



# MEMO

NATIONAL ACTION COMMITTEE  
on the status of women

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

Suite 306  
40 av. St-Claire est  
40 St. Clair Ave. E.  
Toronto M4T 1M9  
(416) 922-3245

PLAN  
TO ATTEND  
NAC'S ANNUAL  
GENERAL MEETING  
OTTAWA MARCH 16-19  
-THEME-  
'WOMEN MOBILIZING FOR POWER'

January 1984  
ISSN 0712-0312  
Sub: \$6 per year



MARCH 16-19, 1984

CHATEAU LAURIER HOTEL, OTTAWA

REGISTRATION FEE: \$80 (includes Sat. & Sun. Continental Breakfasts & Lunches, Saturday Banquet & Entertainment, Coffee & Juice Breaks and Conference Kit)

SAT. OR SUN. ONE DAY ONLY REGISTRATION FEE: \$25 (Includes Lunch & Coffee/Juice)

BANQUET & ENTERTAINMENT ONLY: \$35

OTTAWA SENIORS, STUDENTS AND UNEMPLOYED ONE-DAY REGISTRATION (NO FRILLS): \$10 (does not include food)

PLEASE PRE-REGISTER BY FEBRUARY 27

More information over....

## accommodation

Individuals are responsible for making their own hotel arrangements (Chateau Laurier Hotel reservation card is enclosed). If you wish to find a room-mate please request the Chateau Laurier to match you with another NAC registrant, indicating smoking or non-smoking. PLEASE NOTE: Accommodation costs must be borne by individuals. NAC has arranged special nightly rates at the Chateau Laurier as follows:

\$65 per room (single or double occupancy)

CALL TO OTTAWA WOMEN..... We have a number of women who would like billets. If you can open your home for a few nights, we'd be forever grateful. Please call the NAC Office collect if you have beds or floors, smoking or non-smoking. PLEASE CALL NOW (416) 922-3246 .....

NOTE: The hotel is holding a block of rooms until February 16. Please ensure that you reserve rooms NOW. You can always cancel.....

PLEASE SEE REGISTRATION FORM ..... BACK PAGE OF MEMO.....



1984

# Women Mobilizing for Power

Dear Friends:

Further to our November MEMO, we have sent AGM Registration Forms to our member groups, and here we wish to extend an invitation to representatives of non-member organizations, Friends of NAC and other individuals to join us in Ottawa as observers. Observers may participate in workshops, attend the business meeting, the Monday Lobby of Parliament and all social functions. However, ONLY MEMBER GROUPS are eligible to nominate candidates to the NAC Executive and vote on Policy.

1984

Our theme for this year's AGM is WOMEN MOBILIZING FOR POWER. We fully intend to concentrate on the power of the women's vote: how that translates into action, what strategies are needed, what new insights can be developed and where do we go from here? In our workshops we will be studying the kinds of action necessary to combat the evils of war, of unemployment, of pornography and of injustice. We will be outlining the measures that need to be taken so that ALL WOMEN have access to the best in health care, and we will be talking about the skills in education and training that must be available to women. But, throughout all our deliberations, we will be coming back to the main theme.

Over the last dozen years we have pretty well sorted out our priorities and found agreement between women from coast to coast on measures that must be taken. This year we are going to consolidate our gains and put our attention to the means that must be developed if we are to share in decision making.

While we are discussing the pragmatic and looking for the strategies for change, we will also be celebrating the fact that we are together. Women artists from across our wide and diverse country will be sharing in the celebration.

The Chateau Laurier Hotel has been newly decorated. The ballroom, where we will be holding our banquet on Saturday night, inspires us to suggest that any of you who enjoy the spectacular should feel free to come in costume, as Nellie McClung or any suffragette, as peasant or speaker of the house, in any dress that you wish. This, of course, is optional and meant only as a suggestion. Do bring a bathing suit (for after working hours).

It is extremely important that women attending the conference stay for the Lobby of Parliament on Monday morning, if they can, when we meet for an hour with each of the three main parties in the House of Commons. It is essential that as many of us as possible be there, but it is also an extremely important and interesting experience.

Please make our work easier by sending in your registration forms as soon as possible (see attached), February 27 at the latest, and making your own hotel reservations by February 15. Conference room space is limited, and we must give priority to our member delegates, but we are happy to welcome observers as space permits. Ensure that you register early.

Please send in the Special Requirements Form with your Registration if you need child care, billet, signers, volunteer assistance or any other needs we can help you with.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Ottawa and carving out the goals for women's achievement together.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Inglis/Moira Armour

Co-Chairs, 1983 NAC AGM Committee

## membership

We welcome the following new member groups:

ACTRA National Committee on Women's Issues, Toronto  
 Industrial Training Centre for Women of Sudbury Inc., Sudbury  
 National Association of Women & the Law, Queen's Caucus, Kingston  
 Notre Dame de Grâce (NDG) Women's Action, Montréal  
 Opportunity for Advancement, Toronto  
 Ottawa Greek Women's Association, Ottawa  
 Porn No Women, Toronto  
 Port Alberni Women's Resources Society, B.C.  
 Regroupement des garderies du Québec, Montréal  
 Women's Time Out, Deux Montagnes, Québec  
 YWCA Peterborough, Ontario

-----Jane Evans, Chair-----

## elections

The following members of the current Executive have announced their intention to seek nomination to the 1984-85 NAC Executive Committee.

Moira Armour	Toronto, Ontario
Lynn Beak	Thunder Bay, Ontario
Louise Dulude	Ottawa, Ontario
Jane Evans	Armstrong, B.C.
Jon Leah Hopkins	Whitehorse, Yukon Territories
Chaviva Hosek	Toronto, Ontario
Dorothy Inglis	St. John's, Newfoundland
Jennifer Keck	Sudbury, Ontario
Barbara MacDonald	Heatherton, N.S.
Kay Marshall	Ottawa, Ontario
Carole Wallace	Montreal, Quebec

## fed · provincial relations · funding

We appeared before the Macdonald Commission on December 7, and discussed the Funding of Social Services for Women in the context of current federal-provincial structures. There was a lively discussion on the funding of day care, which seems promising to us, and we were invited to continue participation at the next stage of deliberations of the Macdonald Commission.

On January 9, members of the NAC F-P Committee, together with representatives from the Metropolitan Toronto YWCA, the Ontario Committee on the Status of Women, and the Pink Ribbon Committee, met with the Honourable John Roberts to discuss the federal role and the funding of social services for women. John Roberts is in charge of Metro Toronto area MP's in relation to the next federal election. Our discussions went well and we consider this the beginning of our lobby on funding of social services in relation to the next federal election.

We encourage all member groups to lobby federal Members of Parliament in their constituencies NOW. The F-P Funding Kit is available from the NAC Office with all the information you need. If you have any questions call the Chair or any member of the F-P Committee.

-----Chaviva Hosek, Chair -----  
 Barbara MacDonald, Susan Lucy, Janina Vanderpost, Jon Leah Hopkins (Members)

## Health

In response to the proposed new Canada Health Act announced in January, NAC sent the following telegram to the Honourable Monique Begin:

"The National Action Committee on the Status of Women strongly supports the Five Basic Principles in the new Canada Health Act, but we are disappointed that it does not endorse Extended Health Care Services."

Ideally, the Act should contain a clear definition of comprehensiveness. It reads "Insured services include services which promote, conserve and restore health, preventiveness, injury and disability and provide supportive care when health is deteriorating". The definition should specifically include both preventative and curative health care, expanded health care including home care and other services such as basic dental care, prescription drugs, prosthetic and assistive devices.

The range of "authorized providers" for insured services should be expanded to include other appropriate health care workers such as nurses, counsellors health educators, social workers, psychologists, physiotherapists.

Expanding the range of authorized providers will result in expansion of the range of "authorized service settings" beyond hospitals and physicians' offices, e.g. to community health clinics, schools, homes and work places. So far in the new Canada Health Act there is no provision made and we are at a status quo.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO LOBBY AT ALL POLITICAL LEVELS.....

-----Madeleine Gilchrist, Chair-----

PROVINCIAL MEDICAL CARE & HOSPITAL PLANS

PROVINCES/ TERRITORIES	FINANCING (PREMIUMS) Monthly as of July/83	EXTRA-BILLING		HOSPITAL USER FEES
		MANNER	% OF DOCTORS	
British Columbia	Premiums Single - \$15.00 Couple - \$26.00 Family - \$32.00	opting- out (in theory)	none	As of Sept. 1/83: In-patients: \$6.50 per day Out-patients: \$10 per visit, Emergency \$ 8/ visit, Day Surgery Chronic Care: \$12.75/day
Alberta	Premiums Single - \$14.00 Family - \$26.00	balance- billing	50%	As of Jan. 1/84: In-patients: \$20.00 /day Out-patients: \$10.00 /day
Saskatchewan	Funded from taxes	extra- billing	30.7% (Mar/81)	Chronic Care & Nursing Home \$477.00 per month
Manitoba	Funded from taxes	opting- out	5.5%	Personal Care Home: \$12.70 per day
Ontario	Premiums Single - \$26.35 Family - \$56.70	opting- out	15.5%	Chronic Care & Rehab: \$15.36 per day (after 60-day initial exemption period)
Quebec	Funded from taxes and employer: 3% of payroll	opting- out completely	0.5%	Long-term care: \$15.71 per day
New Brunswick	Funded from taxes	extra- billing	13.7%	Hospital Care: \$6/visit to annual max. of \$60/person. Nursing Home Care: \$13.70 per day
Nova Scotia	Funded from taxes	balance- billing	51.8%	None
Prince Edward Island	Funded from taxes	extra- billing	5.8%	None
Newfoundland	Funded from taxes	opting- out	0.5%	Ward charge for first 15 days: \$5.00 per day
Yukon	Premiums Single: \$18.00 Family: \$25.00	opting- out (in theory)	None	None
Northwest Territories	Funded from taxes	opting- out (in theory)	None	None

This chart taken from a Report on Medicare to the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, July 1983, with up-dates on user fee information as of October 31st, 1983.

# survival

## KEEPING IN TOUCH

For the past four months, our committee has been contacting member groups to find out how they feel about survival issues and what their priorities are. We have been tabulating our findings and passing on information and requests to NAC's other committees, as well as putting members with similar interests in touch with each other. We have had a good reception, particularly from small and isolated groups whose response has been, "Great! Please call again." We will, certainly try to do so. We feel the human voice and contact gets a greater response than the printed word.

## ACTION FOR THE COMING MONTHS

Action on the following projects was approved at the NAC Executive Meeting on January 7, 1984:

International Women's Day: NAC endorses actions marking this day, March 8. Many member groups are busy planning activities which will highlight NAC's concerns, including peace and disarmament. (For Toronto member groups, the IWD Committee meets in the Metro Library, Yonge & Bloor, every Wednesday, 7.30pm.

Peace Petition Caravan Campaign: NAC Executive voted to support the objectives of this campaign and encourage participation in it. PPCC is organizing a conference of the Canadian Peace Movement, to take place in Winnipeg, February 2-5, 1984, to discuss future directions for the peace movement, and plans for the campaign. Information available from Manitoba Committee, 696 Westminister Avenue, Winnipeg R3G 1A2, or Ph: (204) 774-4664. (see more on Peace Caravan below...)

International Women's Peace Negotiating Conference: This has NAC's endorsement and support. Initiated by Voice of Women, it ties in with peace initiatives of the Prime Minister's Office, with possible financial support (mentioned in Speech from Throne). Watch for developments or contact VOW. Ph: (416) 922-2997.

## USEFUL READING

Politicians for Peace by Douglas Roche, M.P. New Canada Press, \$8.95. Some good ideas for lobbying; lists of "peaceful" politicians, statements and actions of Parliamentarians for World Order.

My Country is the Whole World, Cambridge Women's Peace Collective, Pandora Press, \$12.50. An anthology of women's writing from Sappho to Holly Near and Petra Kelly. Margaret Mead says: "Warfare is only an invention, not a biological necessity." Good for quotations.

## OTHER

On December 15 we sent the following telegram to the Canadian Mission to the United Nations: "The Survival Committee of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women strongly urges Canada support Mexican/Swedish Freeze Resolutions." (p.s. Canada voted against the Resolution)

OPERATION DISMANTLE would welcome financial help to appear before the Supreme Court, which distinguished lawyer Gordon Henderson has offered to plead himself. (Box 3887, Station C, Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4M5.....(613) 722-6001.

-----Ray Macpherson, Chair-----

### PETITION

- We ask that the Parliament of Canada act to refuse the testing of the Cruise missiles in Canada and to reject research, production, testing and transport of any nuclear weapons, their delivery systems or components in Canada.
- We ask that Canada be declared a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in accord with similar initiatives by other nations and become actively involved in working for the multilateral de-escalation of the arms race.
- We further ask that wasteful spending on the arms race be diverted to fund human needs so as to ensure prosperity through peace.
- Finally, we ask that the above-stated objectives be subject to ratification through a "free vote" in the Parliament of Canada.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Adresse \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nom \_\_\_\_\_ Code Postal \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to volunteer to help with the PEACE PETITION CARAVAN CAMPAIGN. Please send more information.

Here is my contribution of \_\_\_\_\_  
 \$10  \$15  \$25  \$50  \$100  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Check or money order — made payable to the PEACE PETITION CARAVAN CAMPAIGN  
 Visa  Mastercard Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry \_\_\_\_\_



PEACE PETITION CARAVAN  
 CAMPAIGN  
 600 BANK STREET  
 OTTAWA, ONTARIO K1S 3T6



## pensions

The big pension event of the last few months was the release of the Report of the Parliamentary Task Force on Pension Reform on December 15, 1983. Our overall assessment of it is that while its recommendations fall far short of our own (especially in rejecting the expansion of the Canada/Quebec Pension Plan), they are nevertheless much better for women than the federal government's positions as expressed in the Green Paper it released last year.

The main difference is that while the Green Paper was uniformly bad for women, the Task Force proposals would greatly improve the situation of the poorest among female pensioners, those who spent most of their lives as low-income earners or homemakers. The main ways in which this would be achieved are:

- by an immediate increase of \$102 a month in the Guaranteed Income Supplement for the elderly poor.
- by dropping out 25% of the lowest-earning years in calculating Canada/Quebec Plan benefits, instead of the present 15%.
- by giving direct pension coverage to homemakers, which would include spouses at home with or without young children, single parents with children aged less than 18 and other people caring for disabled relatives. This new coverage would be paid for mainly by the homemakers' spouses, with only low-income couples and single-parents being subsidized.

To ensure that these very positive aspects of the Task Force's proposals do not get lost in political squabbles, NAC has written to the relevant federal ministers (Monique Begin of Health and Welfare, and Marc Lalonde of Finance, with copies to Judy Erola and opposition leaders Brian Mulroney and Ed Broadbent) urging them to support the above-mentioned recommendations in the reaction statement the federal government must issue before April 15. We strongly encourage all our member groups as well as interested individuals to do the same, and enclose a copy of our letter to Begin and Lalonde with this memo for possible use as a model.

Free copies of the Parliamentary Task Force Report may be obtained from the office of its chairman at the following address (no stamps needed if you write):

Mr. Douglas Frith, M.P.  
Room 448-N, Centre Block, House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6 (Tel: 613-996-3357)

----- Louise Dulude, Chair -----

## midwifery

Eleanor Barrington is writing a book on Contemporary Midwifery in Canada... and is anxious to contact women who are practising Midwifery currently (or in the recent past) .... Please contact her as soon as possible at 141 Browning Avenue, Toronto M4K 1W4, Ph: (416) 461-3423.



## employment

The Committee appeared before the Macdonald Commission on December 7. We were not encouraged by the Commission's response to the concerns we raised regarding women's employment. Member groups should be watchful for the Commission's first report due later this winter to ensure that women's issues have been considered. Copies of the NAC brief are available by writing the NAC Office.

In December, the committee also met with Judge Rosalie Abella, Commissioner for the Inquiry on Equality in Employment. We are presently drafting a short brief that will be submitted to Judge Abella this month.

Finally, the committee made representation before the Ontario Provincial Legislative Committee hearings on Bill 141 - the proposed amendment to the Employment Standards Act. Our presentation again outlined concerns that the province was stalling in its refusal to introduce Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value legislation. The proposed "composite test amendment" will not provide comparison of "dissimilar" jobs. Transcripts of our presentation are available by contacting:

Standing Committee on Resources Development  
Employment Standards Amendment Act  
Queen's Park Legislature  
Toronto, Ontario (ask for Jan.9, Morning Sitting Transcript)

## A labour code for women

In the December 8 Throne Speech, the federal government unveiled proposed changes to the Canada Labour Code. WOMEN'S NEEDS WERE IGNORED. Instead of action to end discrimination against part-time workers, the federal Minister of Labour, André Ouellet, is proposing further consultations. Since 1979 the Liberal government in Ottawa has been consulting and promising. We need action NOW to legislate equal pay rates and proportional benefits for part-time workers, 75% of whom are women.

Also conspicuously absent from proposed amendments are provisions to require more frequent rest periods for workers using video display terminals. When questioned on this issue by a journalist from LA PRESSE, Mr. Ouellet responded that the existence of health problems has not been verified. If all the studies done have not convinced Mr. Ouellet, then perhaps he's listening more to employer groups than he is to Canadian women.

Since 1976 the NAC has been passing resolutions on part-time workers. Last year's AGM called for legislation to deal with health problems created by Video Display Terminals. The time has come to mount a grass-roots campaign. In a pre-election period when the Liberals are looking for issues which will make them more appealing than the opposition, concerted pressure can make the difference.

In December, NAC member groups were asked to send telegrams to Mr. Ouellet. We urge those who may have been missed to send their telegrams immediately, insisting on pro-rated wages and benefits for part-time workers and a restriction of 40 minutes per hour worked on VDT's. Send to:

The Honourable Andre Ouellet  
Minister of Labour  
Room 511 CB  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

The second phase of "A LABOUR CODE FOR WOMEN" is taking the form of a postcard campaign. We are printing 15,000 postcards which individual women can sign and mail to Mr. Ouellet at no cost. Groups or individuals who can participate in distributing these cards should call or write the NAC office to obtain cards. TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE SURE THAT OUR NEEDS ARE MET.

-----Jennifer Keck/Carole Wallace-----

## No More Commodore

Last summer the Ontario Human Rights Commission awarded six Latin American immigrant women \$21,500 in damages, lost wages and interest in support of charges of sexual harassment against their foreman at Commodore Business Machines Limited. At the hearing the women gave lengthy evidence of sexual harassment by the foreman, Rafael DeFilippis.

We thought the case marked a victory for all women workers -- But did it???? Commodore is now appealing the decision in Divisional Court, which means there is a "stay on the order". DeFilippis has not only not been reprimanded, but, following the decision, he was promoted to assistant manager at another Commodore plant.

The Ontario Federation of Business & Professional Women has called for a boycott of all Commodore products. The NAC Executive has voted in favour of supporting the boycott to protest the company's decision to support the foreman and appeal the decision of the inquiry.

### WHAT CAN YOUR GROUP DO???

1. Support the Women

- Invite them to meet your group, to talk about and publicize their case
- Write them and let them know of your group's support:

Monica Riutort, C/o Centro Para Gente de Habla Hispana/  
Centre for Spanish-Speaking Peoples  
582A College Street, Toronto, Ontario M6G 1B3  
Telephone: (416) 533-8545

2. Protest Commodore's continued violation of human rights

- Write letters to the editors of newspapers
- Write letters to the President of Commodore:

Mr. Alfred T. Duncan, President  
Commodore Business Machines Ltd  
3370 Pharmacy Avenue  
Scarborough, Ontario M1W 2K4

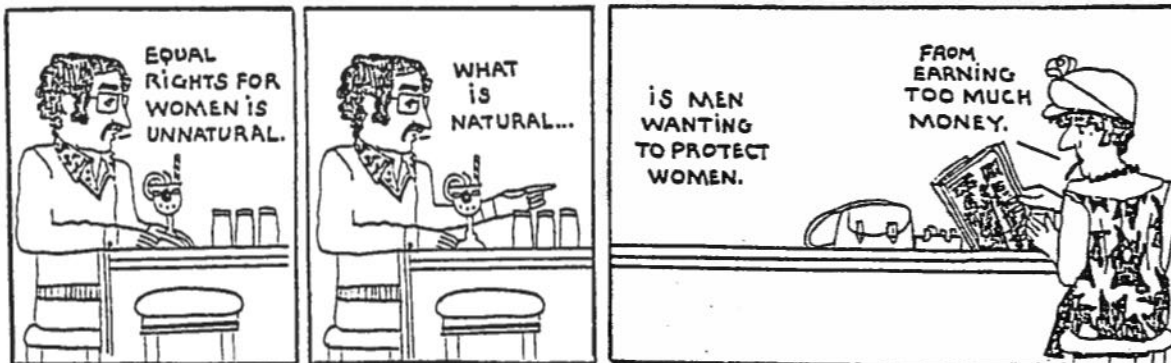
3. Inform Others

- Write about it in your newsletter or bulletin
- Talk about it with other women's and community organizations

THE TORONTO BOARD OF EDUCATION, ONE OF COMMODORE'S LARGEST CLIENTS, THREATENED TO BOYCOTT THE FIRM AND, AS A RESULT, COMMODORE HAS NOW AGREED TO TIGHTEN ITS SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY AND OFFER TRAINING AND INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR ITS EMPLOYEES ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT.

Let's make sure that they keep their word ... Let them know that the women of Canada will not let them get away with continued sexual harassment of their women workers.

NO MORE COMMODORE





## office affairs

At the 1983 Annual General Meeting, a motion that "the Head Office of NAC be moved from Toronto to Ottawa" was narrowly defeated by a tie vote. The following motion was then carried:

"That the incoming Executive proceed with the reorganization of a bilingual national office in Toronto and that the Ottawa presence be continued and extended, if deemed desirable, and that the next Annual General Meeting review the situation."

Update January 1984: During the past year, the Toronto Office has seen a restructuring of staff functions and a reorganization of the office layout to improve operations. A bilingual staff person (part-time) has been added and an Ottawa Liaison person has been hired.

For people who were not present at the 1983 NAC AGM, the arguments are set out as follows:

PROPOSED MOVE TO OTTAWA	
For	Against
Since NAC is a lobby group aimed at the federal government, it should be located in Ottawa where the action is	NAC's function is not only to lobby, but to act for and with member groups. Separation from Ottawa is often advantageous for better perspective of the issues
Only in Ottawa can we be really on top of changes in legislation, information, documents, etc.	Confusion in the minds of the public would be made worse by all status of women groups being situated in Ottawa, e.g. Status of Women Canada, CACSW, etc.)
Toronto is seen as an anglo city and as long as the NAC Head Office is located there, it will be impossible to recruit any large numbers of Quebec women	Ottawa sources outside the federal government are limited, e.g. population 300,000: 3 million (Toronto) on which to draw volunteers, expertise, head offices and other facilities
In Ottawa we have the whole of the National Press Gallery at hand	Media facilities are more extensive in Toronto, e.g. CBC, TV Ontario, French networks, CTV, Global, City TV, etc.
In Ottawa we have the possibility of sharing accommodation, computer, xerox, resources, etc., with other national women's organizations already located there, such as CRIAW, NAWL, etc.	The Ottawa atmosphere is a special government-centred and exclusive one where the rest of the provinces and regions are concerned.
Although we have an Ottawa Liaison person, it is costly to divide our small resources between two offices. We should consolidate	Poor weather conditions and air connections to Ottawa make it very difficult, particularly for rural and regional members, to attend meetings without losing time from work

## women & political consciousness

A December Gallup Poll shows that a gender gap has appeared in Canadian federal politics over the last year. The 14 point difference, which has opened up between men and women in reference to the Conservative Party, is even larger than the 10 point gap which has President Reagan so worried in the U.S. Here, then, are the voting intentions of men and women according to the most recent Gallup Poll.

<u>Voting Intention</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>
<u>Progressive Conservative</u>		
December 1983	46%	60%
January 1983	46%	51%
<u>Liberal</u>		
December 1983	34%	25%
January 1983	34%	27%
<u>NDP</u>		
December 1983	18%	13%
January 1983	19%	20%

## \$\$ FUNDING \$\$

Things are looking up at the Women's Program of Secretary of State!

Eighteen women's groups met in Ottawa on January 17th to hear from the Hon. Judy Erola and the Hon. Serge Joyal about increased funding for the Women's Program in Secretary of State. The groups also met Lyse Blanchard, the new Director of the Women's Program, members of her staff, and Doug Bowie, Under-Secretary of State.

Funding for the remainder of 1983-84 will be increased from \$3.4 million to 4.3 million, and for 1984-85 to \$10.3 million. Five chairs in Women's Studies are to be established at five Canadian universities with endowment grants of \$500,000 each -- one a year for the next five years.

New guidelines for submissions for funding were discussed with the hope that the process can be stream-lined, paper work can be cut down in the future, and that money will be available much faster and without the costly delays that have made it so difficult for groups to operate efficiently in the past. Subject to working out details with Treasury Board, funding will generally be in the form of grants for operational support for established on-going organizations and contributions will be for funding for specific projects.

The Women's Program will have an increase in both funds and staff. Lyse Blanchard, after only eleven days on the job, had a good grasp of the problems when she met with the eighteen women's groups on January 17. She has had long experience working with groups, both in CIDA and Status of Women. She plans to put out a booklet with guidelines on how to make submissions and wishes to set up regular consultations with groups. She asks for input from groups on how best to meet the needs of both these projects.

WRITE: Women's Program, Secretary of State, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0M5

Doris Anderson

## newfoundland/labrador

Cornerbrook opened its new Transition House in November and in Port-au-Basques a Women's Centre was opened in time for Christmas. Workshops on assertiveness training, leadership for women were held at several centres. Menopause has been discussed by various groups as the work of Planned Parenthood on this subject becomes more widely known. Cornerbrook takes the prize for the most spacious, beautiful women's centre in Canada, situated in an old court house with marble stairs.

Trinity Bay Women's Involvement Committee (WIN) have published a report of their one day forum on women and fish plant labour entitled "Trinity Bay South Women on the Move - Women Working for Women."

Grand Falls: Plans are in progress for a feasibility study of a transition house. Women in Central Newfoundland were responsible for three drug stores removing pornography from their shelves.

Pornography continues to gather interest from the public, and women's groups can take the credit for the four functioning coalitions against pornography operating at present. Rumour has it that a member visiting a hotel in Labrador methodically tore a pornographic magazine to bits while the astonished vendor called to the manager for help. Direct action is not unknown to the citizenry of this province. The coalition in St. John's held a press conference in November to show the press examples of material that is available and to present factual information. Ads were placed in the local paper over the holiday season stating that Adult Stag Films were degrading to men and women. A public meeting in Port-au-Basques and others with high school audiences stirred interest in the subject of Pornography.

Newfoundland is the only province in Canada that has a Midwifery Act. "Chapter 235, An Act Respecting the Practice of Midwifery" has been on the books for many years.

A full week of visits is planned by the NAC rep to Labrador City, Happy Valley, Goose Bay, Sheshashit, Rigolet and Nain at the end of January. Rep will also appear before the broadcasting committee and the Fraser Commission on Pornography and Prostitution.

-----Dorothy Inglis-----

## bc/yukon

Native women are working on a paper on Indian Self Government and on Section 12(1)(b) of the Indian Act.

Media Watch is most concerned at the recent non-ruling by the CRTC on Pay-TV content. Maude Barlow and Sylvia Spring will speak at a fundraising dinner for Media Watch on January 17.

Fernie Women's Drop-In has prepared a lobby package on how to get more and better funding (see Publications Section). The women's centre in Golden is now three years old, and they have been running programs on family law, community programs, etc., alternate weekends. The Okanagan Women's Coalition lost four staff in November due to funding difficulties. They have managed to keep their resource centres open and their newsletter is being done by volunteers. Williams Lake is doing fundraising and using more volunteer help. They are working with the local cable station on a series on Health, which will then be programmed to the community.

The Victoria Paulkner Women's Center is running winter programs and plan a women's weekend in March. An Ad Hoc Committee has been set up to work on a Yukon Territorial-wide workshop on possible services to combat wife battering. Delegates from all Yukon communities will attend.

-----Jon Leah Hopkins-----

## québec

On November 25, a coalition representing women, gays, and minorities met with Commissioners from the Quebec Human Rights Commission to present their demands for the reform of investigation procedures. The Commission has promised to consider the coalition's demands which include faster processing of complaints and the recognition, by the Quebec Commission, of basic rights guaranteed by the Quebec Charter of Human Rights. A response is due at the end of January.

NAC representatives are working hard this month and need to recruit new member groups from the Quebecois women's movement. Claire Harting from the Journal de Montreal will publish an in-depth interview with Louise Dulude on NAC's pension policy. The January issue of the Vie en Rose contains a half-page ad for NAC which invites interested women and groups to contact us.

And finally we are counting on our campaign around amendments to the Canada Labour Code to interest women's caucuses of unions in becoming members of NAC.

-----Carole Wallace-----

## toronto abortion clinic trial update

As a response to the federal government's actions as a participant in this trial, the following telegram was sent to Mark MacGuigan:

"Today, in the cross-examination of a defence witness in the abortion trial in Toronto, your lawyer, Mr. Pennington, declared that he wished to put evidence to the court about the sanctity of life. He then proceeded to question the witness about fetal development.

We are astonished at the tack the government is taking in this case. In Regina the government refused to come to the defence of women when fetal rights were being argued by Borowski. In Toronto the government is quick, however, to come to the defence of fetuses when women's rights are being argued. In Regina, the government's lawyer said he would not argue fetal development because it was irrelevant to the constitutional issue; in Toronto it has suddenly become relevant. Is the government merely hypocritical, or actively anti-choice?

(Signed) Norma Scarborough, President  
Canadian Abortion Rights Action League"

The trial resumes on January 18 to hear final arguments. Please watch for coverage in your local papers and let Mr. MacGuigan know how you feel about his department's treatment of women.

CARAL has been monitoring the trial and reports of the proceedings can be obtained by writing to: Canadian Abortion Rights Action League,  
40 St. Clair Avenue East, Suite 310, Toronto, Ontario M4T 1M9

REMEMBER THE PRO-CHOICE DEFENCE FUND

## announcements

ELIZABETH FRY SOCIETY OF TORONTO needs volunteers to help provide services to adult women who have been in trouble with the law: Visiting jails once a month, servicing on committees, helping out in office, etc. For information contact: Brenda Somers, 215 Wellesley Street East, Toronto M4X 1G1: Ph: 924-3708.

FREE INCOME TAX CLINIC for low income women (below \$14,000), one evening per week in March & April. Contact: Scarborough Women's Centre, Ph: 431-1138 (416) Other programs: Parenting, Well Women's Workshop, Self-help divorce groups, etc.

SISTERING, a drop-in centre for homeless women, desperately need donations, no matter how small to give small luxuries (not covered by government grants) such as clean towel, personal bar of soap, a hot bowl of soup to help restore a sense of dignity, self worth for these homeless women. Contact: Sistering, 707 Dundas Street West, Toronto M5T 2W6. Ph: 366-0001.

NORTH YORK WOMEN'S SHELTER, first in the area, hope to open in September 1984. Support has been received, but more is needed. They are a registered charitable non-profit organization. For information: Ph: Isabella Meltz, 663-2733(416)

ADOPTED WOMEN... Does anybody know of organizations who assist individuals to find their real parents. Carol Gordon, Cranbrook Women's Centre, 101-7th Ave S. Cranbrook, B.C. V1C 2J3, Ph: (604) 426-2912 has had an enquiry and would like to help. Please contact her.

VIOLENT IMAGES, ACTS & ATTITUDES, THEIR IMPACT ON WOMEN... The 1984 Annual Conference of the Canadian Forum: Association for Women in the Justice System. February 22-24, 1984, Parksville, B.C. For information: Contact Susie Walsh or Jean Lawrence (604) 228-9771, or Maureen Gold: (604) 876-5913.

WOMEN & SPIRITUALITY: An Interfaith Event for Women, Toronto March 28, 1984. For information contact: Christian-Jewish Dialogue of Toronto, 49 Front St East, Toronto, Ontario M5E 1B3

SEXUALITY '84: FEMALE SEXUALITY - THE FEMALE LIFE CYCLE, Guest Speaker: Kate Millett, February 23-24, Toronto. For information: (416) 675-5077.

TAKING THE INITIATIVE '84: For mature women students, York University, Toronto, March 3, 1984. For information Ph: 667-3561.

SEE CHINA in 1984 THROUGH WOMEN'S EYES: September 8 - October 1. From Vancouver \$3,793.00.. Information: Hilary Brown, Heron Rocks, Hornby Island VoR 120, or phone (604) 335-2460.

AND DON'T FORGET.....

MARCH 8 ..... PROBABLY  
TO BE CELEBRATED MARCH 10  
(SATURDAY) CHECK WITH THE  
WOMEN'S CENTRE IN YOUR  
REGION FOR PLANS.....

IN TORONTO, IWD COMMITTEE  
CAN BE CONTACTED THROUGH  
CAROLYN (416) 789-4541...

HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S  
DAY!!!

**International  
Women's Day**

## publications

HELPING OURSELVES: a handbook for women starting self-help groups. Available from Women's Counselling Referral & Education Centre (providing alternative mental health services for women), 348 College St, Toronto M5T 1S4. \$5.00.

THE WOMEN'S WORKBOOK: Patti Schom-Moffat & Cynthia Telfer. Information and strategies on issues Canadian women face in struggle for equality in the paid labour force, and based on a series of workshops held in Ottawa, 1981-82. \$10.95 +10% shipping & handling. 20% discount for 4, 40% 5+. Orders can be invoiced: Between the Lines, 427 Bloor Street West, Toronto M5S 1X7. 964-6560.

THE OPTIMST (The Voice of Yukon Women) Women's Newspaper: Sub \$3.00 (4/year). Order from: 302 Steele Street, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C5. (403) 667-4637.

UNEMPLOYMENT: ITS IMPACT ON BODY AND SOUL: Report on psychological, social and physical consequences of job loss moral/ethical issues of mass unemployment, and strategy suggestions for voluntary associations to combat the consequences. 128p. Available from: Mr. Michael Hauser, Canadian Mental Health Association, 2160 Yonge Street, 3rd Floor, Toronto M4S 2Z3. Ph: 484-7750. \$10, \$1.50 shipping

LOBBY PACKAGE: Excellent lobby kit developed by the FERNIE WOMEN'S CENTRE to put pressure on government for more Women's Program Funding... government has now announced increased funding, but this kit has invaluable ideas, addresses, for other lobby uses..... Write them: Box 2054, Fernie, B.C. V0B 1M0. Ph:423-4815

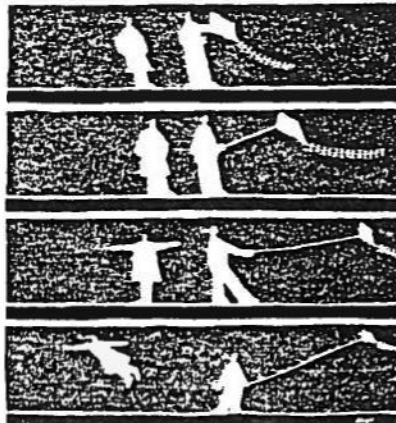
VOICES FROM THE SHADOWS: WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES SPEAK OUT, by Gwyneth Matthews explores the lives and experiences of disabled women in Canada: employment, education, sexuality, housing, social & government assistance are all addressed. 200p. \$8.95. +\$1 postage. Women's Press 16 Baldwin St, Toronto M5T 1L2

HAREMS AND OTHER HORRORS: Sexual Bias in Behavioral Biology, by Anne Innis Dagg, Ph.D. 130p. \$5 +50c postage: Otter Press, Waterloo, Ontario N2J 4C2

NATIONAL CLEARING HOUSE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE is a program of the Department of Health and Welfare, designed to gather, organize and disseminate existing information about Canadian research & programs in the areas of wife-assault, child abuse and neglect, and abuse of the elderly, develop and distribute new materials for public and professional education; and provide consultation and other professional services to service providers, professional and public groups and individuals, government and media..... They would be pleased to be in touch with NAC member groups who may wish to receive their materials. e.g. Vis-à-vis, a free quarterly, bilingual newsletter featuring articles related to family violence (they also welcome suggestions for future articles) ... How the Law Can Help Battered Women, booklet available in reasonable quantities, request permission to reprint... They are also surveying transition houses in order to make recommendations on government policy and will produce a Directory of Transition Houses for distribution... For more information contact them at Dept. Health & Welfare, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1B5

The Coalition for Reproductive Choice is fundraising with a set of wonderful feminist cards..... Pack of nine, with three different designs... \$10.

Write: Box 51, Station L  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3H 0Z4





\*\* MEMBER GROUPS SHOULD USE "MEMBER" REGISTRATION FORM

**\*\* OBSERVER REGISTRATION FORM**

1984 NAC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
CHATEAU LAURIER HOTEL  
OTTAWA  
MARCH 16-19, 1984

PLEASE RETURN TO THE NAC OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 27.  
REGISTRATION FEES MUST BE ENCLOSED (YOU MAY POST-DATE CHEQUES MARCH 11 IF NEED BE)

PLEASE NAME THOSE YOU THINK ARE COMING. REPLACEMENTS CAN BE MADE, BUT WE NEED  
TO KNOW NUMBERS. FOR THIS REASON, WE REGRET THAT CANCELLATIONS RECEIVED AFTER  
MARCH 11 WILL BE SUBJECT TO A \$10 CHARGE.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ENCLOSED IS MY/OUR CHEQUES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
( \$80 FOR EACH FULL REGN )  
( \$25 FOR EACH DAY REGN )  
( \$35 FOR EACH BANQUET ONLY )

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

DAY CARE  Number/children & age \_\_\_\_\_

BILLET  Names/Non-Smoking? \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER NEEDS  Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_