to support us by sending letters and telegrams to the same people urging the government to designate a structure that will be responsible for dealing with this issue immediately. Without public pressure the government will ignore this issue and all the recommendations that have come out of three years of thought and work. Please make your views known to the Prime Minister and his Cabinet.

\* \* \* \* \*



# Federal/Provincial Fiscal Arrangements

The topic and title of this column looks technical and abstract. What does this have to do with us? A great deal! Did you know that the federal government currently spends about 13.4 billion dollars on post-secondary education and health care and other shared cost programmes? It gives this money to the provinces, who are supposed to spend it providing these services to their residents. The current agreement between the federal government and the provinces runs out in March 1982. It is about to be renegotiated, and the renegotiation will have a crucial impact on post-secondary education, health care and social services delivery throughout the provinces. The Parliamentary Task Force on Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements has released its report. The Task Force includes members of all parties. This is the first time that public consultation and active involvement of parliament (that is, all three parties) have been part of the process of negotiation on fiscal arrangements. The government of Canada is not required to do what the Task Force suggests.

Now the government (Prime Minister and the cabinet) will be deciding its position on the same issues. After it decides, it will negotiate the changes with the provinces. The services we need hang in the balance. What is at stake is the funding and control of: health, post-secondary education, childcare, rape crisis centres, transition houses, etc. Our concerns may well disappear during this process of consultation and negotiation. NAC is preparing strategies in response to this situation. We'll be putting them in MEMO, in stages, for you and your group to act on.

## Action 1

We have prepared a position paper in response to the Report of the Task Force which is available from the NAC Office. We suggest that you and your group express your concerns on both the provincial and the federal levels. In your province, write to your Premier. Send copies to the Ministers in charge of: Post-Secondary Education, Social Services, Health, Federal/Provincial Relations, Finance/Treasury. IF YOU WRITE THE LETTERS IN POINT FORM, THEY HAVE TO RESPOND TO EACH POINT. AND YOU CAN CALL THEM ON ANYTHING THEY DON'T RESPOND TO.

Here is a suggested format:

*"As a group concerned with women's issues, and particularly interested in \_\_\_\_\_ (whatever special focus your group has, e.g. battered women, rape crisis, childcare, counselling, etc.), we are watching the negotiations between (your province) and the federal government.*

*We support the Task Force Recommendations that:*

- 1) the Post Secondary and Health portions of the Established Programs Financing arrangements be separated into individual programs;*
- 2) that once allocated, federal EPF financing be earmarked for each program area and not for other purposes;*
- 3) that the present provisions of the EPF Act, 1977, respecting the health system be renewed essentially in their present forms;*
- 4) that the federal general support to Post-Secondary Education be continued;*
- 5) that any statute establishing Parliament's role in provincial social assistance programs continue to use a cost-sharing approach;*
- 6) that the Minister of National Health & Welfare have a Canada Assistance Plan manual compiled to include all guidelines, notes and administrative directives, and that the manual be made public with appropriate provision to respond to questions from the public on its application.*

*Whatever proportion of funding comes from the federal or provincial levels, we expect (your province) to supply these services, and we expect (your province) to negotiate with the federal government, knowing that we expect the integrity of these social services to be maintained and enhanced."*



**action 2**

Write a letter to the Prime Minister of Canada saying that:

- You have written to your provincial Premier and concerned Ministers and have said: (quote the letter)
- You expect the federal government to live up to its responsibility and national goal of helping provide comparable services across Canada, of making mobility a meaningful option for all Canadians across Canada
- You will be monitoring decisions of the cabinet with respect to Fiscal Re-arrangements with great interest
- Your concern is with the integrity and effectiveness of the services delivered, not with the mechanism and administrative means for financing them.
- You expect a substantive response to the points raised in your letter.

Send copies to:

- Hon. Monique Begin, Minister of Health & Welfare, Ottawa, K1A 0A6
- \* Hon. Jean Chretien, Minister of Justice, Ottawa, K1A 0A6
- Hon. Allan MacEachen, Minister of Finance, Ottawa, K1A 0A6
- Hon. Lloyd Axworthy, Minister of Employment & Immigration, Ottawa, K1A 0A6
- Mr. Herb Breau, Chairman, Parliamentary Task Force on Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements
- \* and Minister of State, Social Development

**action 3**

CALL THE OFFICE OF THE PREMIER OF YOUR PROVINCE to say that you have written a letter and expect a response.

**action 4**

If you are very rushed, send telegrams to:

- 1) Premier of your province
- 2) Prime Minister of Canada
- 3) Herb Breau, Chairman, Parliamentary Task Force on Fed-Prov Fiscal Arrangements

"WE SUPPORT THE PARLIAMENTARY TASK FORCE ON FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL FISCAL ARRANGEMENTS IN ITS RECOMMENDATIONS THAT EPF FUNDING BE MAINTAINED, AT CURRENT LEVELS AND WITH AN ESCALATOR. WILL MONITOR NEGOTIATIONS CLOSELY"

**future action**

The Task Force makes recommendations on some specific forms of Federal-Provincial co-operation. NAC's position paper addresses those. Our next MEMO will give specific lobby strategy to follow up on these issues. We intend to keep you informed and make specific suggestions in orderly stages.

**information ...**

Copies of the Report of the Task Force - "FISCAL FEDERALISM IN CANADA" - are available from: Ministry of Supply & Services, Place du Portage, Phase III, 11 Laurier Street, Hull, Quebec K1A 0S5.

The September issue of Perception, the magazine of the Canada Council on Social Development, deals with this issue and has interviewed people in every province on the topic of Fiscal Renegotiations. It is very useful and can be obtained from: CCSD, 55 Parkdale Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4G1

NAC's position paper, in response to the Task Force Recommendations, is available from the NAC Office.

## Fundraising Events

Does your group need money? It probably does. Most women's groups, like most women, are short on financial resources. NAC is a large organization comprised of 170 women's groups representing several million women, and NAC needs money, too. NAC is a large voice that speaks and is heard in Ottawa. Whether it is women's Outreach projects, sexual assault centres or status of women groups, NAC takes up the fight, takes up the issues and supports individual groups in their struggles as well as in the struggles we all share collectively.

At the last Annual General Meeting, NAC members voted approval of a motion to reduce NAC's reliance on government funding for its operating budget. The NAC executive has been directed by its membership, that is the 170 member groups, to aim for 75% self-sufficiency over the next three years.

A funding strategy designed to span several years is being planned. The first part of this plan includes the NAC fundraising week, October 12 - 18 with the "Two-Bit Campaign" theme. In addition to the "Two-Bit Campaign", we are asking NAC member groups to organize fundraising activities that will attract attention to the work of NAC, provide information about NAC, and be an opportunity for some fun and entertainment. In Toronto, for instance, a feminist walking tour of Toronto is being planned for Sunday, October 18 which is Person's Day, and the walk will be preceded by a breakfast sponsored by a member group. On October 17th NAC is holding a Pensions Seminar, to be followed by a wine-and-cheese reception. In Ottawa a brunch is being planned for Sunday, October 18 to celebrate the Persons' Case, as part of NAC's fundraising week. At this event, musical entertainment will be provided by NAC members.

Each member group and each Friend of NAC has been sent with this issue of MEMO several "Two-Bit Campaign" labels. These labels can be wrapped around and glued to coffee tins. These labelled tins can be placed in locations where contributions can be collected, such as in member groups' offices and centres, in supermarkets, or wherever you think would be a suitable location.

The "Two-Bit Campaign" is based on the idea that if every woman in Canada contributed just 25¢, we would collect several million dollars. Of course, we would suggest that you make the opening in the plastic top of the coffee can big enough to accept folding money, too. For large wads of bills, just take the top right off the can! Don't forget the wider community, either. We want to provide information about NAC and attract attention to NAC's work and collect money from the whole community, not just NAC members and Friends of NAC alone.

As the money is collected, please send cheques payable to the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, 40 St. Clair Ave. E. Suite 306, Toronto, Ontario M4T 1M9.

It is also suggested that NAC member groups join together in fundraising efforts. It makes the work load lighter, provides opportunities for closer contact between member groups and broadens our potential for reaching out into the wider community. If one group or individual is designated coordinator of the fundraising week or event, it will also make the task easier.

Please send us information about the activities and events you have planned as well as how you organized these events, and any ideas or suggestions we can pass along to other groups via MEMO.

If you have any questions, please contact the NAC office.

# U.S. opponents of abortion

By LESLIE BENNETTS

© New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Less than a year ago, anti-abortion leaders were exultant over what they saw as political triumphs in helping to elect a sympathetic president and members of Congress opposed to abortion. The future looked unexpectedly bright for the movement's ultimate goal of a constitutional amendment outlawing abortions.

Today, however, the movement is troubled, openly pessimistic about winning passage of such an amendment in the foreseeable future and divided over what other course to follow.

## 'Better get our act together'

"We are a movement in disarray, and we had better get our act together and restore our credibility, and do it fast, or we're going to be in real trouble," Paul Brown, executive director of the Life Amendment Political Action Committee, said in an interview. "Political reality has come home to the pro-life movement, and it has been totally unpleasant."

One of the movement's most unpleasant surprises has been President Reagan's refusal to give top priority to the fight against abortion. Anti-abortion leaders were dismayed at Reagan's early decision to de-emphasize social issues in favor of the economy, but the most bitter blow was his nomination for the Supreme Court of Judge Sandra Day O'Connor, who sometimes voted against anti-abortion interests in the Arizona Senate. Mr. Brown describes anti-abortion groups as "devastated" by the nomination.

At the moment, however, the movement's most pressing problem is seen as internal disunity.

With the approach of hearings scheduled for October by the Senate Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on the Constitution, anti-abortion leaders have been meeting with such congressional allies as Sen. Orrin G. Hatch (R, Utah), the subcommittee chairman, to work out a proposal that might unify the various anti-abortion groups.

Any such new course would represent a major change in strategy for the movement, which has long agreed that its objective is a "human life" amendment to the Constitution defining a fetus as a human being with full legal rights from the moment of conception.

## Prospect of getting amendment bleak

But the prospect of getting such an amendment through Congress remains bleak, and a growing number of activists now discuss seeking a constitutional amendment authorizing Congress and individual states to regulate abortion. Sen. Hatch is considering introducing such a measure, which would probably be a major topic in the October hearings.

Anti-abortion groups hope that those hearings will generate support rather than the unfavorable publicity set off by hearings last spring by the Senate Judiciary's Subcommittee on the Separation of Powers. Under the chairmanship of Sen. John P. East (R, N.C.), those hearings focused on the proposed human life bill, under

which Congress would declare human life to begin at conception.

Assailed as biased and unfair even by some opponents of abortion, the hearings also exposed sharp differences of opinion in the anti-abortion movement.

And although many leading opponents of abortion spent the summer trying to heal the division, the new session of Congress found the movement still split on strategy. Meanwhile, the movement's sympathizers on Capitol Hill wait with increasing exasperation for different groups to pull together behind one plan or another.

"It's very difficult to get a consensus in the right-to-life community behind anything besides the human life amendment, and that makes things very difficult for us up here," Sen. Hatch said in an interview.

The pro-choice forces, who say a woman has a right to choose to have an abortion, are watching the turmoil with cheerful interest. "The strategists in the right-to-life movement are trying to figure out what the hell to do," Jeannie Rosoff, president of the Alan Guttmacher Institute, said. Although this group is heartened by signs that the pro-choice group, which consistently shows up in polls as the majority, has begun to mobilize, most abortion-rights activists caution that it is premature to herald any decline in strength in the opposition.

## 'We don't have the votes to do it'

The basic problem for anti-abortion activists is the dim prospect for a constitutional ban on abortion despite the gains in the 1980 elections. "We just don't have the votes to do it," Sen. Hatch said. "We're in a quandary here, and right now we're just looking for another way to push the issue forward."

Whatever the merits of an alternative proposal, many leaders in the anti-abortion movement are also concerned lest a change in course be interpreted as an acknowledgement of failure on the primary objective. "Perception is what really counts, and we're very cautious of being perceived as changing strategies," Peter Gemma, executive director of the National Pro-life Political Action Committee, said in an interview. "We're not rethinking the goal, just the means to get there."

A recent memorandum circulated among anti-abortion leaders presents a stark assessment.

"It is no secret that in spite of better than expected results in the 1980 elections, many of the most experienced right-to-life leaders are far less optimistic about the possibility of passing and ratifying the ideal amendment in the foreseeable future than they care to admit in public," David O'Steen, co-director of the Committee for a Pro-Life Congress, wrote. "Some privately speak of 20 to 30 years being necessary to end abortion."

The memorandum went on to note: "In 1984 and 1986 right-to-lifers will be in a defensive position since the majority of senators facing re-election in both years will be pro-choice. The position can easily lead to a period of watching and waiting while the right-to-life political power begins to decline."

As more and more American women have abortions, at a rate currently estimated at 1.5 million a year, many

anti-abortion activists feel an increasing sense of urgency. "The longer abortion on demand continues unchecked, the more it becomes a custom, and the harder it will be to ever eradicate from our society," warned the O'Steen memorandum.

The idea of a "human life bill" was apparently a tacit acknowledgment that the human life amendment had reached an impasse. A bill would need only a majority vote in Congress to become law, whereas an amendment would require a two-thirds vote of Congress and ratification by 38 states.

However, the idea of having Congress legislate the issue of when life begins has divided congressional leaders. "I personally have real problems with that," said Sen. Hatch, who withdrew as co-chairman of the East hearings. "I question its constitutionality, first of all. Even if it were passed, it would be taken up to the Supreme Court, and you'd wait five years before the matter was decided. If the Supreme Court ruled it was unconstitutional, you would have wasted five years."

The human life bill was shelved after the East hearings, and many considered the proposal dead. But several organizations are now attempting to put together a coalition to support the bill.

Other groups are rallying behind a new proposal under study by Sen. Hatch's staff. Various labels include the "federal rights" amendment, the "federalist" amendment, or the "legislative authority" amendment, the proposal would consist of a constitutional amendment giving Congress and individual states joint jurisdiction over abortion, removing the judicial authority that has so angered the anti-abortion movement since the Supreme Court legalized abortion in 1973.

Whatever their reservations, anti-abortion leaders find great appeal in the idea of removing abortion from the jurisdiction of the courts.

Pro-choice groups place much of their hope in national poll results that consistently show a majority of Americans oppose a ban on abortion.



Appointment of Sandra Day O'Connor to Supreme Court dismayed anti-abortionists.

Globe & Mail Sept 14, 1981

pessimistic



# Happenings

## WOMEN & THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Ontario Conference & Regional Meeting  
of National Association of Women  
& the Law

Ottawa, Ontario  
October 16-18, 1981

Info: Ottawa Caucus  
57 Copernicus St  
Ottawa K1N 6N5



## NATIONAL CONFERENCE

# WOMEN & WORK in the 80's

*"A decade of change"*

CHATEAU LAKE LOUISE, LAKE LOUISE,  
ALBERTA      OCTOBER 9 - 12, 1981

Sponsor: Canadian Federation of  
Business & Professional Women's  
Clubs

Info: Ph: (403) 433-1555/439-7811

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* Deux Conferences a Toronto \*  
\* (Etudes de la Femme) \*  
\* \*  
\* L'Economie Politique du Sexe \*  
\* Dans L'Education A L'Intitut \*  
\* Ontarien pour les etudes sur \*  
\* l'Education due 26 au 30 \*  
\* Octobre 1981 \*  
\* \*  
\* Le theme central de la \*  
\* conference sera: \*  
\* CLASSE SOCIALE ET CASTE SEXUELLE: \*  
\* L'Experience Vecue \*  
\* Des exposes seront presentes \*  
\* concernant LA RELATION ENTRE \*  
\* FAMILLE, ECOLE, ET MARCHE DU \*  
\* TRAVAIL \*  
\* \*  
\* Tel: (416) 923-6641 x 287 \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

IN FACT TORONTO  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING\*

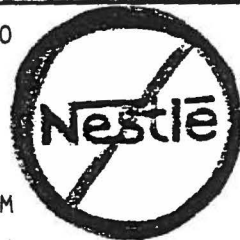
Friends' House, 60 Lowther

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6

7.30-10.00 PM

COFFEE & SANDWICHES 6.00 PM

\*Memberships available at door.



## PENSIONS CONFERENCE

MACSW/NAC will be co-sponsoring a regional pensions conference,  
January 22-23, 1982, in Winnipeg, Manitoba. KEEP THE DATE OPEN.  
Plan to attend. You have nothing to lose but future poverty!

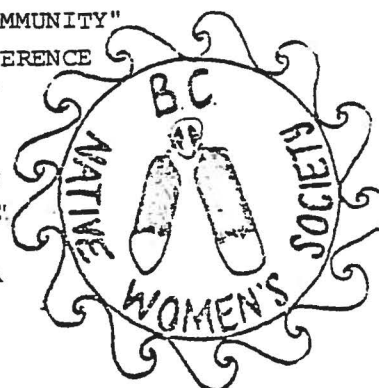
For information, please contact:

Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women  
209-388 Donald Street,  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 2J2  
Ph: (204) 942-2000

## PERSONS'DAY PERSONS'DAY PERSONS'DAY PERS

E O  
R As part of NAC's celebration of N  
S PERSONS' DAY, FRIENDS OF NAC is S  
O holding a fund-raising party : ' D  
S SAT. OCTOBER 17, 1981 A Y  
' 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. P  
D OAKHAM HOUSE P  
A (corner of Church & E  
Y Gould Sts., Toronto) R  
P ENTERTAINMENT S  
E \$10.00 admission includes hors' N  
R d'oeuvres & first glass of wine. S  
S ' O  
N Call NAC office (922-3246) to order D  
S tickets for yourself or to sell to A  
i your friends. Tickets also avail- Y  
D able at the door. Men are welcome. p  
AY PERSONS' DAY PERSONS'DAY PERSONS' DAY

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*"YOU, ME, OUR COMMUNITY"  
\* \*  
\*13TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
\* & LEGAL WORKSHOP  
\* \*  
\*OCT 15-18, 1981  
\* \*  
\*SIMON FRASER INN  
\*600 QUEBEC STREE'  
\*PRINCE GEORGE  
\*BRITISH COLUMBIA  
\* \*  
\*INFORMATION:  
\*(604) 374-9412  
\* \*  
\*\*\*\*\*



# THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF GENDER RELATIONS

The Ontario Institute for Studies in Education

TORONTO  
October 29 and 30, 1981  
10.00 am to 4.00 pm

Information: 923-6641 ext. 287

# WOMEN, POWER AND CONSCIOUSNESS

New College, University of Toronto

The Evening of October 30 to November 1, 1981

Information: M. Wilson 978-5404

## WORLD CONGRESS OF WOMEN

Prague, Czechoslovakia  
October 9 - 13, 1981

This meeting comes mid-way in the U.N. Decade for Women. For further information:

Congress of Canadian Women  
Box 188 Station E  
Toronto, Ontario M6H 4F2  
Ph: (416) 767-7330



## "PICNIC IN THE DRIFT"

Science meets Science-Fiction. New Medium. Nuclear Message.

Harbourfront's Ice House,  
Toronto, Nov. 3-22

Contact: Rina Fraticelli  
968-3084  
Jane Farrow  
596-0921

### REMEMBER!

#### NAC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MARCH 12 - 14, 1982

HOLIDAY INN  
100 KENT ST.  
OTTAWA, ONT.

# What is happening to women in Canada?

The best way to find out is to subscribe to *Status of Women News*

**FLASH!**  
new issue  
October 1

We will keep you up-to-date on women and the law, pensions for women, women's housing co-ops, work-related day care, books about women, women and technology.

*Status of Women News* is a political magazine with articles, news stories, book reviews, and discussions of controversial issues. It is the official publication of The National Action Committee on The Status of Women.

### Subscription/Abonnement

RATE: \$8.00 for 4 issues	TARIF: \$8.00 pour 4 numéros
INSTITUTIONS: \$12.00	ORGANISMES: \$12.00
OVERSEAS and U.S.: \$15.00	OUTRE-MER ou ÉTATS-UNIS: \$15.00

One Year/un an \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Two Years/deux ans \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation/Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total/ Vous trouverez ci-inclus mon cheque pour le montant de \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Nom \_\_\_\_\_

Address/Adresse \_\_\_\_\_

City/Ville \_\_\_\_\_

Province \_\_\_\_\_ Code \_\_\_\_\_

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



# ... publications, films, etc...

\*\*\*\*\*

\* **W** WORKING WOMEN'S EDUCATION COLLECTIVE \* \* "CONVERSATIONS IN A CLINIC" \*  
 \* has published the proceedings of their \* \* by Helen Forelle \*  
 \* March 1981 Workshop, \* \* This book addresses the issue \*  
 \* "SEXUAL HARRASSMENT" \* \* of why women have abortions. \*  
 \* To receive your copy, please send a \* \* For further information, \*  
 \* donation to help with printing and \* \* write to: Helen Forelle, \*  
 \* C postage to: Marilyn Keddy, WWEC \* \* Helen Forelle, \*  
 \* 5534 Columbus Place \* \* P.O. Box 326 \*  
 \* Halifax, N.S. B3K 2G8 \* \* Harrisburg, S. Dakota 57032 \*  
 \* \*\*\*\*\*

"BY RULE OF THUMB" - a one-act play  
 - by Mary Giffin & Catherine Stewart




An exploration of wife assault using drama and humour.  
 What is it? How prevalent is it? How does society respond  
 to it? Why do women stay in abusive situations? Changes?

Available to schools & public groups - Toronto area  
 For information: (416) 656-6831 or (416) 961-2144

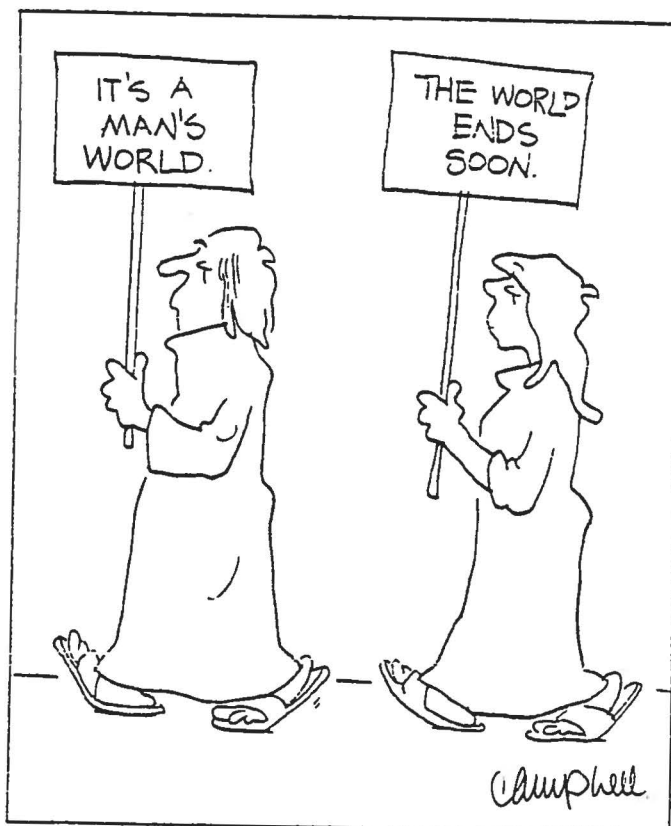
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10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1	<u>NON-SEXIST PLAYING CARDS</u>																				1
2	As mentioned previously in MEMO,																				2
3	non-sexist playing cards are																				3
4	available through executive members,																				4
5	regional representatives and members-																				5
6	at large or, by sending \$5.50 to the																				6
7	NAC office, 40 St. Clair Ave. E.																				7
8	Suite 306, Toronto, Ontario M4T 1M9.																				8
9	These cards are great stocking																				9
1	stuffers, prizes, party favours,																				10
2	and hostess gifts. No home or																				1
3	cottage should be without																				2
4	non-sexist playing cards.																				3
5																					4
6																					5
7																					6
8																					7
9																					8
10																					9
1																					10





"What do you mean, just a househusband?"



Clumpshell

# AND OTHER THINGS

-16-

## C H A N G I N G Y O U R A D D R E S S ?

Please don't miss your NAC information - advise STATUS, NAC MEMO, FRIENDS OF NAC - by sending us your new address.

## B U R E A U G O E S N O R T H

The Ontario Women's Bureau has opened its first satellite office outside Toronto in Thunder Bay, specifically to meet the needs of women in Northern Ontario. With an annual budget of \$65,000.00, Joy Fredorick, the new office's community development officer, and her assistant will help women in the North break into traditionally male occupations. Fredorick says the size of Northern Ontario and the distance between communities bring problems of isolation and difficulties in sharing educational resources.

## N A T I O N A L V O L U N T A R Y O R G A N I Z A T I O N S (NVO) BRIGID HAYES JOINS NVO AS COORDINATOR OF RESEARCH & PROJECTS:

Formerly National Facilitator for the National Association of Friendship Centres and Consultant to the Native Women's Association of Canada, Ms Hayes brings to the NVO coalition five years of experience in community organization & voluntary sector leadership.

Contact her at: NVO Secretariat,  
700-71 Bank St. Ottawa, Ont. K1P 5N2 (613) 238-4079

## S E Q U E L T O " C O N V E R S A T I O N S I N A C L I N I C "

Helen Forelle, author, is planning a sequel to her first book and will record the thoughts and emotions of women after they have had an abortion. Any woman who has had an abortion is invited to participate by writing their feelings or recording them on a cassette. Your identity is not needed and you are asked to omit it from your correspondence.

Contact her at: P.O. Box 326, Harrisburg, S. Dakota U.S.A. 57032

## A C T I O N T R A V A I L D E S F E M M E S

Action Travail des Femmes is a community based, autonomous women's group offering services and organizing around access to non-traditional blue collar jobs for women. For further information, please contact:

Action Travail des Femmes, 2515 Delisle, Montreal, Que. H3J 1K8  
Telephone: 514 932-4524

## O P P O R T U N I T Y F O R A D V A N C E M E N T (OFA)

An organization of sole support mothers on government assistance, offers a fall program in 7 locations in the Toronto area.

Free daytime group, weekly  
Free transportation  
Free childcare

Telephone: 245-4241 25 Poynter Dr. Weston, Ont. M9R 1K8

## M A T E R N I T Y L E A V E

Women across Canada want to say that we are very, very pleased with the 17 weeks of fully paid maternity leave contained within the tentative postal settlement.

We want to publicly thank the Canadian Union of Postal Workers for their leadership and perseverance on this issue.

Largely ignored by the media, a precedent has already been set in Quebec by public sector workers who have achieved 20 weeks fully paid maternity leave as well as 5 days paid paternity leave, 10 weeks paid adoptive leave, unpaid parental leave with accumulated seniority for either parent for up to 2 years and special leave where a job involves health risks to the pregnancy.

The National Action Committee sees parental rights as one of the key issues at the bargaining table in the 1980's. The interest has grown as women persist in their struggle for equality and as men take new responsibilities in child-raising.