

NATIONAL ACTION COMMITTEE
on the status of women

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

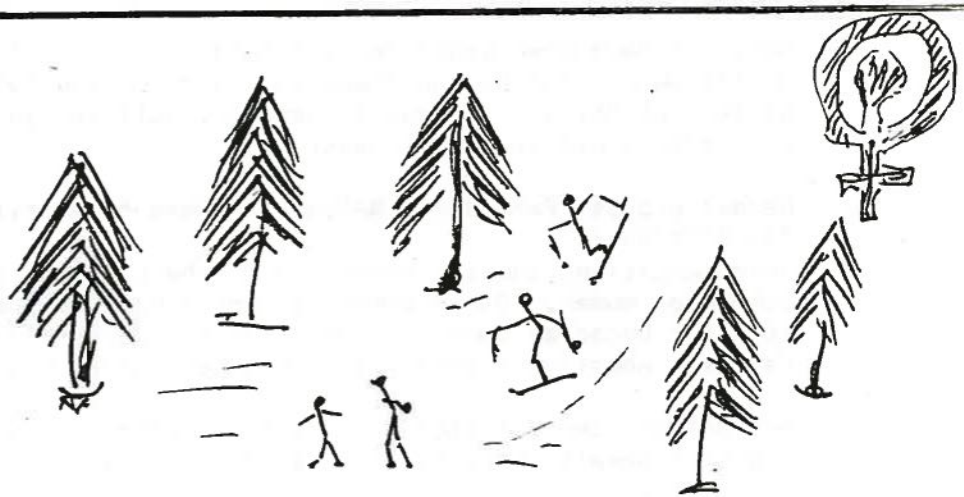


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MEMO

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DECEMBER 1980



*Seasons Greetings - Progress for Women and Peace for
all in 1981!!!*

ANNOUNCING

THE NINTH ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE

OF THE NATIONAL ACTION COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

TO BE HELD

MARCH 13 THROUGH MARCH 16

1981

AT THE HOLIDAY INN, 100 KENT STREET, OTTAWA

MEMBER GROUPS WILL SHORTLY BE RECEIVING FURTHER INFORMATION, INCLUDING:

1. Notice of meeting
2. Registration forms for delegates and observers
3. Travel assistance forms
4. Calls for nominations to the NAC Executive

ENCLOSED WITH THIS MEMO: Billing for Membership fees to member organizations (where applicable).

FRIENDS OF NAC and COOPERATING ORGANIZATIONS WILL BE RECEIVING FURTHER INFORMATION, INCLUDING:

- Notice of meeting
- Registration forms for observers

UPDATE ON THE CONSTITUTION OF CANADA

NAC and some of its member groups have been active across the country in drawing public attention to the concerns of women regarding the Constitution.

Meetings have been organized and held in St. John's, Newfoundland (attended by 130 women from Newfoundland and Labrador and funded by Secretary of State); at Mt. St. Vincent University, Halifax (jointly sponsored by NAC), with others planned in the west.

Member groups, Friends of NAC, and others have written, phoned and telegraphed to the Committee, to Cabinet and to M.P.s, in support of NAC's recommendations and the proposals of the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women. Other member groups - National Association of Women and the Law, Canadian Committee on Learning Opportunities for Women, and the Canadian Abortion Rights Action League (CARAL) have presented briefs.

NAC has written a letter to Lord Carrington, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in Great Britain, and to all British MPs, giving our stand.

GLOBE & MAIL Nov. 21/80

Charter would enshrine bias NAC says

By ROBERT SHEPPARD
Globe and Mail Reporter

OTTAWA — The proposed charter of rights would leave women worse off because it would only serve to enshrine the male bias of the Canadian judiciary, the National Action Committee on the status of women said yesterday.

And, no sooner was their presentation completed to the special parliamentary committee on the constitution, when their point was reinforced.

Just before he brought the gavel down, Senator Harry Hays of Alberta, the crusty co-chairman of the joint committee, who will be 71 on Christmas Day, thanked "the girls" for their presentation. "We're honored to have you here. But I wonder why you don't have anything in here (the brief) for babies or children. All you girls are going to be out working and who's going to look after them?"

Shaking her head in bewilderment, Lynn McDonald, president of the NAC, joked sadly to reporters: "I don't think Senator Hays got the message."

Miss McDonald, whose group represents 150 women's organizations across the country, told the committee that basic rights should be enshrined in a constitution because "there is a terrific inability amongst judges to deal with inequalities to women and I don't think we can leave this to chance."

The proposed charter, Miss McDonald said, "is insidious." On the surface, it looks as if "women are being given more rights by this charter. It's only when you look at the past decisions of the Supreme Court and the legislation (which would be enshrined) that you realize this is not the case."

The NAC is one of several groups that have strongly protested against the short time being allotted them for discussion of the Government's constitutional proposals.

But the NAC is demanding major changes to the proposed charter, as have all of the other national rights organizations that have appeared before the committee. The NAC demands include adding a section on the Supreme Court of Canada to ensure more female representation.

(The positions taken by the NAC were bolstered later last night by a detailed brief submitted by the Advisory Council on the Status of Women, the federal Government's special advisory body on women's issues. It also found the proposed charter desirable, but badly flawed in many areas.)

WOMEN AND THE CONSTITUTION

NAC responded to the opportunity to present a brief to the Senate-Commons Joint Committee on the Constitution by appearing before it on November 20th.

It was not easy, on short notice, to formulate a position on the Charter of Rights that was completely acceptable, particularly when earlier cancellation of our mid-year meeting removed any opportunity for wide consultation. The substitute public forum in Toronto, on October 18th, in conjunction with NAC's Executive meeting, produced recommendations which formed the basis of the Constitution Committee's position, and were approved by a large majority of the Executive by telephone.

Our presentation included reading the brief by President Lynn McDonald, and Constitution Committee members Jill Porter and Betsy Carr, followed by questions from representatives of the 3 parties - Pauline Jewett, NDP, Flora Macdonald, PC, and Senator Joan Neiman, Liberal. We were encouraged by the tone of the remarks and questions even though we had been critical of the present wording of Section 1, Section 15 (1)and(2),Section 29 (2) and Sections 24 and 25. In addition, two further amendments were proposed - 11 recommendations in all.

The most dramatic event was saved for the last, when Co-Chairman Senator Harry Hays thanked NAC, remarking "I'm surprised there's nothing here about babies and children. If all you girls are out working, who is going to look after them?" The incredulous reaction by Committee members, the media and us was well-used on TV, in the press, across the country. (see examples included).

Lynn McDonald was quoted later as observing "I'm afraid Senator Hays hasn't got the message". Telegrams and letters of protest flooded in- some demanding his resignation. His remarks were the subject of critical editorials in the Toronto Globe and Mail and The Star , while Macleans echoed indignation and termed our brief "meticulous". We are grateful to those of you who helped reinforce our thesis that comprehension and action are required for women to gain equality in Canada.

Subsequent presentations by the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women and National Association of Women and the Law have been quite consistent with the points we made on the status of women. Canadian Human Rights Commission and Canadian Bar Association briefs were also compatible. We are optimistic that the Committee will seriously consider the changes we recommended.

Note: see accompanying statement on entrenchment of rights and last minute alterations in the brief.

for free copies of the government's proposed resolution respecting the Constitution -"The Canadian Constitution, 1980", write:
Publications Canada, Box 1986, Station B.,
Ottawa, Ontario. K1P 6G6.

for copy of NAC's brief to the Senate-Commons Special Joint Committee on the Constitution, send \$1.00 to the NAC office.

C.A.C.S.W. CONFERENCE

The postponed Constitution Conference sponsored by the federal Advisory Council on the Status of Women will probably take place at the end of February. Participants will be contacted.

CANADIAN CONNECTION

This group of all-party individuals concerned about getting full participation of citizens in the Constitution discussion and the process being followed, is planning a weekend on the Constitution (probably January 24/25, 1981). This may be followed by a Forum in Ottawa at the time of the Canadian Voluntary Organization's meeting in Ottawa at the end of January. It is hoped this will provide a time for individuals and groups to present their views on the Constitution.

Planning meetings are held every week in Ottawa and NAC has an observer there (Janice Tait, (613) 996-4186 - 238-6316). A preliminary statement has been issued and can be obtained from Mayor Marion Dewar, City Hall, Ottawa, K1N 5A1, 613 - 563-3251.

Constitutional group hears women 'Children, babies' remark draws groans

By Jim Robb
Citizen staff writer

An influential women's rights group heard its reasoned arguments to the joint parliamentary committee on the constitution Thursday summed up by a blatant male chauvinist remark from one of the committee's chairmen.

Spokesmen for the National Action Committee on the Status of Women had just argued for stronger guarantees of women's rights in the charter of rights plus a proportional share of judgeships in the country's courts for women judges when Liberal Senator Harry Hays blurted it out.

Thanking the group, Hays said "I'm wondering why you have no section for babies and children."

"All you girls are going to be working, and there will be nobody to look after them," he said as MPs

and senators on the committee, and onlookers, groaned or reacted with embarrassed grins at Hays' heavy-handed attempt at humor.

Tory MP James McGrath told Hays he would have been better off "just using your gavel."

The National Action Committee and the federal Advisory Council on the Status of Women both appeared before the committee studying the government's constitutional package to warn the charter of rights may entrench as much discrimination as it is designed to prevent.

Both groups want the provision ensuring "equality before the law" changed in wording because they say it only entitles men and women to equal treatment in court, and has been interpreted by the courts that way.

It doesn't eliminate discrimination in existing laws, the committee was told.

Hays' views out of date, women told

FREDERICTON (CP) — Liberal Senator Harry Hays' curiosity about who is minding Canada's children gave women in this country an idea how far they have to go, Premier Richard Hatfield said yesterday.

Mr. Hatfield told a meeting of the New Brunswick Advisory Council on the Status of Women that remarks by the 71-year-old senator during constitutional committee hearings in Ottawa hopefully represent "a view that has since gone by the boards."

Senator Hays, after listening to a presentation from the National Action Committee on the Status of Women and the Canadian Advisory Committee on the Status of Women, thanked the "girls" for the presentation which said proposed changes in the constitution would not improve equality.

"(But) I'm just wondering why we don't have a section in here about babies and children," the senator said. "All you girls will be out working and we're not going to have anybody to look after them."

Mr. Hatfield said that while the comments are out of date, they cannot be disregarded.

"I think that's just an indication to the women of Canada of how much work they have to do."

Council chairman Madeleine Leblanc handed the premier a list of 100 New Brunswick women who, she said, qualify for appointments to provincial boards and commissions.

She said the list was compiled in an effort to rectify the current "under-representation" of women on boards and commissions. She said Mr. Hatfield has indicated a list of qualified women would help the situation.

Mr. Hatfield said the list would be used as a reference for future appointments. He also promised to hire a person to work as a full-time women's rights watchdog within the government. He said the function would complement the outside-government work of the advisory council.



MICHELE LANDSBERG

Can our senator be a Hays-seed?

At first I thought I'd shrug off Senator Harry Hays' remarks as the foolish maunderings of a grump. Then I thought I'd have some tongue-in-cheek fun with the Calgary cowpuncher.

And then I thought: Heck, no. This guy, who dismissed a serious brief on women's constitutional rights with a remark which will soon be as famous as "fuddle-duddle", ("You should have had a section on children and babies. You girls are gonna be out working, and there'll be nobody to look after them"), this guy is a senator. There are only 95 senators in Canada. He is paid \$37,000 a year. He is co-chairman of one of the most important committees in Canada's history. He's as senior and as mainstream as you can get.

It matters when Hays calls us "girls" and flaunts his prejudice on coast-to-coast television. Perhaps it matters even more that not one single member of the committee was sufficiently offended to say anything out loud. Not one said, "I dissociate myself from these slighting comments." Groans and blushes, gentlemen, are not enough. Prejudice isn't just embarrassing; it is actively destructive.

Apology needed

Why should a group of lucid and highly educated persons, making a thoughtful presentation to government, be brushed off as "girls" and scolded for not talking about babies?

Is Hays so concerned about the care of children that he has pressured his own Liberal government to take more initiative on day care? Don't kid yourself.

The government that appointed Harry Hays should insist that he apologize to the women of Canada. Still, like many an ill wind, Hays has blown some good in our direction. He has reminded Canadians that this is the way many powerful men — perhaps even judges and MPs — think about women.

That's exactly why we need our rights spelled out, with exquisite clarity, in the new constitution. We've learned that it's just not safe to leave our equality up to chance and the erratic impulses of men like His Bumbleship.

MEMO RE: NAC BRIEF ON THE CONSTITUTION OF CANADA

FROM: CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE OF NAC

NAC's firm position favouring the principle of entrenchment of rights and freedoms appears to be misunderstood and misinterpreted in recent newspaper reports on the Constitutional debate. We are concerned that everyone, especially our member groups, has a clear understanding of NAC's support for this principle.

Due to the unfortunate cancellation of NAC's mid-year meeting in Winnipeg because of lack of travel funds, there has not been an opportunity to consult with member groups on this issue. The Constitution Committee formulated recommendations from the discussion at the "Women and the Constitution" meeting in Toronto, October 18th, which we know was only partially representative. These formed the basis of our position, were approved by the executive, and incorporated in the brief.

The proposed Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms, as presently worded is unacceptable to us. It was termed "poorly articulated and substantively inadequate" by the National Association of Women and the Law. Our brief calls for substantial changes to be made before entrenchment.

E R R A T A

In order to make the most accurate and up-to-date presentation to the Joint House-Senate Committee on November 20, 1980, a number of last minute changes were made to our brief. To retype and reproduce the final document for distribution would be prohibitively expensive.

The Constitution Committee of NAC wishes you to have these changes. Please correct your copies:

PAGE 1, paragraph 4, lines 3, 4 and 5:

Delete: "Notably, it was ...Constitution Act, 1980" -

Replace with: "While NAC favours the general principle of entrenchment of rights and freedoms, the Charter as presently proposed..."

PAGE 6, under "Supreme Court of Canada":

Delete: the fourth point in the list, starting "that, again in the Bliss case..."

PAGE 7, first paragraph, 5th line:

Insert: new sentence after "...Supreme Court of Canada" - - "However, before it reached the Supreme Court, 4 out of 5 judges hearing these cases found for the women."

.....more on the constitution

The Evening Telegram

St. John's, Newfoundland

Monday, December 15, 1980



Women discuss proposed constitutional changes

About 130 women from across the province gathered at the Airport Inn Saturday to discuss the federal government's proposed constitutional changes and how they will affect women. Among

the participants were: (l-r); Kay Macpherson, a member of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women; Maureen O'Neil, coordinator of the Status of Women; Jill Schooley, a

member of the conference planning committee; Ann Bell, conference chairperson; Barbara Lewis, a member of the conference planning committee.

Toronto Star Dec 6/80

Union women want equality in constitution

BANFF, Alta. (CP) — Leading women trade unionists have decided to try to have sexual equality entrenched in Canada's amended constitution.

A weekend conference of 440 delegates to a conference sponsored by the Canadian Labor Congress women's bureau decided to campaign for an equality clause in the charter of rights which Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau wants included in a patriated constitution.

Pauline Jewett, New Democratic MP for New Westminster-Coquitlam, B.C., urged delegates to lobby for a change in the federal government's constitutional amendments.

If the government must push through its constitution package, then the charter of rights should contain a specific reference that "the rights and freedoms apply to men and women alike," said Jewett. NDP critic on women's affairs.

Toronto Star Dec 8/80

Ottawa told rights charter allows discrimination

OTTAWA (UPC) — The federal government's proposed charter of rights and freedoms is sound in principle but must be better worded to prevent unjust discrimination, the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission says.

Commissioner Ken Norman told the joint House of Commons-Senate committee on the constitution proposals yesterday the charter must preserve programs to help minorities as well as protect against reverse discrimination.

Norman said, in particular, the government should amend part of Section 15 of the resolution. The section guarantees the right "to equality before the law . . . without discrimination because of race, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, age or sex."

He said a subsection, which would allow affirmative action programs, should be clarified so that it does not authorize programs which would discriminate against the majority.

Housewives may get pension plan

OTTAWA (CP) — Health Minister Monique Begin has taken the first steps toward opening up the Canada Pension Plan to housewives on a voluntary basis.

A proposal will be presented to provincial social services ministers early next month with an eye to putting it into effect during the government's current term of office, she said in an interview yesterday.

"The big advantage is that it will provide a number of housewives in the country a full pension in their own name plus a disability pension if they become handicapped," she said.

There are some 4.7-million housewives, but it is not known how many might be willing or financially able to participate in the plan.

No details

Details remain to be worked out — for instance, how much housewives should contribute and what level of benefits they should receive.

The minister says she will propose housewives be treated as self-employed. The maximum contribution now for the self-employed is \$424.80 a year or \$35.40 a month.

The main objection to the plan has been that voluntary participation would exclude women who already have trouble balancing family budgets and don't have extra money to make required contributions.

Housewife pension plan no help to poor: Begin

By Carol Goar Toronto Star

OTTAWA — Thousands of Canadian homemakers haven't got the money to join the Canada Pension Plan, even if the government does allow women outside the work force to participate, Health Minister Monique Begin admits.

"I acknowledge the problem of women in lower income groups, who will not be able to afford to pay premiums," Miss Begin told the House of Commons yesterday. She said the government is looking at ways to rescue such women from the prospect of growing old in poverty.

The minister was replying to questions from Vancouver New Democrat Margaret Mitchell, who said government plans to extend the Canada Pension Plan to housewives on a voluntary basis seem to condone one discrimination against poor homemakers.

Ms Mitchell suggested Ottawa could:

- Institute a homemaker's allowance — a kind of salary for those working in the home.
- Increase welfare payments so lower class women can afford pension coverage.

Miss Begin rejected paying women to stay at home, saying those who choose to do this know they will not receive remuneration like other workers.

HOMEMAKERS' CONTRIBUTION TO CPP... PATERNALISTIC & INEQUITABLE

NAC Press Release, December 9, 1980

Allowing homemakers to contribute voluntarily to the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) is an "inequitable and piecemeal" approach to the pension needs of Canadian women. Jean Wood, Chairperson of the Pensions Committee of NAC, says that the Liberal Party proposal will benefit only the small number of Canadian women who had enough disposable income to participate. "Only the low percent of women whose husbands earn high salaries will be able to contribute." According to Wood "this scheme will perpetuate female dependency. If the husband does not contribute, the woman receives no benefits."

In addition to the fact that the proposal would not remedy the inequities in the present pensions system, it also could lead to a situation where a low income working woman would receive less in pensions income than a woman who did not retain a full time job outside the home.

"We appreciate the fact that this issue has been raised in the house and that the government is looking for answers, however, we feel this tactic is piecemeal and will not solve the pension problem for women." The facts are that only 34% of wage earning women workers are covered by private pension plans; that in 1976 those who were covered received \$2,212. on average per annum from those plans and that two-thirds of Canadians over 65 living below the poverty line are women. In light of these facts, NAC is calling for a comprehensive plan of action to address the needs of women for both private and public pension schemes.

As a start, NAC supports publicly funded pensions for non-wage earning homemakers and the inclusion of the drop-out provision in CPP. Women's groups are now planning to work together with government and the private sector to develop the necessary comprehensive pension programs. NAC will be presenting its recommendations to the Ministry of Health and Welfare at a Pensions Conference in the Spring of 1981.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM NAC EXECUTIVE MEETING DECEMBER 6, 1980

ANNUAL MEETING PLANS

Date and place confirmed: Ottawa, Holiday Inn, 100 Kent Street
March 13 through 16, 1981

Workshops will follow Committees areas of interest, e.g.

Standing Committees

Finance/Funding; Membership; Editorial;
Media Relations

Policy Committees

Employment; Employment sub-committees:
Microprocessing, Immigration; Justice;
Social Services; Pensions, Finance & Taxes;
Constitution; Housing.

Papers will be prepared reflecting past, present and future action and information.

BUDGET

Committees are preparing budgets to be sent to the NAC Treasurer in early January.

COMMITTEES:

The functions and responsibilities of NAC Committees were defined.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- These included the presentation on the Constitution, and a meeting with Huguette Labelle, Under Secretary of State on funding.
- Membership: 2 new member groups were ratified and welcomed: Interval House, Toronto and the Y.W.C.A. Vancouver.

It was noted that we have no member group in Northwest Territories.
- Media Relations: A Media Munch resulted in good contacts with 6 media women in the Toronto area.
- Friends of NAC coffee parties are going ahead. New members are welcome for the Steering Committee. There is money coming in too!
- Employment Committee is active on cases against Bell Canada and B.C. Telephone. Action is planned in the Domestic Workers situation.
- Secretary of State Francis Fox has announced money made available to test microprocessing equipment in the public service.
- The Pensions Committee is hoping to develop a paper on women and pensions.
- The Justice Committee is awaiting announcement of changes in rape laws - and is concerned about the definition of soliciting.
- Social Science and Humanities Research Council is examining legal education and research. NAC will prepare a brief -- and any group may do so.
- The Advertising Council has a committee on non-sexist advertising. NAC has appointed 2 representatives to this committee.

Regional Reports (from the Executive Meeting)

Anna Bors attended First Annual Farm Women's Conference in Ottawa, Dec 2-4. A study has been done by the Council on Rural Development. Seven papers were produced. Recommendations include: compensation of unpaid work of women, joint ownership of the farm, include housework in GNP, homestead rights, day care, better scheduling of courses for rural women, funding for training courses, women's experience on the farm and in the household should be judged as work experience, equal access to credit. NAC will send a letter supporting the recommendations of this group. Jean will do a draft for Lynn to Whelan.

Newfoundland: Network of women's organizations is growing in Newfoundland. Labrador City and Goose Bay have new women's centres funded by Women's Programmes, Secretary of State. A "Women and the Constitution" Conference will be held December 13 and 14, funded by Secretary of State. Over 100 women are pre-registered, not just status of women's groups, but other groups as well. Department of Labour is commissioning a paper on services provided by Departments of Labour across the country. The women's committee of N.A.P.E. did the work and lobbying on this 1-2 year study.

A Provincial Advisory Council has been set up, with Ann Bell to head it, consisting of eleven people (9 feminists). They report to the Premier and to the public; their budget is \$90,000. Ann's position is not yet full-time.

Alberta: Dorothy attended the Alberta Status of Women Action Committee annual meeting to speak. Also spoke about NAC. At a Calgary meeting on Women & the Constitution Dorothy did some clarification of our position on entrenchment. Also did a half hour on cable TV on NAC. She is managing the Alberta project on Women and Constitutional Change, using NAC and Advisory Council briefs. Doing sales pitch on NAC and memberships.

Nova Scotia: The new Nova Scotia Advisory Council voted to keep all names of member secret. Florence Wall is President. An oil and gas impact study group in Halifax has no women on it. Kathy to write a letter. Working women's educational committee has been founded. It plans a panel on sexual harassment. Attempt to rationalize C.E.I.C. Outreach Program would result in loss of responsiveness to women's issues. It's been deflected. Letter from NAC - Kathy. Recommendations from Mount St. Vincent Constitution Conference are forthcoming. NAC to draft letter to province, Department of Labour, on dropping sex as a criteria for outreach.

British Columbia: Lee Grills attended the planning meeting and rally of Concerned Citizens for Choice on Abortion. About 600 were present. Also attended a dinner where Francis Fox was main speaker. He was aware of NAC presentation to Constitution Committee and was impressed. He indicated there is ongoing discussion re increased funding for Women's Programmes. Monique Begin spoke to B.C. Women's Liberal Commission indicating she will be pressing for inclusion of housewives as voluntary contributors to C.P.P. and requested input from interested groups and individuals. Women's Rights Committee of the B.C. NDP have held hearings province-wide re elderly women; informative meeting held in North Vancouver and their report will be out in Spring.

Quebec: While in Quebec, Axworthy visited a group of feminists. Feminist groups in Quebec are against entrenchment, but not all Quebec women are against it. Women are getting more political and also more divided, separatists and federalists. Jeanne Gariepy met with Laniel and Prefontaine. Chretien has money for women's groups doing research on violence in the family. Affirmative action programmes were not possible in Quebec until recently. An amendment will be made to the Charter permitting these programs.

Manitoba: Sally Shrofel reported on a new Advisory Council - 10 members, no feminists, budget of \$5,000. MACSW will give them a year to see how they do. Muriel Arpen is president.

Indian Bylaw

from THE TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL
SAINT JOHN, N.B. December 5, 1980

Judgment Dec. 29

By MARIE BRAGDON
Correspondent

PERTH-ANDOVER — A new bylaw for Maliseet, the Tobique Indian Reserve a few miles upriver from here, came under close scrutiny in provincial court here Thursday before Judge T.W. Tomlinson, as Sandra Lovelace and four other young women were tried on a charge arising from an alleged occupation of the band office the end of last May.

Sandra Lovelace, Barbara Nicholas, Cheryl Lynn Bear, Glenna Perley and Sharon Elizabeth Paul are charged with unlawfully occupying and interfering with the normal carrying-on of business in a building designated by chief and council for business purposes.

Judge Tomlinson said he would consider the matter, including a transcript of closing arguments, and give a written judgment Dec. 29.

Passed last February, the bylaw has become a source of conflict for band councillors after the women were charged, with some charging it was to include provision for "negotiation before confrontation." An amendment to that effect is presently going through channels, signed by five of the seven band councillors as required by the Indian Act.

Councillor Lloyd Nicholas said the bylaw was needed "to protect the people," but was not used as he thought it was intended to be used. If the situation had been negotiated, he said, "we could have work-

ed it out." If he had it to do over again, the councillor said, he would not sign the original bylaw.

Defence Counsel Paul Janssens of Fredericton challenged the legality of the bylaw, arguing that the five signatures required included that of Chief George Francis. According to Indian Band Council Procedure Regulations accompanying the Indian Act, he said, the chief as presiding officer does not vote, except to break a tie.

Crown counsel Daniel Waters of Fredericton said that under another section of the Indian Act, no bylaw is to be annulled by a defect in form, and the chief "has one vote, the same as any councillor."

The charges arose from an incident at the band office that began around noon when Cheryl Bear went to see Chief Francis about problems with the heat in her house. The other women joined her to, as one witness said, "assist her in any way I could."

Some of the band council had agreed to meet with Cheryl Bear, and when the chief refused, she decided to wait there for her meeting. She said she was frustrated because the chief "has all the power, he always has the last say — that's the way the reserve is run."

Although the women say they told Chief Francis they were not "occupying" the office, the chief told the office employees to take their work with them and work at home for several weeks. He said there had been occupations in the past "where they came

back in a couple of days," and he "wanted to take the right procedures this time."

The women left the office around 10 o'clock that night after meeting with one councillor. Defence counsel contends that by the chief declaring the premises occupied, the defendants were prevented from committing the offence, "even if they had intended to occupy the building."

He said it did not appear that justice was being done, when evidence showed that "to this day, others are occupying" reserve buildings without a certificate or permission. "There is something wrong," he added, and politics appear to be involved, or "why were these women prosecuted when the others are not?"

Sandra Lovelace said earlier that a complaint has been filed with the Human Rights Commission against the chief, for allegedly discriminating against women in this matter.

Mr. Janssens asked Chief Francis about a quote attributed to him in last week's issue of Today Magazine: "Anyway, I put in a bylaw to end that sort of thing."

"I'm very choosy what I say before the news media," Chief Francis replied, "because I know how the

news media works — they put words in your mouth."

Band councillor Bernard Sappier said he did not vote for the bylaw because he "saw danger that it could be misused." Two of the councillors who signed the original bylaw, Lloyd Nicholas and Ken Perley, have signed the amended version to include negotiation.

Discussing the conduct of the accused, the federal prosecutor said the woman "have legitimate complaints, and are in a powerless position." But the court is not a forum to be used for "making a political statement by forcing a confrontation under this bylaw."

He said it was an "organized sit-in, reminiscent of the '60s in the southern United States."

End Indian Act discrimination

G & M Nov. 20/80

Indian men, it appears, are less than enthusiastic about ending discrimination against Indian women.

Last July, Indian Affairs Minister John Munro offered to use ministerial discretion to suspend a section of the Indian Act that legally discriminates against women. Of the 560 Indian bands to which he made the offer, only 15 responded.

The discrimination occurs when an Indian woman marries a man who is not an Indian. She then loses her Indian status and all the rights and privileges that go with that status. These include certain treaty monies, education and health benefits, mineral royalties, domicile on the reserve.

In contrast, an Indian man who marries a non-Indian not only retains his status and his

rights, but his wife and children acquire Indian status.

For more than a decade now, Indian women have protested this double standard — to the House of Commons, to the Royal Commission on the Status of Women, to numerous Indian affairs ministers, to the Supreme Court of Canada and even to the United Nations. Everyone acknowledges there's discrimination; the defence is that it's legal within the Indian Act.

Attempts to amend the Indian Act, through consultation with the Indians themselves, have so far come to nought. Given the lack of response to Munro's latest offer, it's time the government took matters into its own hands and amended the Indian Act to end this unfair treatment of women.

BOOKS...
FILMS...
AND MISCELLANEOUS WORTHWHILES...

GETTING ORGANIZED: BUILDING A UNION

written by: Mary Cornish and Laurell Ritchie
published : The Women's Press,
280 Bloor St. W., #313,
Toronto, Ontario. M5S 1W1 \$7.95

This clearly laid out, easily understood hand book, takes one step by step through the whole process of unionizing.

(both authors are executive members of NAC member groups).

RISING - Selected Poems

written by: Gert Beadle
available: Northern Women Regional Journal Collective,
316 Bay Street,
Thunder Bay, Ontario \$5.00*

* The Collective will "share some of the proceeds with other women's groups and therefore bulk orders of 10 or more copies are available at \$3.50 a copy, for resale at \$5.00 in order for the groups to realize a profit".

Gert Beadle's first book of poems "Salt & Yeast" was well received by women across the country.

"A WIVES' TALE"

A film (75 minutes) which tells the story of the Inco strike in Sudbury
available from: Development Education Centre,
427 Bloor St. West, Toronto, Ont.

THE NAC MEMO.....TESTIMONIALS FROM SUBSCRIBERS

"...thanks for sending the MEMO. It fits my needs even better than the Status of Women News — so please keep me on the mailing list regardless..."
Edmonton, Alberta

"...We recently received a gift copy of the October, 1980 issue of your publication (the MEMO). We believe that this publication deserves to be included in our periodicals collection, and...am now requesting that you place us on your mailing list."

Province of B.C.
Minister of Provincial Secretary and Government Services.

"...I found the MEMO refreshingly straight forward, short enough to be read on arrival (How often do we have to put longer material aside until we have time?) and full of clearly stated information."

Halifax, Nova Scotia

Farm wives told to lobby

OTTAWA (CP) — Farm women are starting to get recognition from society for their role in the operation of the country's farms but they must work for a greater voice in agricultural organizations, Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan says.

Mr. Whelan told the first national farm women's conference on Tuesday that this year farmers will be able to start claiming wages paid to their spouses for farm work as an expense on their income tax forms.

And the Government plans to introduce changes to the Canada pension plan to allow farm women to contribute to the pension plan and receive benefits from it when they reach 65.

But farm women "must learn to lobby for the things they want," he said. "And, they must come forward and take a more active role in farm organizations — everything from speaking out at the local milk committee meeting to competing for the top elected positions on national commodity boards."

He said women are increasingly appointed to federal agriculture advisory organizations. June Menzies is chairman of the National Farm Products Marketing Council and Carol Teichrob of Saskatoon has been appointed to the Farm Credit Corp. board of directors.

The minister didn't say when a woman might be promoted to a senior management position within his department although he noted that such decisions are made by the Public Service Commission and not himself.

Mr. Whelan said that he asked the director of the Farm Credit Corp. to study a recommendation in a paper done for the conference that would give women equal treatment with men in applying for loans from the corporation.

He also said that farm men must recognize and accept the concerns facing farm women — mainly the desire to be treated equally with their husbands by the law.

"I think most farmers would either fail or be much less successful if it weren't for the work, help, encouragement and knowledge of their wives."

A federal study on rural women two years ago discovered they spend almost 30 hours a week doing the farm books and farm chores and another 53 hours doing household jobs.

"That means she's putting in the hours of two full-time jobs and not getting a salary for either one

of them."

Mrs. Menzies said the appointment of women to government agencies "is still sadly lacking." Only 15 per cent of the appointments to 160 federal agencies are women, less than half the level of the U.S. federal government.

But her appointment to the council and before that the Anti-Inflation Board would not have been possible without the growing recognition during the last 10 years of women's rights.

"We must create models for our daughters to strive for," she said.

If women would become more involved in farm groups, they would develop the skills needed "to participate in the political, agriculture arena."

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Equality begins at home

Phyllis Boyd confuses cause and effect in her letter (Nov. 1) in which she reasserts her conviction that feminists denigrate women's roles as wives and mothers. In fact, most feminists are themselves wives and mothers, good "family women" who believe that equality begins at home. Lip service to the glories of motherhood is no substitute for financial security, personal identity, peer recognition and decent medical care; nor does breakfast in bed on Mother's Day make the average homemaker's 70-hour work week any less exhausting.

As for Phyllis Boyd's contention that "Feminists have done nothing for the traditional career of women," she reveals herself as singularly uninformed. Feminist lobbying was largely responsible for Ontario's 1978 Family Law Reform Act, which for the first time recognized the homemaker's non-monetary contributions to her family's well-being. Feminists lead the battle for decent widows' pensions. Feminists are the ones pressuring the medical establishment to give women some choice in birthing procedures, and to prescribe the occasional day off instead of Valium for overworked homemakers. Feminists march regularly for increased Family Benefits so that deserted mothers can raise their children with dignity.

Feminists are not saying that women "should" be in the workforce, but that statistically, nine out of 10 married women spend about 30 years of their lives in paid employment. That women are overwhelmingly restricted to low-paying dead-end jobs hurts everyone — their families particularly, but also a sagging economy that could benefit from an infusion of enthusiasm and brainpower.

Phyllis Boyd makes a great fuss about tradition, but the "traditional" roles she espouses have mainly developed in the century since industrialization, and the isolated nuclear family with its homemaker-hub became idealized after the Second World War. Never, before that, were men so removed from raising the children they helped conceive (unless they skipped out). Never were women so constricted in their choice of occupations. Feminists seek to redress that imbalance, as well as the artificial distinction between paid and unpaid work.

Penney Kome
Toronto

ABORTION DEFINITION REQUESTED

The board of the B.C. Health Association, which represents B.C.'s hospitals, wants the federal government to define the law covering abortion to end confusion on the grounds for legal abortions.

Association spokesman John Braddock said the board will ask the Canadian Hospital Association to pass a motion asking the federal government to define the word "health" in the provisions of the Criminal Code dealing with abortion.

Under the provisions, a hospital abortion committee made up of at least three doctors can allow abortions for women who require them for reasons of health. Some abortion committees have defined "health" to include mental, social and physical well-being.

"We want the law to be clarified so it can be used as a guideline," Braddock said. The CHA will consider the B.C. request at a meeting to be held Sunday in Montreal.

The BCHA does not advocate any particular definition, said Braddock, because its membership includes hospitals with widely varying viewpoints on the question.

Angry women

KINGSTON (CP) — Judy Erola, federal minister of state for mines, says more women should enter politics. She said the first quality a woman needs for public office is anger.

4/17/80

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O T T A W A B R U N C H

CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY of the tabling of the REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN, NAC Executive members and Ottawa women met at Shirley Greenberg's home on Sunday, December 7th, for a magnificent brunch served by "Free Space, an Ottawa women's group.

Senator Florence Bird, who chaired the Royal Commission, was guest of honour and spoke about the Commission, progress made and work still to be done. New contacts will be followed up and NAC's network extended as a result of this very pleasant and successful gathering.

C.U.P.T.E. S T R I K E U P D A T E

"...the strike of the translators has been settled. Part of the settlement package included increased maternity benefits (an additional 2 weeks at up to 60% of maximum insurable earnings) as well as other provisions for parental leave, both paid and unpaid.

Although the maternity leave provisions do not go as far as the union had demanded, the total parental benefit package goes a long way in recognizing the needs of parents of both sexes who wish to combine work and family responsibilities and is a reflection of the government's continuing commitment to equal opportunity for women."

(exerpted from a letter from the Honourable
Lloyd Axworthy, Minister Responsible for
the Status of Women)

The recipient of the 1980 LAURA SABIA BURSARY (established by NAC in 1976) is Rosaleen Phillips, a full time student and mother of two children. Congratulations and good luck in her studies at Woodsworth College, University of Toronto.

CULTURAL POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE

The NAC Executive has decided to submit a brief to the Federal Cultural Policy Review Committee early in 1981. Anyone interested in working on preparing a brief please contact Lynn McDonald at the NAC office.

The Cultural Policy Reveiw Committee will be examining all federal cultural policies and programmes, including broadcasting (and the CBC), book and magazine publishing, film, theatre, dance, music and museums.

NAC's brief naturally will be concerned with how these programmes serve or fail to serve women, and how to improve the participation of women in policy-making in the cultural area.

JOB POSTING

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A national membership-based women's research organization with a board of directors about to embark on a period of expansion.

An enterprising, bilingual individual with administrative, communicative and organizational skills who has a knowledge of research and an ability to work with feminist groups is required.

A knowledge of federal and provincial government agencies and granting bodies as they relate to women's issues would be useful.

Writing and editing skills are essential along with a desire and ability to work with a board of directors. A knowledge of computer skills or a willingness to learn is an advantage.

The successful candidate must be willing to locate in Ottawa.

Salary negotiable dependent upon qualifications and experience.


Starting date: April 1, 1981

A curriculum vitae must be received by February 1, 1981.

Send to:

Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women
151 Slater Street, Suite 415
OTTAWA, Ontario.
K1P 5H3

HOUSE OF COMMONS
CANADA



**TASK FORCE
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
FOR THE '80s**

Organizations, Associations and individuals who wish to submit a brief or appear should advise the Task Force as soon as possible.
Copies of the terms of reference and other details may be obtained by writing:

The Chairman
Employment Opportunities for the '80s
Suite 604
La Promenade Building
151 Sparks Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 5E3

PUBLIC HEARINGS
will be held
in Ontario in November.

Warren Allmand, M.P., Chairman
Jim Hawkes, M.P., Vice-Chairman
Gilles Marceau, M.P., Vice-Chairman
Bruce Lonsdale, M.P.,
John McDermid, M.P.,
David Orlikow, M.P.,
Brian Tobin, M.P.

MEMBER GROUPS/INTERESTED PEOPLE SHOULD CALL WARREN ALLMAND'S OFFICE FOR THE SCHEDULE OF HEARINGS. THE NOVEMBER MEETING WAS CANCELLED - THE TORONTO MEETING THEREFORE IS TO BE RESCHEDULED.