

JANUARY 1985

MEMO

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ECONOMIC RIGHTS FOR WOMEN!! ! ACTION ! !

The First Minister's Conference to be held in Regina on Feb. 14, 1985 is an occasion for women to make themselves heard. The Premiers will be making important decisions about government spending. Provision must be made in provincial budgets to address our major concerns: allocations for day care, shelters for women, increased enforcement of equal pay, family planning clinics, etc.

The NAC Executive at its last meeting, set the following priorities for the next three months:

1. JOBS
2. UNIVERSALITY
3. CHOICES
4. PEACE



Stimulating our economy by more spending on the military and on the manufacture of weapons and other militaristic projects is a wasteful and immoral route. We want permanent, full-time jobs for women. Job creation programs are a necessary part of this. We want universality preserved and choices for women opened up, both in the realm of reproduction and job opportunities.

Let the Premiers know our concerns. Send telegrams to the Conference:

FIRST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE ON THE ECONOMY
 SASKATCHEWAN CENTRE OF THE ARTS
 REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN

PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO ADD YOUR SIGNATURE
 TO THE ENCLOSED OPEN LETTER
 TO THE PRIME MINISTER & THE PREMIERS
 (To be made public February 14, 1985)

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JOIN THE REAL MAJORITY

NAC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OPTIMISM:

AN INGREDIENT FOR SURVIVAL

You may ask, how can one possibly be optimistic in times like these? You could comment that only a pessimistic, cynical view is possible, "given the dire circumstances of our present world."

In the feminist movement many of us have struggled with one crisis after another on a multitude of issues, while at the same time attempting to make progress. Understandably this breeds discouragement, frustration, and depression.

There's so much to be done, but never enough woman power, time or money to do it, while overwhelming and growing forces in our society work to destroy all our efforts.

However, taking a pessimistic view robs us personally and collectively of a source of great energy, strength and power that is crucially needed to enable us to confront and endure the long and short-term struggles in which we are engaged. Attempting to bring about fundamental alterations in the attitudes and institutional structures of our society requires unity of focus and all our energies.

The prescription for the spreading imported disease, Reaganitis, is a strong dose of mutual support, confidence, optimism, humour, song and creativity.

We very urgently need to rekindle our sense of idealism while continuing to pursue diligently our collective goals objectives & strategies.

WE ARE THE REAL MAJORITY!
Our times demand increasing emphasis on the consolidating and sharing our feminist resources and a greater effort towards joining together in local, provincial and national coalitions. We're in a time of growth & personal, organizational & societal transition.

WE ARE THE REAL MAJORITY!
We must work together to change the current social and political tide!

WE ARE THE REAL MAJORITY!
Let's join to make our voices heard and our efforts more effective.

CARLETON UNIVERSITY - OTTAWA
May 10, 11, 12, 13 - 1985

The theme of this year's AGM is **WOMEN AND THE ECONOMY**. Cutbacks in social services, threats to universality, high unemployment, and increases in military spending - all such economic issues are women's issues. The AGM will include our **ECONOMIC SUMMIT** - a conference of women's groups from across the country that looks at the economic issues facing women.

But we need the participation of our member groups to succeed. Plan to send delegates in May. Details of the conference are still being worked out, but member groups should have the agenda and registration information by the end of February.

NAC LOBBY: During the federal election NAC led women's groups across the country in putting women's issues on the political agenda. Let's make sure we pursue that agenda when we follow through with the annual NAC LOBBY of the three political parties on Parliament Hill. This has always been a highlight of the AGM, and as always it is important to have as many people there as we can.

PLAN TO ATTEND THE NAC LOBBY ON THE MORNING OF MAY 13TH.
Groups should plan to lobby their MPs while in Ottawa.

THE COSTS:

Registration fees: includes lunch Sat. & Sun, dinner Sat. evening & conference kit.

\$ 70 each for 1 delegate & 1 alternate from member groups in good standing

\$100 each for Friends of NAC & other observers

\$ 35 for one-day only - includes lunch, coffee breaks, conference kit

\$ 35 Sat. evening banquet/entertainment

In an effort to reach out to the community NAC is experimenting with offering a subsidized special conference registration fee of \$10 for students with valid ID cards or other persons on very limited income, but is NOT available for delegates or alternates from member groups, or fully employed observers.

ACCOMMODATION AT CARLETON:

Residence accommodation on campus will be available to all conference participants. To keep costs at a minimum, it will be without housekeeping (you will have to make your own bed).

Bed & Breakfast:

single \$21.45 per day
double \$17.50 per day each

A full package of material on the AGM including travel will be sent to groups by the end of February. If you have suggestions for workshops or other agenda items, please contact: Jennifer Keck

183 College St.
Sudbury Ont. P3C 4T9
(705) 673-5427 R. 675-1151 B.

A special attempt is being made to include a time and place for regional caucuses on the agenda. We will also try to have time available for specific groups to get together ie. transition house workers, etc. Please keep this in mind when making your plans to attend.

NOTICE OF ELECTIONS:

Under the NAC Constitution there are 22 on the Executive Committee who are: Immediate Past President, President, Vice-Presidents(3), Secretary, Treasurer, Members at Large(5) 10 regional representatives, one each from:

Northern B.C. & Yukon Terr.; South/Central B.C.; Alberta & NWT; Sask.; Man.; Southern Ont.; Northern Ont.; Que.; N.S.-N.B.-P.E.I.; Nfld. & Lab.

The next package of material to member groups will have the nomination forms for the NAC executive. Start thinking about new candidates now. Deadline for postmark April 21 or by hand, April 20

POLICY RESOLUTIONS & AMENDMENTS TO THE NAC CONSTITUTION:

Procedures were developed in 1983 to permit circulation of proposed policy changes so member organizations can have an opportunity to discuss resolutions in their groups and then come to the AGM able to speak on their behalf. Keep this in mind as there is now more responsibility on member groups to discuss issues to both formulate and respond to others' resolutions.

* Resolutions should further goals & objectives of NAC.

* Index of Policy Recommendations to be consulted for existing policy.

- * Resolutions to be double-spaced, legibly written or (preferably) typed on group's letterhead.
- * One resolution per page.

- * Each resolution must be signed by 2 officers, with addresses, bus/res phone #.
- * See Constitution of NAC, Revised March 1983, pg. 9, XIII Policy Resolutions.

- * Submitting groups can expect to be asked to take a role in implementing their resolution(s).

* There is a traditional limit of 3 proposals per org. **DEADLINE** for submission to NAC is postmark 65 days before AGM or **MARCH 6, 1985**

Resolutions will be circulated to member groups 30 days before the AGM.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS:

Refer for definition to XIII Policy Resolutions 4 as above - briefly, they refer to a matter that has arisen since the deadline for policy resolutions and require action before the next Exec. meeting. They can be forwarded as early as possible after the above deadlines for regular resolutions. The same format is required; **INCLUDE JUSTIFICATION FOR EMERGENCY STATUS.** Submission in both languages would be appreciated before or at the AGM.

PLEASE NOTE THESE DEADLINES FOR 1985

MEMBERSHIP FEES must be received by **FEBRUARY 28, 1985** for a group to be a member "in good standing", and - entitled to a voting/speaking delegate/alternate at the AGM; - entitled to submit nominations for the Exec.; - entitled to submit policy resolutions or amendments to the Constitution.

POLICY RESOLUTIONS;
Postmark **March 6, 1985**
By hand **March 11, 1985**

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS:
Postmark **March 6, 1985**
By hand **March 11, 1985**

NOMINATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: April 26, 1985
Written consent of nominee is required. A one-page biography is recommended.

PLAN TO ATTEND!

NAC'S REAL STRENGTH COMES FROM ITS MEMBERS. TOGETHER WE MAKE THE MOST INFLUENTIAL FEMINIST ORGANIZATION IN THE COUNTRY!!

LET'S MAKE THIS GATHERING THE BEST EVER!

**UNITED,
WOMEN HAVE
POWER**

YOU NAME IT.....

First things first. Let's welcome our newest members:

- NATIONAL HOUSEHOLD CAREERS CORP (Edmonton)
- VOICE OF WOMEN (Sherwood Park, Alberta)
- CANADIAN UNION OF POSTAL WORKERS (Edmonton Local)
- CAMPBELL RIVER AREA WOMEN'S CENTRE (Campbell River, BC)
- NORTHUMBERLAND/NEWCASTLE WOMEN TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (Bowmanville, Ont.)
- INDIA CANADA ASSOCIATION OF MONTREAL (Montreal)
- QUESNEL WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE (Quesnel, BC)
- LENNOXVILLE & DISTRICT WOMEN'S CENTRE (Lennoxville, Que.)
- WOMEN WORKING WITH IMMIGRANT WOMEN (Toronto)
- CORNWALL WOMEN'S NETWORK (Cornwall, Ont.)
- KIRBY HOUSE (St John's, Nfld.)
- NEWFOUNDLAND ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES (St John's)

Welcome to all!!

Please note that three other groups have been ratified pending receipt of further information.

At the Membership Committee meeting, concern was expressed over groups that were not ratified at this meeting and may thus lose both voting privileges and possible travel subsidies for the Annual General Meeting. The Executive voted for homologation; the membership chair will receive information on new groups, will consult with the Table Officers and the Executive will retroactively ratify these new groups at the March meeting. The absolute deadline for this process is March 1st.

And yes, the Committee still has plans for a Membership Directory. Unfortunately, it will be delayed until the next fiscal year due to lack of funds. **BUT PLEASE DON'T LET THIS DETER YOU FROM SENDING IN THOSE QUESTIONNAIRES!!**

See you soon!!

YOU NAME IT.....STOP.....

Join in the campaign to promote solidarity among Canadian women to advance women's rights.

NAC gives a united voice to a national network of women determined to be a stronger force in society. NAC seeks justice for women by articulating our concerns & pressing for initiatives & policies to achieve equal rights & status for all Canadian women.

JOIN US - Become a FRIEND OF NAC (an individual, non-voting member of NAC), get the news you need to be informed about women's issues across Canada (Subscribe to STATUS OF WOMEN NEWS & MEMO). **JOIN NAC!**

There are several ways you can participate in NAC:

1. Become a FRIEND OF NAC \$35.00/year (minimum) Subs to STATUS & MEMO included.
2. Subscribe to STATUS & MEMO \$19.95 (8 issues)
3. Give to NAC TRUST (Donations tax deductible & related to educational activities)
4. Give to NAC (Any amount welcome.)

Whatever option you select NAC welcomes & appreciates your support!

ATTENTION: NAC MEMBER GROUPS PLEASE INCLUDE THE ABOVE AD IN YOUR NEWSLETTERS & DISTRIBUTE COPIES AT YOUR CONFERENCES.

Growth and change are watchwords in the women's movement and the NAC office is no exception. In January of this year our long-time staff person (7 years would you believe!) Jan Port has returned home to New Zealand for a number of months. When she returns to Toronto she will go on to new challenges.

We are extremely sorry to lose Jan. It's very difficult for us to put into words the kind of time, effort and just plain guts that it takes to stay with an organization through its various growing pains. It is even more difficult to adequately express our gratitude, appreciation and love to a woman who helped sustain us all. Thank you very much Jan!!!

Our Toronto office staff now consists of Diana Bryden, Rhona Berenstein, Lynne Huneault and Maxine Hermolin. In Ottawa we have Marylou Murray and Pat Tobin. These women are the backbone of the NAC offices. When phoning or writing the NAC office remember that these women are working hard without adequate resources. If we try to remember this it will go a long way towards engendering mutual appreciation. Remember woman power: it's too valuable to waste!

-----Jon Leah Hopkins-----
Member at Large / B.C. Yukon

NAC

EXECUTIVE CHANGES

Good-bye Hello

BARBARA DORAN*****BONNIE JAMES
Regional Representative
Newfoundland/Labrador

BARBARA*****CAROL GORDON
MACDONALD
Member at Large from N.S. from Sask.

GOOD LUCK!

**A NEW EATON'S TRADITION
DIGNITY & RIGHTS
FOR WORKING WOMEN**

1500 workers, 80% of them women employed by the T. Eaton Co. in 6 stores in southern Ont. have been on legal strike since Nov. 30th. This is a fight for a first collective agreement and such basic contract provisions as seniority rights and grievance procedures, and above all, an end to policies of favoritism. This is the first strike at Eaton's in 115 years. The vast majority of the retail trade is a pink collar ghetto and a sector that needs extensive organization if women are to improve their lot, both as full-time and part-time workers. Approx. 2/3 of the workers at Eaton's are part-timers. A contract at Eaton's will be a victory for all working women.

-ACTION-ACTION-ACTION-ACTION-

We are asking for you to support the women on strike by not doing business with Eaton's at all. Send letters explaining why you are not shopping at Eaton's to store managers or to Frederik Eaton, Eaton Centre, Yonge & Dundas, Toronto, Ont. together with your cut-up account card if you happen to still have one.

-ACTION-ACTION-ACTION-ACTION-

BONNIE ROBICHAUD CASE

Thanks to those groups who have responded to our previous calls for action. Petitions are now being circulated to demand that the government enforce its own harassment policy. Please circulate a petition reading:

"We the undersigned demand that the government enforce its harassment policy in the case of Bonnie Robichaud."

The signed petitions are being collected by the Bonnie Robichaud Support Committee, 218 Terrace Lawn Drive North Bay, Ont. P1B 7B6

ACTION-ACTION-ACTION-ACTION

**ATTENTION: NAC MEMBER GROUPS
EQUAL PAY CASE**

Please send your letters to the Prime Minister & Atomic

Energy of Canada protesting the use of public funds and refusal to comply with equal pay for work of equal value legislation. There are 40 clerical employees affected and the CHRC made a proposal for a 70 cent/hour adjustment for the women. AECL a Crown Corp. is refusing to comply so please send letters with copies to us and/or the union involved.

Energy & Chemical Workers
Union
317 Adelaide St. S. #2
London, Ont. N5T 3L3
The case has now been sent to a Tribunal hearing.

**NATIVE WOMEN'S
COMMITTEE**

NAC sent a telegram to the Hon. David Crombie Jan. 14th, requesting a meeting regarding repeal of Section 12(1)(b) and reinstatement of non-status Indian women and their children. That meeting has been scheduled for Jan. 25th. Next MEMO will report results.

We urge you to continue to press the government to honour Mulroney's promise at the August debate.

-----Madeleine Parent-----
Chair-Native Women's Committee

**SURVIVAL
COMMITTEE**

Recent actions by NAC
and member groups
(messages, letters, etc.):

- **Deploing Defence Minister Coates' denigrating remarks about peace groups
- **Protesting the current cruise missile tests
- **Opposing increased military expenditures in comparison with cuts to social services, child care, etc.
- **Reporting the appointment of Betsy Carr of the Survival Committee to his Consultative Group by Ambassador for Disarmament Douglas Roche.

Upcoming

International Conferences,
Women's Day & other events
(Please refer to previous MEMO
for additional details.)

NAIROBI - NAC & national &
other women's groups have
received notification about
the End of the Decade Women's
Conference and Non-governmental
Organizations Forum

scheduled to take place in
Kenya in July. Status of
Women Canada is responsible
for the official Canadian
delegation and has submitted a
progress report on the current
status of women in Canada.
Secretary of State Women's
Programme will be assisting
financially to send a limited
number of representatives from
women's organizations to the
Forum. All women seeking to
attend the Forum have to
register with the Forum office
in Nairobi before March 31st,
whether as delegates or
individuals.

Further information from:

* United Nations Women's
Decade Nairobi Forum
Secretariat, 11th floor,
777 United Nations Plaza,
New York, N.Y. 10017

* Women's Programme,
Secretary of State,
Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0M5
* The Director, Kenya
Government Secretariat,
UN Conference on the End of
the Decade for Women,
P.O. Box 30939,
Nairobi, Kenya or from
Kenya Embassies, High
Commission.

* CIDA will also have
registration forms.

HALIFAX CONFERENCE:

Mount St. Vincent Univ.
June 5-9, 1985

"The Urgency for True Security
- Women's Alternatives for
Negotiating Peace"

Women's experience, skills
& techniques for resolving
problems without violence,
have seldom been used on the
international scene. We've
all developed some at home, at
work, in our communities. Can
they now be used effectively
and soon, to help lessen the
present threats to our
survival?

Lead-up mini conferences
and workshops are being
planned across the country to
prepare for Halifax, so that
Canadian women can participate
fully with overseas women who
will attend, and hope to visit
with groups before or after
the Conference. Every woman
has a stake in these meetings.
We need your help, experience
and ideas. Let us hear from
you.

Further information:

* Coalition of Canadian
Women's Groups,
International Peace Conf.
Room 9, Seton Annex
166 Bedford Hwy
Halifax, N.S. B3M 2T6

(902) 443-4450 x 313

A report from this conference
will go to Nairobi in July.

Additional contacts for info.
on regional workshops and
conferences: See previous NAC
MEMO or call NAC Survival
Committee or local NAC
contact:

Que. Susan deRosa
#1104-2021 Atwater Ave.
Montreal, Que. H3H 2P2
N.B. Kay Bedell
R.R. #1, Hatfield Point
Kings Co., N.B. E0G 2A0
N.S. Cathy Kneen
R.R. #3
Scotsburn, N.S. B0K 1R0
Ont. Martha Goodings
192 Macdonnell Ave.
Toronto, Ont. M6R 2A7
Alta. Doris Malcolm
3104 - 67th St.
Edmonton, Alta. T6K 1S1
B.C. Claire Perry
1710 Knox Rd.
Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1S3
or call YWCA
or Univ. Women's Club

Conferences planned include:

Vancouver, B.C. - March 2nd
Victoria, B.C. - May TBA
Moncton, N.B. - March 2nd
Fredericton, N.B. - Mar. 8-9
North York, Ont. - Mar. 25
Toronto, Ont. - Mar. 10

TORONTO & SOUTHERN ONTARIO
WORKSHOP

NAC Survival Committee is
co-sponsoring a one-day
workshop "Feminist Visions of
the Future: How to Love this
Planet" at Castle Frank High
School, March 10, 9:30-3:30.
(See previous MEMO). We are
hoping women outside Toronto
will join us and perhaps later
hold additional local work-
shops. Among those who will be
acting as resource & speakers
will be Grace Hartman, Marion
Dewar, Ann Swarbrick, Rosalie
Abella, Maude Barlow, Marilyn
Aarons, Ursula Franklin, Fiona
Nelson, Cynthia Wishart and
the Survival Committee.

This is part of the
International Women's Week
activities planned to take
place between March 2 - 10.
Others include Angela Davis at
Uoft Convocation Hall, films,
lectures, dances, marches etc.
Further info: (416) 535-8779
or NAC office.

**PORNOGRAPHY
COMMITTEE**

The Dec. Penthouse con-
tained, along with other
offensive material, a full-
colour layout of a Japanese
woman bound with ropes and
hung by her breasts from a
tree; trussed, naked, like a
roast, with a devil mask on;
lying apparently dead, on some
rocks, a rope from her ankle,
her genitalia presented to the
viewer.

Participants at 2 Montreal
conferences were invited to
protest to the Right Hon.
Perrin Beatty, Min. of Revenue
(Customs) and ask their local
law enforcement officials to
charge under Section 159 of
the Criminal Code, which deals
with distribution, rather than
simple sale.

The protest was very
successful. Official com-
plaints were lodged all across
the country by various groups.
In Nfld. the police chief and
officials of the Dept. of
Justice advised the distribu-
tor that the issue would
likely be charged if distribu-
ted. The issue was withdrawn.
Evening Telegram published an
editorial attack on NAC
vice-pres. Dorothy Inglis but
later published her moderate
well-reasoned rationale for
the action.

In the Maritimes the com-
plaints were laid under
Section 160 of the Criminal
Code and judicial hearings are
pending. The magazines were
taken off the shelves in PEI
and Nova Scotia at the distri-
butor's suggestion.

In Montreal there were 2
rallies and the Quebec
Attorney-General has announced
the laying of charges.

In Ont. PorNo organized a
rally with Susan Cole as one
of the speakers. Charges have
been laid in at least 3 areas
under Section 160, which makes
retailers responsible for what
they sell.

In Manitoba copies were
withdrawn, and charges laid.

In Alberta copies were
withdrawn after the Attorney-
General recommended withdrawal.
Charges were laid. Media
Watch and our regional rep.
did a great job of alerting
government ministers about the
issue, and subsequently
educating the public.
Congratulations to Trudy
Richardson & Julie LeGras.

In B.C. the magazine was
voluntarily withdrawn by one
major distributor, and much
later by the other (after all

copies sold?). No charges were laid, because no crime was committed according to the Regional Crown Counsel who also said that the police couldn't find copies, although police officers in three municipalities told complainants that they had picked up copies. At least one copy was forwarded to Sean Madigan, Regional Crown Counsel, unless the police officer is lying.

In the Yukon, the magazine was removed from sale, and the RCMP expressed concern.

RESULTS: Women were energized by having their concerns heard and acted upon. The public was educated about what was on the stands, about the hardening of the material in mass circulation magazines. They learned how to lay complaints and how hard it is to have charges laid. They learned about the inadequacy of the law. Community standards were made VERY CLEAR.

There was also public complaint about regulation of this hate propaganda, although only a few papers printed Penthouse International's swastika ad against the complaints.

The committee wishes to thank all the groups which cooperated in this action.

NAC's present position supports improvement of the Criminal Code provisions regulating the making, distribution and sale of pornography. The committee is working on further policy proposals.

A court case is underway in St. Johns, Nfld. following a complaint laid by the Citizens' Coalition Against Pornography concerning the Oct. issue of Swank. A full report will be given when the case is concluded.

The co-chairs were pleased to be able to attend the Metro Toronto meeting on Pornography and hear Mary Eberts speak of her experience on the Fraser Committee. It is important for member groups to let Justice Minister John Crosbie know that we want the report from this committee released as soon as possible.

* * * * *

The Pornography Committee has the following materials available:

1. A summary of NAC member groups' recommendations around the issues.
Write: Donna Stewart
2700 Maitland Ave.
North Vancouver, B.C.
V7N 2B3 (604) 986-9604
2. A discussion paper for the rationale of prior censorship.
3. "PORN FREE" display cards for store owners saying, "This store does not sell pornography because it is harmful to women and children...and degrading to us all." There will be a small charge, to be determined, to defray expenses.

WATCH FOR --

Man Alive's documentary Pornography the Double Message will be repeated Wed. Feb. 20 at 9:30 p.m. EST. The program will include for the first time the results of a special CBC survey on Canadian attitudes on the issue of pornography, sex and violence.

-----Donna Stewart-----
-----Dorothy Inglis-----

HEALTH COMMITTEE

CHOICE is an issue central to the women's movement. It is not an option for many women as birth control and abortion counselling/clinics are not equally available to all women in Canada.

We would all like to see a society where abortion is not a needed procedure. Unfortunately this society does not exist. Failproof birth control, good day care and social funding to provide a decent living standard are not available while women continue to suffer physical/mental abuse from their living companions, be raped, and suffer incest.

This ideal society becomes less attainable and the suffering of women grows as we all experience government cutbacks.

Drs. Morgentaler and Scott are trying to provide these services for women in Toronto. Ontario's Attorney-General Roy McMurtry is proceeding with 2 cases against these doctors. The province is appealing the acquittal given by a jury to

these men. At the same time the province is charging these doctors a second time for procuring a miscarriage. Both cases will probably go to court in March. Money must be raised for their Defence Fund. All donations are appreciated:
Pro-Choice Defence Fund
Box 935, Station Q
Toronto, Ont. M4T 2P1

-----Kit Holmwood-----

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

FAMILY LAW

Developments in this area in the last few months include:

On divorce reform:

Minister of Justice John Crosbie announced in November that he planned to introduce a divorce bill in the House of Commons before the end of March 1985. He said that the new legislation would reintroduce last year's no-fault divorce provisions but would otherwise contain "some improvements". NAC wrote to Mr. Crosbie reiterating our criticism of the maintenance criteria contained in last year's bill. All groups and individuals who wrote letters or briefs last year would be well advised to also send them to him as soon as possible.

On collection of maintenance payments:

Mr. Crosbie also repeated former Min. Mark MacGuigan's promises to open up federal data banks to help trace maintenance defaulters and to withhold federal cheques - such as income tax refund, unemployment benefits and pension payments - to pay these amounts.

When asked whether giving information from federal data banks would violate people's privacy, Crosbie answered that "Rights have to be balanced. There is a right to privacy... and there is a right for people to expect other people to meet their obligations."

Crosbie also said he hopes legislation effecting these changes will accompany the divorce bill mentioned above.

On provincial family property laws:

Divorce is federal, but the laws regulating property division upon divorce come under the jurisdiction of each provincial government.

The provinces with the worst laws are Ontario and P.E.I. In Ont. Attorney General Roy McMurtry has been promising reforms for 2 years now, but nothing concrete has yet surfaced. The forthcoming provincial election in that province provides a good occasion to pursue this issue.

The other developments have occurred in Sask., whose matrimonial property laws have so far been among the best in the country. Following protests by some men who don't like the fact that the law uses equality of contribution by both spouses as a starting point, the Sask. Law Reform Commission has recommended changes that would take back much of the gains women have won. For more information on the Sask. situation and what you can do about it, contact:

Palma Anderson, President
Sask. Action Committee on
the Status of Women (SAC)
242 Plainsview Ave.
Regina, Sask. S4S 6N1
(306) 586-5399

For a general overview of all the provincial laws that regulate couples' property and earnings during the marriage, after divorce and on death, get a free copy of Louise Dulude's latest report, entitled Love, Marriage & Money...An Analysis of Financial Relations Between the Spouses. This can be obtained by writing to:

Canadian Advisory Council
on the Status of Women
66 Slater St. 18th floor
Box 1541, Station B
Ottawa, Ont. K1P 5R5
(613) 992-4975

-----Louise Dulude-----

PENSIONS COMMITTEE

From the point of view of pension reform for women, the coming into office of the Conservatives is a small step forward. This is because the only difference in position between the Liberals and Conservatives on this issue is that the Conservatives support the personal coverage of homemakers under the Canada and Quebec Pension Plan while the Liberals have still not made up their minds about it.

The other good news for homemakers' pensions is a new national Decima poll showing

that in Sept. 1984, 81% of Canadians supported direct homemaker coverage under the Canada/Quebec Pension Plan. This showed a steady increase in support for that position, with all categories of Canadians being in favour of such a move. Particularly overwhelming were the levels of support expressed in Sask. (88% in favour), in Que. (87%) and among lower income and rural groups (84% and 85% respectively).

Because changes to the CPP require the approval of the larger provinces, the federal government cannot include homemakers in the CPP without the approval of Ont. and a few other provinces. This makes the Ont. election crucial, and women from that province are strongly encouraged to badger all candidates as much as possible about this issue.

* * *

UNIVERSALITY OF FAMILY ALLOWANCE & OLD AGE PENSION

On Dec. 17/84 NAC issued the following press release: The executive of NAC at its recent meeting in Toronto expressed its support for a re-examination of federal benefits for parents and senior citizens provided that all the monies saved are re-directed to low-income people.

"We have been calling for such a re-examination for many years", said NAC President Chaviva Hosek, adding that "the main focus of this re-arrangement must be the very costly tax exemptions whose benefits accrue mainly to high-income parents and seniors. The child tax exemption alone costs \$1.2 billion in lost revenues to the federal and provincial governments, with not a penny going to parents in need. The age exemption works the same way, giving higher-income seniors total benefits of \$350 million in 1984-85. These tax expenditures - and other related ones such as the pension income deduction - should be abolished and the monies thereby reallocated to increasing the other, fairer benefits that go to elderly people and parents."

In that respect NAC deplores the current attacks on benefits such as family allowances and the old age

pension. "The family allowance and the old age pension are the best ways of recognizing the contribution that parents and elderly people are making and have made to society", according to Louise Dulude, NAC vice-pres. and chairperson of its pensions and family benefits committee. She adds that "the old age pension is an essential building block of our pension system, and once the child tax exemption has been abolished, family allowances will be our only remaining fiscal measure to recognize the additional financial burden that must be borne by all parents."

Instead of talking of taxing back family allowances at a higher rate, NAC feels we should instead move toward making them completely tax-free (they are presently taxed in the hands of the parent who claims the child tax exemption for the same child). This would give all parents the same minimal amount, with low-income parents receiving substantial additional benefits through an enriched refundable child tax credit.

* * * * *

The positions described in that release are explained in greater detail in a 15-page discussion paper which is available without charge from the NAC office in Toronto.

* IMPORTANT NOTICE *
* The federal government *
* paper on Family Allowances *
* & Pensions was due *
* to come out on Jan 21/85. *
* Get a copy by writing to: *
* Hon. Michael Wilson *
* Minister of Finance *
* OR *
* Hon. Jake Epp, Minister *
* of National Health & Welfare *
* and REACT to it *
* as soon as possible! *
* *

-----Louise Dulude-----

NEWFOUNDLAND/ LABRADOR

Nov. 1984 was an eventful month for the women's movement in Nfld/Lab. The biggest event was a precedent-setting conference held at St. John's Nov. 16-19 in which all NAC member groups and several other women's groups participated. The first half of the weekend was spent considering the impact of the new constitution and Charter of Rights. On Sunday participant groups displayed samples of their publications, fund raising and PR items. Each group had prepared a background paper of one issue and proposed questions to be put to politicians at a NAC-style lobby of provincial political parties. These questions were refined and voted on by the entire group on Sunday and a lobby rehearsal followed.

Monday morning about 60 women went to Confederation Bldg. to meet MRAs from all 3 political parties. We did not get a large number of commitments from the politicians but everyone who participated had good reason to be proud. All the questioners and their back-ups showed themselves to be well-informed on their issues & very capable reps. of provincial women's concerns. The reaction of delegates, politicians and press was so positive it is hoped the lobby can become an annual event.

An opposition member of the House of Assembly scored some points with women sitting in the gallery after the lobby session by exposing a policy of the provincial Dept. of Social Services which gives jobs under their job creation scheme preferentially to the husband. The minister, Tom Hickey explained that in Nfld. men have traditionally been recognized as the "bread-winners" and his dept. has no intention of doing anything to change that. Dorothy Inglis engaged Mr. Hickey in a TV debate on the subject, but was not able to change his views.

The local Coal. Against Pornography was successful in having the provincial justice dept. keep the December issue of Penthouse out of the province. When this was hailed as a victory by coalition spokesperson Dorothy Inglis, the St. John's Evening Telegram responded with a scathing personal attack on

Dorothy herself. Many came quickly to the support of both Dorothy and the anti-porn movement and the paper made a half-hearted apology for the tone of the editorial. Dorothy later submitted a long and thoughtful response which must have made it clear to all just who was on the side of reason.

The Coal. for Equality continues to thrive. Many more organizations have joined and several additional NAC groups are considering membership. A statement of principles has been prepared with women's equality prominent among them.

Leaving Early, a report released in Nov. by a task force of educators, revealed that over 1/3 of Nfld. and Labrador children do not complete high school. Among girls who do not finish, 45% stated that pregnancy was a major reason for quitting. Planned Parenthood responded to the report by calling for more education and services to prevent unwanted pregnancies and help for those who become pregnant to enable them to continue school.

Two human rights cases involving sexual discrimination were in the news in Nov. A teacher who made a charge of sexual discrimination in hiring against a school board lost her case before the provincial HRC. The board passed her over in hiring a less-qualified male to join the all-male faculty of one of its high schools. A broadcaster dismissed from CBC on the grounds that her husband's business positions placed her in a conflict-of-interest will have a hearing by the federal HRC resumed in the new year.

-----Bonnie James-----

MARITIMES

PORNOGRAPHY: Maritime women were successful in having the December issue of Penthouse magazine removed from the retailers' shelves. Both the St. John News Co. and H.H. Marshall Ltd. recommended that store owners take them off the shelves in response to women's complaints.

Formal citizen's complaints have been laid under Sec. 160 of the Criminal Code, against the producer of the magazine, NOT the distributor! At a hearing, if a judge

decides the magazine is obscene, it can be taken to court. By January we should know the results.

With the present "community standard" assessment of pornography, it is extremely important for everyone to write to their own Attorney General to complain about the pornographic material on sale in their community.

Pornography has been a big issue in all provinces. Women have found their communities are interested and eager for information. NAC with Media Watch are tentatively planning a conference on the subject for the end of March. Anyone interested please contact:

Kit Holmwood (902) 455-8170 R.
(902) 424-8897 B.

CUTBACKS: The federal government's discussion of possible cuts in Family Allowance and UIC benefits has Maritimers concerned as many families rely on one or both of these benefits. Reductions will surely increase the number of women who find themselves barely able to survive.

PEACE: Halifax peace groups demonstrated when the Pentagon people came to discuss contracts with local businessmen. Of the many protesters, 14 were arrested. The Pentagon group and more importantly N.S. businessmen heard the message that attempts to link jobs with the U.S. war effort are unpopular here.

PROSTITUTION: The city of Halifax has decided to attack prostitution by posting a list of names on telephone poles. Only women's names appear: male clients or pimps were strangely missing.

The women, not the men face court charges for being a public nuisance and causing a disturbance.

DAY CARE: Quality day care is at a crisis point in N.B. To maintain standards the N.B. government will have to increase its flat rate grant from 30 cents/child/day to \$3/child and \$5/infant/day.

Very few families in N.B. receive full subsidy yet the amount paid to the centres is the lowest in Canada!!! With an average of \$4.41/hour, N.B. also claims the lowest day care wage!

People Concerned for Day

Care held a lobby on Dec.5/84 in Fredericton. You can still show your concern and support by contacting your MLA about day care &/or writing: People Concerned for Day Care Gens Preoccupes par les Services de Garderie, 38 Iroquois Avenue Oromocto, N.B. E2V 2A1

CHARTER OF RIGHTS: Any groups interested in holding a conference, showing and discussing films on the CHARTER OF RIGHTS coming into force in April 1985, or who wish to host any speakers, please contact me.

-----Kit Holmwood-----

QUEBEC

MIDWIFERY: The Quebec Federation of Nurses' Union at its General Council meeting recently called for recognition of midwifery as a means of promoting more natural methods of childbirth and of combatting the practice of over-subscribing medicine to expectant mothers. The nurses' union is presently monitoring the use of medicolegal kits for rape victims in Quebec hospitals. It appears that there are unsatisfactory aspects of the methods employed. The union is expected to state its position on the matter after investigation.

EQUAL VALUE: Scoring gains in the fight for equal value, the Confederation des Syndicats Nationaux (CSN or CNTU) negotiated a 7% general increase for secretaries in the primary and secondary schools (1200 persons) of Que. This 7% increase was negotiated separately and in addition to the terms of the decrees covering public-sector workers passed by the Que. Legislative Assembly less than 2 yrs. ago.

COMPENSATION FOR SEXUAL HARASSMENT: The Que. Workers' Compensation Board (QSST) awarded 5 weeks' compensation pay to a Valleyfield woman working in a chronic care home, who was off sick due to nervous tension resulting from sexual harassment. The 5 wks. pay represents the full compensation rate for the given period of absence due to occupational sickness or accident. The claim was first presented in Dec/83 and was

turned down. However, the award was granted in final appeal to the Board.

UIC GETTING TOUGH ON WOMEN: In fulfillment of federal government threats to get tough on UI claimants, the Commission cut off the benefits to Linda Goudreau of Montreal, age 32 & mother of 2 children. The reason given was that she was no longer available for work, due to her taking an English course at the YWCA for 12 hours a week, to improve her chances of finding secretarial work. It would have to happen to a woman! A UI rep. explained that she would have had to take a full-time course (25 hours) to qualify for benefits. Linda Goudreau who claims she had asked advice of another UI agent & who reported the time spent at school, is appealing the adverse ruling.

INDIAN STATUS FOR INDIAN WOMEN The Que. Native Women's Asso. at its recent convention in Val d'Or urged the federal government to fulfill Brian Mulroney's promise to adopt legislation reinstating Indian women who lost their status through marriage and their offspring to their birthright, including the right to return to their band reserve.

ON HIRING PRACTICES: Readers will recall that Action-Travail des femmes won an affirmative action award against CN before a tribunal of the Federal Human Rights Commission, an award which CN is now contesting before the courts. The federal government under pressure to have the Crown Corp. withdraw its contestation in the courts, decided instead to pay \$50,000 towards ATF court costs. Meanwhile ATF has found further evidence of discrimination by CN in its hiring of women in non-traditional jobs and is pursuing the case.

-----Madeleine Parent-----



SOUTHERN ONTARIO

WOMEN'S LOBBY COALITION: On Dec. 12, a newly formed Women's Lobby Coalition lobbied all 3 provincial caucuses asking questions about many areas of concern to women from choice to equal value and transition houses. Over 40 groups endorsed the action, and approx. 40 women attended. Representatives of different groups asked questions of most concern to their group. A summary of the questions & answers is currently being prepared. The coalition hopes to operate to keep women's issues alive in Ontario as we approach a provincial election.

Perhaps in response to the fact that the leadership candidates had not attended the lobby event, the Ont. Advisory Council on Women's Issues took the unprecedented step of taking a large ad out in the Globe & Mail to ask the leadership candidates for their position on women's issues. The responses are now available from the OACWI, 5th floor, Mowat Block 900 Bay St. Toronto, Ont. M7A 1L2, or by calling (416) 965-1111.

PORNOGRAPHY: A pornography consultation sponsored by Metro Action Committee on Public Violence against Women and Children, which is the implementation committee of the Metro Toronto Task Force on Public Violence Against Women & Children took place on Jan. 11-12.

EMPLOYMENT: Bill 141, the act to amend the Employment Standards Act has died on the order paper. People should continue to write to their MPP and the Min. of Labour, Russell Ramsay urging true equal value legislation to be introduced into the Ont. legislature next term rather than reviving this inadequate composite test legislation.

The Ontario Working Women had a residential workshop on working women's equality on Jan. 4-5-6. Their agenda was a full one, including participative and focus workshops on technology, labour law, part-time work, equal value, child care and strategy sessions. Arlene Mantle performed on Saturday night. The conference was very well attended and received.

-----Kathleen O'Neil-----

MANITOBA

PORNOGRAPHY: At the urging of the Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Woman (MACSW) the Winnipeg City Council has requested a ruling from their legal department on the citizen power to direct retail businesses on their display of merchandise. The merchandise in this case is pornography. The major focus for MACSW is grocery and convenience stores. Two convenience store chains have moved their adult magazines behind the counter; one major grocery chain, Super Value, displays such magazines at waist level, eye level for children.

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS: With the acquittal of Dr. Morgentaler came a barrage of anti-choice voices from Manitoba. Joe Borowski has been busy writing letters to public officials. He has mentioned the possibility that Morgentaler will be killed if his Winnipeg clinic is reopened. Several anti-choice groups have now publicly disassociated themselves from those statements. Pat Socnen, chair of Jury for Life, an ad hoc national anti-choice committee has announced that Manitoba will be the kick-off point for a national post card campaign demanding legal protection for fetuses. Her major concern seems to be that the jury which acquitted Morgentaler "was not representative of Canadians because church-goers were exempted from it." Man. Attorney-General Roland Penner has stated that prosecution of Morgentaler "is on hold" in Manitoba until there is a decision in the Ont. appeal.

HERizons magazine has become a major target of the anti-choice movement. The Catholic Women's League, along with other groups, has written HERizons' advertisers threatening to boycott them if they continue to advertise in HERizons. Joe Borowski has written to the P.M. demanding that federal grants be withdrawn from HERizons calling it an "anti-man", "anti-life", "cheap-thrashing abortion rag"

OUR TIME IS NOW! The Canadian Women's Music & Cultural Festival is incorporating as a non-profit, charitable organization and is looking for support through memberships. For more information contact:
20-161 Stafford St.
Winnipeg, Man. R3M 2W9
(204) 477-5478

MACSW has moved to:

#16-222 Osborne St. Winnipeg
(204) 453-3879
CHARTER OF RIGHTS COALITION:
MANITOBA has hired a lawyer to do an audit of a selected number of statutes. They are presently negotiating with the provincial government around a more extensive audit.

-----Jeri Bjornsen-----

ALBERTA/NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MEDICARE: Hospitals Min. Dave Russell announced Nov. 30 that doctors practicing in rural Alberta will be paid higher fees-up to the \$300,000 limit for an annual salary. Presently northern doctors gross about \$125,000 compared to \$103,000 for urban doctors.

The endless bureaucracy of paying overseas medical bills has resulted in Dave Russell announcing in the legislature that "it would be best for people to initially pay the costs themselves rather than be threatened with legal action".

The Alberta College of Physicians and Surgeons continues its tradition of secrecy and will not release the names of doctors disciplined by the College.

Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton has recently introduced a hospital birth program using nurse mid-wives to provide pre/post-natal care.

1983-84 has had an 11% increase of people seeking treatment for emotional disorders. This figure closely parallels the unemployment rate.

Young and elderly Albertans in need of speech or hearing therapy are encountering lengthy delays in service, or none at all. Patchiness of service and uneven distribution of the therapy programs as well as no services for residents of nursing homes, extended care facilities and auxiliary hospitals are all part of the reduction in health care services.

Dave Russell continues to charge Albertans with abusing our health care system.

Group pressure is mounting for the govt. to appoint a provincial medical ombudsman.

Alberta continues to pour millions of dollars into the construction of new hospitals. Another \$44 million was allocated from the Heritage Fund to the Health Science

Centre, bringing the total expended on this one facility to \$412 million. The building is now experiencing design and construction problems and blames cost over-runs on citizens who wanted "to get the very best".

Nursing home fees are going up - to cover the cost of physiotherapy programs which were discontinued by the government June 30, 1984.

At the Alberta Hospital Asso. annual meeting, the guest speaker Mavis Abram, past chair of a U.S. presidential commission on medical ethics, accused people of "a greed for life" and warned of the need for local jury-like bodies to be set up to decide who gets allocations of scarce medical resources.

Dave Russell praised Alberta hospitals for a \$19.3 million surplus in operating costs. Russell defended doctors' extra-billing as free enterprise and encouraged hospitals to impose user fees.

A new hospital under construction in Edmonton will be a pilot project in private management.

ABORTION: The battle rages on in Alberta. The only really new twist is one in which pregnancy centres are being planned. The following article bears careful reading:

PREGNANCY CENTRE LOATH TO ADMIT ANTI-ABORTION BIAS

Pro-life advocates are setting up a pregnancy crisis centre in Edmonton this week, but they don't want anyone to know they're against abortion.

Shirley-Ann Krause, dir. of the city's Emergency Pregnancy Service asked The Journal not to mention that the centre is sponsored by the Catholic Fdn. for Human Life.

"We can't say we're in opposition to abortion or we'll lose all our clients to Planned Parenthood," Krause says.

Although she admitted that the centre will counsel women to carry through with their pregnancies and will not do abortion referrals, Krause did not want The Journal to print that information.

"You don't have to give them the full facts," she says.

"We don't trick them. It's all legal."

Krause says the idea of the centre is to attract women

who believe they will receive an abortion referral and then convince them to have their babies.

She says 150 similar centres across the U.S. and B.C. have attained an 87% success rate in convincing women not to have an abortion.

A sidewalk counselling service will be set up later in front of hospitals and abortion referral agencies to intercept women going in for abortions and convince them to come to the centre for counselling.

Krause originally refused to tell The Journal any more about the centre unless the story was written her way but later explained how it will work.

"It will provide free pregnancy tests and abortion information, plus counselling and referral to where the girl can attain financial assistance," she said.

Women who are still unwilling to carry through with their pregnancies will be shown a film on abortion and the various stages of a baby's development. If a woman is still not convinced to have her baby she will be referred to a pro-life doctor.

Counselling will continue even if the woman goes ahead with the abortion, Krause says.

"Abortion is a very traumatic thing. Once they realize they've taken away a human life, they'll feel guilty the rest of their life," she says.

Krause vows that the centres will be set up across the street from every abortion clinic established by Dr. Henry Morgentaler.

The Edmonton Journal 27.11.84
Tom Barrett - Staff Writer

-----Trudy Richardson-----

SASKATCHEWAN

SASKATCHEWAN ACTION COMMITTEE (SAC) ACTIVITIES: 1985 will be International Youth Year. SAC is in the process of organizing a "Women & Work Youth Conference" in February.

In Dec. SAC presented a brief to the provincial government on the promises made & kept since taking office 2 years ago.

BRIEFS: SAC presented a brief to the Sask. Human Rights Comm. in response to the

SASKCOMP Affirm. Action Plan.

In Dec. a major brief was presented to the Sask. Cabinet Committee on the Status of Women. SAC board & members lobbied the Cabinet Committee on the issues of violence vs. women, employment related concerns such as affirmative action, equal pay for work of equal value and minimum wage; child care; welfare reform; education; and the proposed changes to the Matrimonial Property laws. In most cases the attitude of the government was one of relative indifference to the issues concerning Sask. women while on other issues, ignorance & hostility prevailed.

MATRIMONIAL PROPERTY:

In response to proposed changes contained within the Sask. Law Reform Comm.'s (LCR) review of the matrimonial property laws, SAC initiated a province-wide campaign to preserve the existing laws. A press conf. was held to release SAC's Matrimonial Property Info Kit which provides an historical analysis of legislation and judicial decisions in this area, outlines implications of the suggested reforms, and offers some lobby strategies. Approx 2000 of these kits were distributed in the province.

The LRC has refused to hold extensive hearings on the proposed changes, offering only 4-1/2 hours of hearing in Saskatoon. SAC will present a brief to those hearings. The only optimistic note to date is that Attorney-General Gary Lane stated that he favours the existing legislation and is unwilling to look favourably upon the LRC's proposed changes without the support of public reinforcement through extensive hearings.

BOARD MEETING:

SAC's board at their Nov. meeting adopted a strategy for the upcoming provincial election which will concentrate on these issues: child care, employment equity, and poverty incl. unemployment welfare reform, minimum wage & the working poor. It is hoped this strategy will attract more women to the organization & improve grass roots activity

PENTHOUSE: Complaints were laid in 6 Sask. centres. Preliminary hearings for Regina & Saskatoon distributors are set for early April.

CHARTER OF RIGHTS: SAC organized a meeting of various women's groups to discuss the Charter of Rights equality provisions from a Sask. perspective. Featured speaker was Dr. Sally Shrofel, a past Man. Human Rights Commissioner & former chair of the MACSW & former NAC exec. member.

YOUNG WOMEN'S PROJECT: A press conf. in mid-Dec. publicly launched SAC's Outreach to Young Women. SAC hired a coordinator to travel the province to speak to young women about employment issues. This outreach work will be followed by a Feb. conf. on the issues organized by SAC's Youth Committee.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST POLICE: SAC participated in a coalition of concerned community groups that met with the Regina Board of Police Commissioners to demand an improved mechanism for handling complaints vs police. This action followed a case where a young native woman was charged with mischief after having complained of mistreatment by police.

REGINA AFFIRM. ACTION GROUP:

SAC has organized a group of interested women to combat Regina's affirm. action plan which is inadequate to meet women employees' needs.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY:

SAC is again participating in a coalition to plan celebrations & activities for the week leading up to IWD.

CHILD ABUSE CONF:

SAC's biennial meeting, Apr.12-13, features a conf. on child abuse.

FUNDING:

SAC has submitted its 85-86 funding request to Sec. of State Women's Program which this year includes plans to open an office in Saskatoon.

INFORMATION & OUTREACH PROJECT

SAC has secured funds to hire a team to prepare info. sheets & kits on a variety of women's issues. These packages will contain current Sask. info. on the issues, will catalogue resources & suggest advocacy measures. They will be available to other women's groups & the public, & should aid in prov. election strategy and generally raise awareness.

-----Palma Little-----

SOUTH-CENTRAL B.C.

HUMAN RIGHTS: The new Human Rights Council rejected Andrea Field's complaint of sexual harassment vs. her former employer-restaurateur W. Veffing.

Chairman Jim Edgett ruled that there was no substantiating evidence except the complainant's word, even though written notes from Veffing were submitted. Edgett said that these would, "if taken out of context", substantiate the complaint. The context was established by Veffing's friends, who were not present at the time of the offences. They testified that Veffing was a very huggy person and wrote notes to everyone; so there was no specific harassment to Ms. Field.

The Vancouver Island Human Rights Coalition has started a trust fund for a court examination of the case, since there is no appeal process in the present HR Act in B.C.

Critics of the new B.C. legislation had argued that it reduced protection against sexual harassment and the outcome of this first case seems to substantiate their arguments. It was heartening to have women in Toronto organize the press conf. on behalf of their sisters in B.C.

A second human rights case involving sexual harassment of the woman has been settled in the complainant's favour.

CHARTER: The government has not made public the results of its internal audit, but has announced its intention to introduce an omnibus bill to bring provincial legislation into line with the Charter of Rights. The B.C. Charter of Rights Coalition continues to educate interested groups around this issue.

PORNOGRAPHY: No charges were laid against the December penthouse. The Regional Crown Council said that "no crime had been committed", and that police couldn't find copies. But police officers in 3 jurisdictions have told us that they had forwarded copies to the Crown. The decision not to prosecute may have been made by the Regional Crown Council or the Criminal Justice Branch of the Attorney General's Dept. My telegram of enquiry to the Attorney General was not answered.

The judgment in a snuff video case is expected Dec 10.

The Periodical Review Bd. has rejected almost half the magazines submitted to it, and is already under pressure from the publishers & distributors to be more "realistic". "We didn't expect you to read them," said one distributor.

POVERTY: The United Way had a study of poverty done, and then withheld publication until the Min. of Human Resources had a chance to respond AND the United Way Campaign was over.

The United Way is trying to divest itself of its Social Planning & Research Council, which has done excellent local research that has sometimes reflected unfavourably on government policies.

MEDICARE: B.C. Medical Association may be an ally in the medicare debate. The Asso. is preparing a lobby on health care. They have also recently produced a report on provincial health education. The inadequacy of family life education is clear in the report.

EMPLOYMENT: Premier Bennett is desperate to reduce unemployment and is proposing free enterprise areas, where businesses will be free of the "restriction" of provincial labour and tax laws.

But B.C. women have their energy back. There have been demonstrations in front of some Eaton's stores to show solidarity with the striking workers in Ontario.

ECONOMIC/POLITICAL/LABOUR SCENE: In B.C. a number of women's organizations are coalescing in a B.C. action committee planning to work through NAC on federal issues and through their provincial umbrella group on provincial issues. They hope to be a broad-based non-partisan network group with the initial objectives of a stable funding base for women's services addressing the issue of the feminization of poverty in particular.

The organizing committee has already sent out an 8-page action package and initiated a boycott vs. Overwiten foods, a company controlled by Jim Pattison, whose name has been linked with the porn. issue.

B.C. continues to suffer

the effect of Reagonomics as applied by the Social Credit government: high unemployment, labour strife, social distress, cutbacks in education and human services.

120 members of the B.C. Nurses Union in 12 long-term care institutions are conducting "hit and run" strikes to get a contract. Their previous contract expired March 31, 1984. Issues are parity with nurses in acute care hospitals, equal treatment for graduate nurses, and maintenance of established shift patterns.

School trustees are protesting their loss of power and responsibility. Parents are protesting the elimination of programs, the increase in pupil/teacher ratios, the closing of schools, the reduction of opportunities in tertiary education.

WOMEN'S GROUPS: Nothing much has changed. We are continuing to have problems with stable funding and understaffing.

Several groups have projects on teens' needs. Battered Women's Support Services is working with pregnant teens and teenaged mothers. White Rock did a survey on needs of teenaged mothers and were dismayed to discover that the most popular career choice is airline stewardess.

Some groups are involved in research on the impact of technology on women's work and are relating to academics, union and church representatives to seek strategies for a more humane society.

----- Donna Stewart-----

NORTHERN B.C./ YUKON

NATIVE WOMEN: Yukon Status of Women Council met recently with Yukon Indian Women's Asso. to hear their position on Section 12(1)(b) of the Indian Act.

ABORTION: In late Jan. the Council is sponsoring a showing of Abortion Stories-North & South with the help of Joy Johnson, an animator from the National Film Board's Studio "D" in Montreal. Joy will also be discussing the film for a CBC radio program. YSWC has received monies from the Sec.

of State to produce a brochure on Human Rights which will be distributed to every household in the Yukon. Way to go, Status!

Abortion is a hot topic in Fort Nelson as it is elsewhere and a pro-life group has started to give the choice women some opposition that is keeping their lives interesting. Sigh!

MEDIA: Media Watch Yukon has just completed its portion of the national monitoring project of TV and Radio Programs for Sex Role Stereotyping. The info. compiled by Media Watch will be used in upcoming CRTC hearings.

EMPLOYMENT: In the Yukon the Canadian Congress for Learning Opportunities for Women CLOW is having a networking evening. They have been very active over the last year, but would like to have more Yukon women become active with CLOW. Their publication Yukon Women is available for \$2.00. The Yukon's last 2 mines United Keno Hill at Elsa-Keno and Cyprus Anvill at Faro are still causing grief. 14% of the workers of United Keno Hill have been laid off because of low silver prices and the steel workers at Faro are being asked to absorb a \$3.6 million reduction in costs. The workers contend that they won't be able to live in Faro with these kinds of cuts. The Yukon Territorial Government (YTG) had an open line program discussing the re-registration of all Yukoners in Yukon Health Care in which they pointed out that no Yukoner could be refused health care services because of non-payment of premiums. Nice to hear!

GEN'L NEWS: The Yukon NDP Women's Caucus decided it was time to have some fun recently and held a "dessert party". Their first meeting of the new year was with the Yukon Opposition leader Toni Pennikett who spoke on the topic of women candidates. The members of the Women's Caucus are very sorry to be losing one of their long-time sisters, Alison Reid.

The Women's Resource Centre Society of Terrace is hiring a new coordinator to replace Francis Birdsell.

There was a combined open house & farewell party for Francis at the Centre in Dec. A bright spot on the horizon is the additional hiring of a vocational rehabilitation coordinator who will be working with handicapped women in the community as well as with young women in the local secondary schools. This month the Centre is starting pro-choice counselling, info. and support available every Sat. Keep up the good work Terrace!

Chetwynd Women's Resource Centre is one of the groups coordinating the Northeastern Women's Conference to be held some time in 1985. Other programs and activities at the Centre include a women-only Alcoholics Anonymous group that meets there regularly, and an adult literacy program, "Literacy for People" starting soon. In the near future the Centre hopes to hold a basic computer workshop for its staff. Maybe they'll join The Amazon Network!

Fort St. John's Resource Centre is working on a self-defence program for teenage girls. Jane Gagnon said that one of the requests for such a program came from a 12-yr-old girl in the community. They are also starting a public info. series for women, addressing such topics as violence vs. women, sexual abuse of children, and legal issues such as employment rights & the responsibilities of unions. At their next monthly mtg. they will be hearing from the coordinator of Meope House - their transition home-on violence vs. women. Last but certainly not least, the women of Fort St. John's are doing research on pornography to find out what their community standards are.

Fort Nelson Women's Resource Centre is one of the coordinators of the B.C. Women's Centres' Conference being held May 2, 3, & 4 at the Richmond Inn in Vancouver. Info: Jean Trajk,

213 - 94 18th Avenue
Langley, B.C. V3B 7R2

On Feb. 2-3 there will be a meeting with the Fort St. John Sexual Assault Centre. They have succeeded in getting the CARE Kit in all the Fort Nelson schools. They are also doing legal advocacy and welfare rights work. Keep on keeping on, Fort Nelson!

The Victoria Faulkner

Women's Centre is planning "Women's Weekend" in Atlin as a mental health break for women. The theme this year is self esteem. The centre is continuing its film series with the focus being women's health & violence vs. women. In the later part of Jan. there will be a workshop on women & film with Joy Johnson of the NFB's Studio "D" in Montreal. International Women's Day will have the theme "The End of the Women's Decade, What have we accomplished".

Audrey Lougheed wishes success to all the regional groups and hopes to meet you all at the NAC 1985 AGM. If possible she asks that you all start considering your delegates & alternates and whether you need travel subsidies.

Chimo.

-----Jon Leah Hopkins-----
Member-at-large

ACTION....

CHOICE - CARAL

On November 9, 1984 the jury trying Dr. Morgentaler and his colleagues in Toronto returned its verdict - NOT GUILTY! This is the fourth time a jury has refused to convict Dr. Morgentaler. But this victory for the pro-choice movement is by no means a conclusive one. The verdict is under appeal, and new charges have already been laid vs. Drs. Morgentaler & Scott. The Toronto clinic remains open despite daily picketing by the anti-choice lobby.

The need for funds continues, with legal bills outstanding from the trial, and the appeal coming up. Many pro-choice groups across Canada have worked hard to raise money for this critical aspect of the struggle for reproductive freedom, and ads have recently appeared in the Globe and Mail and the Montreal Gazette. The response has been good but the donations will have to keep coming in if the fight is to go on.

Please send what you can to: PRO CHOICE DEFENCE FUND
Box 935, Station Q
Toronto, Ont. M4T 2P1

ACTION-ACTION-ACTION-ACTION

ACTION...ACTION... PUBLICATIONS

NFB - YOUNG CANADA TELEVISION
Children's & Youth TV Services

NFB's application for a children & youth TV service, to be reviewed at public hearings scheduled for Feb/85 was rejected. Please send letters to CRTC about the importance of a TV service for children & youth. Info: Maria DeRosa, NFB
150 Kent St. Ottawa K1A 0M9
Write:
CRTC-Att: Fernand Belisle
Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0N2

WIFE TAMERSSexist Souvenirs

Wooden mallets imprinted with words "Wife Tamer" for sale at Ontario's Pinery Provincial Park Shop. Write to have this item removed from shelves!!

- (1) Pinery Provincial Park
Souvenir Shop Manager
P.O. Box 490, R.R. #2
Grand Bend, Ont. N0M 1T0
- (2) Ontario Ministry of
Natural Resources
Whitney Block,
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ont. M7A 1W3

FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR WOMEN IN
CONFLICT WITH THE LAW

The Secretariat of the Solicitor General's Dept. has money for innovative projects which address the social and economic disadvantages of women who are or who may be in conflict with the law. Contacts:
Lorraine Casey (902)678-1684
Janice Russell-Quinn
(514)328-3214
Julia Hobson (613) 547-4318
Diane Wilkinson (604) 859-4841
Denis Bonthoux
Box 9223, Saskatoon, Sask.

A WOMAN'S PLACE IS IN THE
HOUSE OF COMMONS

Women now represent 9.5% of elected MPs in the House of Commons, occupying 27 of the 282 seats. The first woman elected to the House 63 years ago was Agnes Macphail. At this rate it will take 333 years to achieve parity in representation. The calculation projected in 1979 estimated the process would take 843 years - a plummet of 510 years!

-----Moira Armour-----
The Feminist Party

WOMEN IN TIME CALENDAR

The P.E.I. Women's History Project has produced a calendar featuring twelve notable women who contributed to the social, political, economic and cultural development of P.E.I. Available for \$10.00 from: PEI Women's History Project, Box 2271, Charlottetown, P.E.I. C1A 8B9

UNEMPLOYED FATHERS

The Social Planning Council of Metro Toronto has produced a study of the increasing number of families in which fathers of young children are unemployed while mothers are employed outside the home. Available for \$8.00
20% discount for SPC members: Social Planning Council of Metro Toronto, (416) 961-9831
185 Bloor St. E., 3rd Floor,
Toronto, Ont. M4W 3J3

THE ATTACK ON UNIVERSALITY

D. Bellemare & L. Poulin-Simon
The authors discuss the reduction of income security programs, the idea of a minimum guaranteed income program and its effect on poverty in this country. Available for \$8.00 from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives,
P.O. Box 4466, Stn. E,
Ottawa, Ont. K1S 5B4

PORNOGRAPHY PAPERS

Queen's Women's Centre is calling for papers on pornography from feminist groups. Critiques of current legal and psychological analyses, research on theory, data on effects and suggestions for legal reform. Send papers to:
Queen's Women's Centre,
Queen's University,
51 Queen's Cres.,
Kingston, Ont. K7L 3N6
(613) 547-2836

This MEMO produced by:
Rhona Berenstein, Diana
Bryden, Maxine Hermolin,
Lynne Huneault and current
& past members of the NAC
Executive.

PORNOGRAPHY BOOKLET

The Montreal Council of Women has produced, free of charge, a booklet on pornography as a human rights issue. Send \$1.00 for postage to:
The Montreal Council of Women,
1195 Sherbrooke St. W.,
Montreal, P.Q., H3C-3P3.

REPORT ON UNEMPLOYMENT

The Canadian Mental Health Asso. has published a two-volume report on unemployment. They have surveyed over 200 studies. Check your local libraries!!!

SEXUAL OFFENCES AGAINST
CHILDREN IN CANADA

Summary by Dr. Badgley of the Report of the Committee on Sexual Offences against Children & Youths, available from the Dept. of Justice,
Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0H8

MATRIMONIAL PROPERTY KIT
SASKATCHEWAN

Available from Saskatchewan Action Committee on the Status of Women (SAC) - identifies major concerns & suggests courses of action concerning implications of proposed changes. Write:
Palma Anderson, SAC President
2149 Albert St. Regina S4P 2R9

CRIAW-THE CANADIAN RESEARCH
INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT
OF WOMEN

Papers requested for a conference on Women: Social and Physical Isolation. CRIAW is encouraging a focus on the experience of rural and Native women. Send 1-page summary by February 28, 1985 to: CRIAW/ICRAF Program Cttee. Chair, Education 3088, College of Education, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0W0

CONFERENCES

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN AND THE LAW

The Impact of New Medical
Technologies on our Lives and
Freedoms, and
How can the Law Protect the
Reproductive Rights of Women?
February 21-25, 1985
NAWL 323 rue Chapel
Ottawa K1N 7Z2

WOMEN AND THE INVISIBLE ECONOMY

Simone de Beauvoir Institute
Concordia University
February 21, 22, 23, 1985
An interdisciplinary feminist
conference on women's unpaid
labour. More information:
Suzanne Peters, Conf. Coord.
1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.
Montreal, Que. H3G 1M9
(514) 879-8521/392-4584

CONFERENCE IN SOLIDARITY WITH WOMEN OF LATIN AMERICA & CARIBE

Organized by the Chilean
Women's Front, will be held in
Toronto on May 17, 18 & 19.
Information: Frente Femenino:
Oficina de Solidaridad con
Chile, P.O. Box 5730, Stn. A
Toronto, Ont. M5W 1P2

FEMINIST THEOLOGY READING WEEK

Organized by the Centre for
Christian Studies: Feb. 18-22
Registration info.: \$5.00 fee
Frances Otis-Nelson
77 Charles St. W.
Toronto, Ont. M5S 1K5

CONFERENCE ON N.B. WOMEN & THE CHARTER OF RIGHTS

Sat. March 2, 1985
This one-day conference will
be held at Centre
Communautaire Sainte-Anne,
715 Priestman St.
Fredericton, N.B. Info.:
Marianne Janowicz (506) 445-0513
Rosella Melanson (506) 388-9660
Shauna MacKenzie (506) 454-2266

WOMEN'S STATUS & HEALTH ISSUES

2-day conference March 1-2,
organized by the Ont. Advisory
Council on Women's Issues,
Office of the Deputy Premier.
Park Plaza Hotel - Toronto.
No registration fee.
Notify Lindsay DuBois if you
plan to attend. (416) 965-1111
5 Fl. Mowat Block, 900 Bay St.
Toronto, Ont. M7A 1L2

URGENCY FOR TRUE SECURITY- WOMEN'S ALTERNATIVES FOR NEGOTIATING PEACE

June 5-9, 1985
Coalition of Canadian women's
groups will be holding an
international peace conference
at Mount St. Vincent Univ.
Contact: Marion Kerans,
Seton Annex, Mount St. Vincent
Univ, Halifax, N.S.
(902) 443-4450

NDP WOMEN'S CAUCUS

February 22-23, 1985
Medical Sciences Bldg, U of T
Registration information:
c/o 47 Muriel Ave.
Toronto, Ont. M4J 2X8

DAYCARE CONFERENCE: OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Saturday February 9, 1985
9:15 a.m. - 15:00 p.m.
Toronto Board of Education,
155 College St. Information:
Daycare Coalition of Metro
Toronto, Barbara Lampert,
Toronto Board of Education,
885 Dundas St. E.,
Toronto M4M 1R4 Regis:\$10.00

WOMEN AT THE CROSSROADS

February 24/85 10:00 a.m.
Conf. by Ont. Women's Perspec-
tive Advisory Committee & Ont.
Women's Liberal Commission, on
end of the decade for women.
Toronto - Sheridan Centre
\$40/person \$30/student/senior
Info: Cathy Gapp 364-8200
Kathleen Sullivan 961-3800

TALES OF TRANSFORMATION: AN EXHIBITION OF SELF-PORTRAITURE

Anna Marie Smith & Ruthann
Tucker present their recent
photographic work.
February 6- March 2
Sparkes Gallery
1114 Queen St. W.
Toronto M6J 1H9
(416) 531-1243

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

MOUNT SAINT VINCENT UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

Mount St. Vincent Univ.
Board of Governors invites
applications, nominations &
enquiries. The appointee will
be expected to take office
July 1, 1985.

Position: Chief administrative
& academic officer of the
institution is responsible for
implementing policies estab-
lished by Bd. of Gov. & for
providing leadership &
direction for the university.

Qualifications: Strong commit-
ment to a liberal arts core;
university teaching exper.,
ability in admin., experience
in dealing with governments;
fiscal management; faculty,
student & community relations;
& attitudes compatible with
the character of a women's
univ. & its Catholic tradition

Applications & CV's
by March 15, 1985 to:
Dr. Susan Clark, Secretary
Presidential Search Committee
Mount Saint Vincent Univ.
166 Bedford Highway
Halifax, N.S. B3M 2J6

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Mount Saint Vincent University
Reporting to the Assistant
to the President, responsible
for recommending/implementing
programs to assist univ. in
developing its resources.

Innovative individual with
a drive & initiative to bring
national & international
support to Canada's only
women's university.

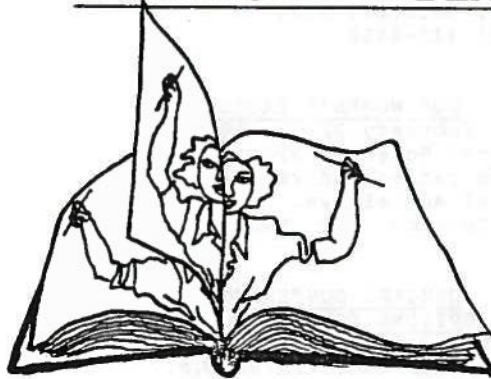
Exec. & managerial skills;
understand the work of a univ.
aimed at the higher education
of women. Exper. in dealing
with government and industry,
& fund raising.

Reply to:
The Search Committee (Dev.)
Mount Saint Vincent University
166 Bedford Highway
Halifax, N.S. B3M 2J6



KEEP IN TOUCH WITH
3,000,000 CANADIAN WOMEN

STATUS OF WOMEN NEWS
LA REVUE STATUT DE LA FEMME



SUBSCRIBE TO STATUS!

Subscribe to STATUS OF WOMEN NEWS, the official magazine of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women. NAC represents 320 women's groups from coast to coast with a total membership of 3,000,000 women.

P.S. If you want more than a magazine, you can become a FRIEND OF NAC. For \$35.00/yr. (minimum) you'll be an individual non-voting member and receive STATUS & MEMO too!

I WANT TO KEEP IN TOUCH

And there's only one way to keep on top of NAC's current issues and actions - STATUS OF WOMEN NEWS. In its 12th year as Canada's major feminist news magazine, STATUS OF WOMEN NEWS arrives at your door 8 times a year - brimming with in-depth articles on how Canadian women are organizing - and winning!, information and analysis on current issues, and news on women's culture. And it's completely bilingual.

Enclosed is my cheque/money order for:

STATUS OF WOMEN NEWS \$15.95
STATUS & MEMO: \$19.95
FRIEND OF NAC: (min) \$35.00

Name.....

Address.....

.....Code.....

Please check one:

New Renewal
Sub: Sub:

You get 8 issues for only \$15.95. And for an extra \$4 we'll include MEMO, a newsletter containing up-to-date news on the NAC executive and regional issues.

ATTENTION: MEMBER GROUPS
PLEASE INCLUDE THE ABOVE AD IN YOUR NEWSLETTERS & DISTRIBUTE COPIES AT YOUR CONFERENCES.
