

Nl - misc

NATIONAL ACTION COMMITTEE  
on the status of women

COMITÉ CANADIEN D'ACTION  
sur le statut de la femme



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# MEMO

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## WOMEN MOBILIZING FOR POWER

Our 1984 Annual General Meeting was a great success. We worked hard, passed good resolutions, had fruitful workshops, and entered the lobby on Monday with high energy and a very well-focused set of questions to ask each of the political parties. We believe that our lobby was the most effective one we've ever had. The whole weekend was organized around the theme of WOMEN MOBILIZING FOR POWER; in our lobby we demonstrated that we have already begun.

We assume that there will be a federal election sometime before February 1985, and perhaps as soon as August. The NAC Executive spent a large part of our first full-fledged Executive meeting planning our election strategy. There will be a special ELECTION STRATEGY MEMO released in June and, around the same time, we will be making available an ELECTION KIT that your group and individual women can use to make our concerns front and centre during the election.

Meanwhile, our Regional Reps will be getting in touch with groups in their areas to plan and coordinate efforts now so that, when the election is called, we are all ready to go. NAC will be working hard to enable our member groups to be as powerful and effective as possible in this time of opportunity. We have been working actively with the media on the election and women's issues for quite a while now. Don't be surprised to see lots more coverage on this topic in the weeks and months to come. We need your help in your region, working with the media and people you already know, to get coverage for women's issues. Media awareness on these issues will help make our lobbying efforts more effective.

We will be meeting some of the Liberal leadership candidates to talk about women's issues in the near future. If any of your groups can get access to any of them as they travel around the country, we hope you will use that opportunity to ask them questions on their positions on NAC policy, and to make clear to them how important the issues you raise will be in the federal election to come. It's time for them to come up with specific policies on our issues. Vague murmurs of goodwill are not good enough!!

We know that election-related lobbying is very important this year, but the back bone of our organization must remain our work on our issues and priorities, and our close ties with our member groups, so that we can lobby both at the national level and in all the regions. Executive members from all around the country at our Executive meeting had painful things to report about the impact of the economic crisis and government cutbacks on women all over Canada. We must use all the opportunities we can find to make our voice heard. I hope we can do that together, more effectively than ever, this year.

In sisterhood,

*Chavira Hošek*

Chavira Hošek  
President





# NAC presses MPs to fight for women

By Jackie Smith Toronto Star

A powerhouse of 250 women crammed into a House of Commons committee room this week to grab the attention of the men who govern their lives.

Sparks flew during the meeting, the highlight of the four-day annual Ottawa gathering of Canada's largest women's lobby, the National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC), which represents 280 women's groups with 3 million members from Newfoundland to British Columbia.

Only one in 17 MPs is a woman — and this was Canadian women's chance to get their voice heard in the corridors of power and quiz politicians on issues ranging from pensions and peace to day care and divorce.

At stake for the women was the chance to get firm commitments on a number of issues important to women, who now earn about 60 per cent of what men earn.

And at stake for the politicians was a mass of women's votes that could influence the outcome of both the Liberal leadership race and the next federal election.

## Met Mulroney

NAC representatives met in separate hour-long sessions with members of the Liberal, Conservative and New Democratic Party caucuses. It was NAC's first meeting with Conservative Leader Brian Mulroney, even though the organization had been requesting one since he became party leader last June.

Twenty-two of the 31 NDP members of Parliament turned up for the meeting, compared to about nine Tory MPs (although Mulroney said more were present at the back of the room) and about 23 Liberals, including big-gun cabinet ministers such as Marc Lalonde, Mark MacGuigan, Charles Caccia, Andre Ouellet, Herb Gray and Judy Erols — who kept telling the women they have to get more women elected if they really want change.

"You're dreaming in technicolor until you take that route," Erols said.

The women saved their biggest hisses and boos for Liberal leadership hopeful Justice Minister MacGuigan and Mulroney for their anti-choice positions on abortion.

"You don't have a right to force your opinion on the women of this country," Norma Scarborough of the Canadian Abortion Rights Action League yelled at them.

"The women of this country want the right to make decisions for themselves when faced with an unplanned pregnancy."

## Heated exchanges

NAC wants abortion taken out of the Criminal Code and made a matter between a woman and her doctor, a position the NDP supports. At present, legal abortions are available only in accredited hospitals with the approval of a committee of doctors. Not all hospitals have such committees or perform abortions.

Mulroney's statement that, "I will listen with an open mind (to both sides of the argument) and vote accordingly" didn't appease the angry women. A free vote on the issue in the House of Commons would not help women because men control Parliament, says NAC's new president, Chaviva Hosek.

Heated exchanges also occurred between Finance Minister Lalonde and NAC vice-president Louise Dulude, who was trying to pin Lalonde down on pensions for homemakers, an issue NAC feels strongly about because two-thirds of women over 65 are poor and because it doesn't want women who have worked all their lives in the home to live in poverty.

"You are trying to turn this into a ridiculous situation," said an exasperated Lalonde after Dulude commented: "You are not on record for this."

Dulude, a lawyer and researcher who teaches a course on Women and the Law at The University of Ottawa, responded to the NDP members' opposition to pensions for homemakers by saying: "We have studied all the angles and you are wrong."

"With exception of the pension area, we are in complete and utter agreement," NDP Leader Ed Broadbent joked with the NAC representatives later, "and it is at least conceivable that we might be right on pensions." The NDP agrees that women need better pensions under an expanded Canada Pension Plan.

Broadbent later told The Star that NAC was extremely well-informed and had "as usual, revealed itself as probably the best overall most effective pressure group that comes to Ottawa."

A chorus of groans greeted Conservative employment critic James McGrath's comments that his party couldn't guarantee that 50 per cent of the new jobs it would create would be for women because that would be "reverse discrimination."

## Some commitments

While NAC is committed to publicizing party and candidate positions on women's issues, and is developing an election kit to help women make informed choices in the next federal election, it is not supporting specific candidates, or a party.

However, NAC past-president Doris Anderson said NAC will have a bottom-line position to which candidates will have to adhere if they want the women's votes and she said she would find it difficult to support MacGuigan for Liberal leader because of his anti-choice position on abortion.

But NAC did get some specific commitments.

An important one was a Liberal party promise to introduce a bill that would reinstate Indian women who lost their treaty status when they married non-Indians.

The three parties agreed women and first-generation children should be reinstated before native bands are granted self-government. Many women fear they may never get their rights back if self-government comes first.

Mary Two Axe, a 71-year-old full-blooded Mohawk Indian who has been fighting since 1969 for the right to live and die on the reserve where she was born, brought tears to the eyes of some when she appealed to MPs to give back her rights.

There also were commitments to:

□ Pensions for homemakers. Endorsed by the Conservatives and Liberals, they would require the support of a majority of provinces with a majority of the population.

□ Day care, not based on income and fully subsidized. Endorsed by the Conservatives; Liberals are studying the day-care issue, but say it is a provincial responsibility; the NDP agrees to accessible, affordable day care not based on user fees.

□ Rethinking the entrenchment of property rights. The Conservatives promised to rethink their commitment to put a property rights clause in the Charter, which NAC fears would threaten gains women have made in property settlements under provincial family law reforms.

□ Peace. The Tories and NDP agreed to include women in peace and disarmament negotiations.

□ Job creation. The NDP agreed that 50 per cent of government-funded job creation programs should be in areas where women work and that 50 per cent of new jobs should be for women; Conservatives agreed to the first proposal; Liberals agreed to neither.

□ Labor. The NDP and Liberal party agree to job security and benefits for part-time workers; the Conservatives agree for permanent part-timers.

## Health act

□ Legislation to govern the use of video display terminals. NDP and the Conservative party agree; Liberals are studying the issue.

□ Canada Health Act. The NDP and Conservative party agree to redefine the act to cover the services of non-medical health practitioners, such as nurses and physiotherapists.

□ Legalization of midwifery. The NDP is sympathetic; PCs are studying the issue; Liberals say it's a provincial issue.

□ Divorce. Liberals are studying the need for improved maintenance provisions in their new divorce bill and will help set up a computerized registry to enforce maintenance orders. Conservatives want to ensure a woman's age and ability to support herself are considered when courts determine economic self-sufficiency and the need for maintenance.

The NAC lobbied the parties after a weekend meeting at the Chateau Laurier that attracted more than 400 delegates and got off to a flying start with a skit by a group of women who presented themselves as Ladies Against Women, affiliated with REAL Ladies of Canada.

The group, parodying the new women's group REAL Women of Canada, carried banners proclaiming 62 Cents is Too Much, a reference to the 60 cents a woman makes for every \$1 a man makes, Daycare Causes Cancer, Money is a Male Concern and Born To Clean.

Their slogans included "If you don't feel it, fake it" and "a durable marriage is a happy marriage." Their president was chosen for her "beauty, charm and talents" by the women's husbands.

While the women got plenty of laughs, the real message of the conference was serious. Workshops were held on divorce, employment, health, social services, federal-provincial relations, native Indian women, pornography and peace.

A series of resolutions was passed, requesting: An end to cruise missile testing in Canada; that federal government contracts be awarded only to companies that have affirmative action programs; that native women be given a separate seat and equal status with other native groups at First Ministers' Conferences on Aboriginal Rights.

The conference theme, women mobilizing for power, attracted well-known party strategists and speakers, including businesswoman and former MP Jean Pigott, NDP women's critic Margaret Mitchell and Lauris Talmei, president of the National Women's Liberal Commission and a member of the party's national executive.

The women got hints on election strategy and speakers urged them to vote for candidates offering specific commitments to women.

"Our freedom to mark a ballot will be courted now as we've never been before in our lives," said Pigott.

Talmei told the women she is urging women delegates to the Liberal leadership convention not to commit themselves to a candidate until all have revealed their platforms — and then to vote as a group for the one most committed to women's concerns.

The only sore spot in the conference was a conflict over whether the NAC head office should be moved from Toronto to Ottawa.

Past-president Anderson said NAC should be in the capital to respond quickly to government initiatives, and to attract more Quebec francophone groups to the organization. Only 2 per cent of NAC member groups are francophone.

Opponents of the move said NAC has more volunteers in Toronto, a better chance of attracting grassroots support from the city's larger population base and may be better off by being distanced from the federal government, which supports NAC to the tune of about \$185,000 a year.

Some francophone delegates said the move would make little difference in attracting francophone groups.

The vote to move was defeated 75 to 66.





## 1984-85 NAC EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT	Chaviva Hosek	Toronto, Ontario
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT	Doris Anderson	Toronto, Ontario
VICE-PRESIDENTS	Louise Dulude Jane Evans Dorothy Inglis	Vanier, Ontario Armstrong, B.C. St. John's, Newfoundland
SECRETARY	Lynn Beak	Thunder Bay, Ontario
TREASURER	Anne Betz	Ottawa, Ontario
<u>REGIONAL REPS*</u>		
NEWFOUNDLAND/LABRADOR N.B./N.S./P.E.I.	Barbara Doran Kit Holmwood	St. John's (709) 753-6937 Halifax (902) 455-8170
QUEBEC	Madeleine Parent	Montreal (514) 768-3256
SOUTHERN ONTARIO	Kathleen O'Neil	Toronto (416) 964-1232 (b)
NORTHERN ONTARIO	Jennifer Keck	Sudbury (705) 673-5427
MANITOBA	Jeri Bjornsen	Winnipeg (204) 256-7143
SASKATCHEWAN	Palma Little	Spalding (306) 872-2256
ALBERTA/N.W.T.	Trudy Richardson	Edmonton (403) 482-2766
SOUTH/CENTRAL B.C.	Donna Stewart	Nth Vancouver (604) 986-9604
NORTHERN B.C./YUKON	Audrey Lougheed	Whitehorse (403) 667-4637
<u>MEMBERS AT LARGE</u>		
	Moira Armour Lynn Kaye Barbara MacDonald Carole Wallace Jon Leah Hopkins	Toronto, Ontario Newmarket, Ontario Heatherton, N.S. Montreal, Quebec Whitehorse, Yukon

\*Note to Member Groups: Please contact your Regional Rep -- exchange information -- use as resource

## 1984-85 NAC COMMITTEES

At the April meeting of the NAC Executive, the following committees were constituted for 1984-85:

<u>Standing Committees</u>	<u>Chairperson</u>
MEMBERSHIP	Jane Evans
EDITORIAL COMMITTEE	
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	Anne Betz/Jennifer Keck

<u>Policy Committees</u>	
EDUCATION	Moira Armour
EMPLOYMENT	Jennifer Keck/Lynn Kaye
HEALTH	Kit Holmwood
JUSTICE	Kathleen O'Neil
NATIVE INDIAN WOMEN	Lynn Beak
PORNOGRAPHY/PROSTITUTION	Louise Dulude/Dorothy Inglis
PENSIONS	Louise Dulude
SOCIAL SERVICES	Barbara MacDonald
SURVIVAL	Moira Armour
WOMEN & POVERTY	Barbara MacDonald

Our Annual General Meeting voted to change our French name. Effective immediately, we are:

NATIONAL ACTION COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (NAC)  
COMITÉ CANADIEN D'ACTION SUR LE STATUT DE LA FEMME (CCA)

## dates

The Executive meeting schedule for the balance of NAC's year is:

APRIL 14/15

JUNE 9/10

SEPTEMBER 8/9

OCTOBER 13/14 OR NOVEMBER 3/4 \*\*\*\*\* MID YEAR MEETING

DECEMBER 8/9

JANUARY 12/13, 1985

FEBRUARY 16/17, 1985

MARCH 23/24, 1985

\*\*\*\*\* ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTE: March School Break dates are March 11-15.

## membership



We are pleased to welcome the following new Member Groups:

Community Resources for Women, Kitchener-Waterloo YWCA, Ontario  
Concordia Women's Collective, Montreal, Quebec  
Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics, Toronto  
Organization for Women in Leadership, Toronto  
Planned Parenthood Ontario, Hamilton, Ontario  
Sudbury Rape Crisis Centre, Sudbury, Ontario  
Women's Issues Group, N.S. Association of Social Workers, Dartmouth, N.S.

THREE SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION HEADSETS WERE NOT RETURNED TO THE EQUIPMENT SUPPLIER FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. NAC WILL HAVE TO PAY \$100 FOR EACH OUTSTANDING SET.....

PLEASE, IF YOU STILL HAVE A SET, RUSH POST IT TO US SO THAT WE CAN AVOID PAYING THE PENALTY.

justice

The new Justice Committee has constituted itself into three subcommittees with contact persons as follows:

- 1. Family Law - Louise Dulude
- 2. Constitution/Charter - Kathleen O'Neil
- 3. Violence Against Women (Justice Aspects) - Barbara Doran

Pornography & Prostitution will be a separate committee and the issue of Reproductive Choice will be dealt with by the Health Committee. In order to provide continuity, last year's chair will be consulted on the status of the work they were engaged in.

The committee plans to lobby on the proposed changes to the Divorce Act, do position papers in the areas of violence against women and practical applications of the Charter. We will liaise with groups working on the Charter and try to use the election as a focus on what the government is, or is not doing on statute audits to prepare for April 1985, as well as to gain commitments to keep the proposed property rights amendments out of the Charter.

Louise Dulude reported that there had been support for NAC's position on divorce and maintenance at the recent People's Law Conference. Nancy Jackman reported on the status of the coalition organizing conferences on the Charter for the fall of 1984.

-----Kathleen O'Neil, Chair-----

native indian women

The Committee reviewed the activities of the previous year and discussed upcoming strategies. The most urgent issue is the passage of legislation amending the Indian Act, since the House will break for summer recess in June, and will probably not sit again prior to the federal election.

Since Judy Erola has promised to resign (thanks to NAC staff member, Lynne Huneault's question at a recent riding meeting) if the amendments are not introduced before June, we will write to her reminding her of this commitment and urging immediate introduction. We urge all women to do the same.

We will also be contacting the NDP with regard to the registration of first generation children on their mothers' Band lists, since we have received apparently contradictory statements on this issue from Margaret Mitchell and Jim Manly - and the NDP policy statement is not sufficiently detailed to clarify their position.

Since the PC's have promised all assistance in obtaining immediate passage of any bill at the lobby on March 19, 1984, we will write to Flora MacDonald and Brian Mulroney to confirm their position.

ACTION..... If anybody has suggestions for immediate action in Ottawa to force the federal government to introduce these amendments to the Indian Act, the committee would welcome them. We have discussed the possibilities of a vigil, for example, and would appreciate any support for this action. Contact Lynn Beak, (807) 344-1304 evenings.

-----Lynn Beak, Chair-----

## employment

### AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE?

Employment Committee members will be meeting with Treasury Board President Herb Gray on April 30th to discuss our reservations about the affirmative action program announced last summer for the Public Service of Canada. In early March, NAC refused Mr. Gray's invitation to sit on an advisory committee for this program. Lack of adequate staff for the implementation of the program, the recent decision to disband the Equal Opportunity Office of the Public Service Commission, the emphasis on upper management positions, and the role of department heads in setting targets all raise serious doubts as to the likely effectiveness of this program. NAC does not want to give credibility to a program which seems designed to fail!

### THE CANADA LABOUR CODE

Dear Mr. Ouellet;

I insist that the federal government move to introduce the following changes to the Canada Labour Code:

1. EQUAL WAGE RATES AND PROPORTIONAL BENEFITS FOR PART-TIME WORKERS.
2. MORE FREQUENT REST PERIODS FOR EMPLOYEES WORKING ON VIDEO DISPLAY TERMINALS.

75% of part-time workers are women and the majority of workers using V.D.T.'s are also women. Canadian women want action now.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

*Remember...  
Mr. Ouellet  
wants to hear  
from you!*



Many readers of MEMO have been participating actively in the campaign around the Canada Labour Code. As of last count, some 34,000 postcards have been sent out to member groups for distribution. If your group is planning any large meetings this spring, don't forget to make sure that EVERYONE gets a postcard! Cards are available through NAC Regional Reps or by calling the Toronto Office. If you need more than 100 cards, please let us know well in advance.

This year, nine American States have introduced legislation to limit continuous work on VDT's. Illinois, Maine and Massachusetts have already legislated a 15 minute break for each hour of continuous work on a V.D.T.

In Canada, we are behind. To date, only Saskatchewan has included protection for V.D.T. workers in its labour code. Obviously leadership from the federal government is essential on this issue!

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

## Health

The Health Committee will act as a liaison committee on four issues as follows: Canada Health Act (Trudy Richardson, Nancy Kotani), Abortion (Kathleen Howes, CARAL), Midwifery, Birthing, Health Care Needs of Older Women, DES (Kit Holmwood).

The committee may deal with other issues as they arise. Please contact the committee c/o the NAC Office.

-----Kit Holmwood, Chair-----



## pensions

On April 18, the government of Ontario released a 90 page document entitled ONTARIO PROPOSALS FOR PENSION REFORM.

As Ontario is the largest province to be included in the Canada Pension Plan and as it has the right of veto over all changes to that Plan, this is a very important report. Unfortunately, it also ignores most of women's recommendations. NAC reacted by sending the following letter to Larry Grossman, Treasurer of Ontario:

"Our group is the largest women's organization in Canada, comprised of 270 member groups representing over three million Canadian women. We are writing to inform you that with a few admittedly important exceptions, the positions contained in your Ontario Proposals for Pension Reform are not in the best interests of the vast majority of the women of this country.

The one area in which our positions resemble yours is the crucial matter of providing a minimal adequate guaranteed income to all elderly Canadians. We therefore urge you to pursue this goal vigorously so that all pensioners can be sure of being protected against poverty in the very near future.

On the other hand, most women's organizations disagree with your decision to maintain the current level of benefits under the Canada Pension Plan. Because women's earnings do not allow them to accumulate substantial savings, because most female earners work in industries that do not provide pension plans for their employees, and because the particular work patterns of women are not well suited to employer pension plans, we have become fully and strongly committed to the view that the only way to provide a decent level of retirement income to women is to expand the Canada and Quebec Pension Plans. If you truly care for the fate of aging women in Canada, we urge you to reconsider your position on this extremely important issue.

Another area in which we disapprove of your views is closely related to the previous one. To be able to believe, as your report states, that "Canada's retirement income system is fundamentally sound", is to completely ignore the plight of elderly women or to assume that most of them do not need adequate pension benefits in their own right because they will be protected through their spouses. This is reflected in your proposals that survivors' benefits be not only maintained, but considerably enlarged.

In our view, this decision reflects a deep lack of understanding of the changes which have taken place in our society in the last 15 years. Increasingly, marriages do not last until death and the provision of survivors' pensions is becoming a cruel game of roulette which can deprive a wife of 30 years of any benefits, while making unjustified payments to a young short-term mate. In a world in which close to half of all marriages are soon going to end in divorce, and in which older divorced women have very little chance of remarrying, the expectation that most women's financial protection in old age will come to them through their spouse has become an obsolete joke.

The only possible solutions to this dilemma are: 1) to give female earners adequate pensions of their own through an expansion of CPP benefits and the splitting of their pension credits with those of their spouses, and 2) to entitle homemakers to personal CPP credits which will not be affected by divorce and will be included in the equal splitting of pension credits between the spouses.

As well as providing more secure protection than survivors' benefits, direct homemaker coverage in the CPP has many other advantages:

- it recognizes the value of homemakers' work and treats them as workers instead of burdens "dependent" on their spouses;
- it provides benefits that are more logical for being based on an estimate of the value of homemaking from the homemakers' services, instead of being subsidized by all CPP participants.

PENSIONS (cont'd).....

Letter to the Hon. Larry Grossman, Treasurer of Ontario ...page 2

- direct coverage of homemakers is fairer because it is mainly paid for by the spouses who benefit from the homemakers' services, instead of being subsidized by all CPP participants.

Finally, and most important for the future of the CPP, direct coverage of homemakers will become much cheaper than survivors' benefits as more women join the labour force and fewer are entitled to pensions for work done in their homes. Unlike this, survivors' benefits would increase forever as women's incomes continue to rise and their surviving spouses become entitled to ever larger pensions.

In addition to the above, there are other areas in which we disagree with your proposals, such as the possible waiver of credit splitting on divorce and your less-than-satisfactory formula for inflation protection under private pension plans. We would be pleased to meet with you to discuss all these subjects at your convenience, and we look forward to hearing from you on the points we have raised in this letter.

Sincerely,

Chaviva Hosek, President

Louise Dulude, Vice President  
Chair, NAC Pensions Committee"

c.c. David Peterson/Bob Rae/Robert Welch (Min. Responsible for SW)

The Ontario Report: Free copies can be obtained from the Ontario Government Bookstore, 880 Bay Street, Toronto (for those who live in Toronto) or by writing to: Publications Services Section, 5th Floor, 880 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1N8 (Toll free telephone number 1-800-268-7540, and in North Western Ontario: 0-Zenith-67200).

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



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



## divorce

On January 19, 1983, Mark MacGuigan introduced a divorce reform bill (Bill C-10) in the House of Commons. The press gave it generally favourable coverage and never seemed to understand why NAC had issued a strong statement opposing the bill. Here is why:

From women's point of view, Bill C-10 contains two main provisions: the liberalization of the grounds for divorce and the introduction of new criteria for setting maintenance awards. On the first point, NAC has no objections at all because its own proposals are even less restrictive. In its brief of October 1983, NAC's Executive recommended that divorce be obtainable in 30 days when the spouses agree on everything, and in one year in other cases.

The problem is in the maintenance criteria. These are the rules which determine who will get maintenance, how much it will amount to and how long it will be paid. At the present time, the Divorce Act contains no rules on this, but the trend among judges has increasingly been in the direction of granting smaller and smaller payments to ex-wives for shorter and shorter periods. Under this so-called "clean break" approach, 50-year-old housewives have been known to receive alimony awards limited to three years on the assumption that they will find a job and become entirely self-sufficient in that interval.

Bill C-10 carries this principle even further. In addition to stating in the law that all spouses must seek "economic self-sufficiency", it states that if a judge issues an order having a time limit, this limit will be final and not subject to being re-opened as it is at the present time. As a result, if the 50-year-old housewife mentioned above does not find a job in three years, she would be left without a penny and with no recourse whatsoever against her ex-husband who may be living it up with a new wife.

This is only one of the problems NAC has with Bill C-10, but it should make it clear why we cannot support the passage of this bill unless important amendments are made to its maintenance provisions. For more information on this, phone or write to NAC to get our divorce brief of October 1983, and watch out for an article in the forthcoming issue of STATUS OF WOMEN NEWS magazine.

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

## pornography

Following comments received at NAC's Annual Meeting and parliamentary lobby, we have decided to take another look at our recommendations concerning pornography laws, regulations, etc. If anyone reading this has prepared a brief on the subject, please forward a copy to NAC so that we can take it into account in doing our own review. Thanks.

-----Louise Dulude, Co-Chair, Pornography Committee----

# Politicians are learning peril of ignoring women

By John Ferguson  
Southam News

All of a sudden somebody's noticing.

Women's issues are becoming everybody's issues and politicians who ignore them will do so at their peril.

Nearly a hundred years after the birth of women's fight for political equality in Canada and nearly 70 years after they got the vote, issues affecting women have been thrust front and centre on the political agenda.

Equal pay for work of equal value, the feminization of poverty, affirmative action, day care, abortion, wife battering, pornography and pensions are up there with unemployment and the deficit in the must-know category of today's political lingo.

Private polls by the federal parties show voter attitudes toward these so-called women's issues have changed dramatically, forcing the men who still dominate politics to understand them, talk about them, and most importantly, to do something about them. The pollsters say that in the past 20 years no other issue has risen so quickly to the forefront with the exception of concern about the environment.

Responding to the new political reality, Prime Minister Trudeau last fall appointed outspoken feminist Maude Barlow to his personal staff to advise him how to cope with it. She's been criss-crossing the country, mincing few words in speeches to any group that will listen.

Brian Mulroney named a senior public servant, Jocelyne Cote-O'Hara, to an important but lower-key role to keep him plugged into the issues. Joe Clark, widely regarded as one of the politicians most sensitive toward women's issues, also had a special adviser when he was leader.

The Tories are determined to narrow the so-called gender gap clearly demonstrated in a January Gallup poll. It showed 60 per cent of men but only 46 per cent of women favored the Conservatives.

All three parties are making greater efforts to get women away from the coffee urn and bake table and into roles where they can influence policy and, even more important, get elected to Parliament.

The New Democrats have quotas for women's participation from the riding level up, and the Liberals are working on a form of affirmative action for provincial and riding associations to get more women into policy work and running as candidates. The Tories are pressing prominent women to seek party nominations, not just in the no-win ridings but also in those likely to send them to the Commons.

The Liberal leadership contenders, many of whom have been caught totally unawares by it all, are scrambling to come up with sharp, detailed positions on women's issues, knowing that bland platitudes will no longer suffice. At least 1,000 of the 3,500 voting delegates at the June convention will be women and they plan to put the candidates on the griddle at special policy sessions before the June 6 balloting.

"Anybody who is going to be a leader in this country has got to understand these issues," says Chaviva Hosek, president of the influential National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC.) "And we're making every effort to make certain that they do."

The NAC was formed in 1971 on the heels of the royal commission on the status of women and has grown to the point that it now is the umbrella for 280 separate organizations involving some 2-3 million women.

When the NAC speaks, politicians listen. Two weeks ago, NAC leaders arrived in town for a day of meetings with MPs to lobby them about their concerns. They held what amounted to a day of public hearings, with political leaders appearing before them for a grilling on their views.

Mulroney turned up for the Tories, Ed Broadbent for the NDP and Finance Minister Marc Lalonde for the Liberals.

The effect of NAC muscle was demonstrated in 1981 when it mounted one of the most intensive nation-wide lobbies ever seen in this country, convincing federal politicians and the provincial premiers to back off from an attempt to water down women's rights in the new Charter of Rights.

It's the political clout of organizations like the NAC, with their demonstrated ability to mobilize, that has made politicians sit up and take notice.

But party polling is also show-

**The phrase  
'women's issues' is  
really a misnomer**

**— Political pollster**

ing the issue runs much deeper in the public consciousness, garnering support not only from women but also from men.

"The phrase 'women's issues' is really a misnomer because it suggests that these issues are only of importance to women and supported only by women," says one party pollster who asked that he not be named. "We find that the difference in attitudes between men and women is minuscule, only five to 10 per cent."

The big differences show up on the basis of class and age. Generally, the better-educated and higher-income voters are the strongest supporters of policies and programs aimed at women; the least support is among those with the least education and the lowest income.

Similarly, the pollsters find that support is strongest among the youngest voters and weakest among the over-65 group.

These women — and their husbands — know what it's like to reach age 65 with no private pension, even though they may have been in the labor force for 30 or even 40 years. Such situations arise because they have worked part-time or because they took a few years off here and there to care for children at home.

The article goes on to list a few of the problems experienced by women: The feminization of poverty, Equal pay for work of equal value and inadequate day care, and ends: "Throw in the controversy over pornography and prostitution, lack of enforcement of maintenance payments after divorce, the shortage of proper facilities for battered wives and the debate over abortion, the result is a bagful of serious issues. The solutions may not be easy. But the voters clearly think the time for



# survival

LETTER OF THE MONTH.... Some groups have started picking a topic for everyone to write to officials about each month. Choose your own group's topic or write about our Survival Resolutions (one is reprinted here...)

**"BE IT RESOLVED THAT NAC URGE THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO INITIATE AND/OR SUPPORT:**

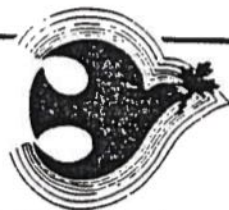
- 1) DISARMAMENT AND FREEZE RESOLUTIONS AND EFFORTS AT THE UNITED NATIONS AND WITH OTHER COUNTRIES:
- 2) A U.N. MONITORING AND VERIFICATION SATELLITE:
- 3) NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE ZONES - CANADA, THE ARCTIC, PACIFIC RIM, AND A TOTAL BAN ON ALL WEAPONS IN SPACE; AND
- 4) RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT FOR CONVERSION TO PEACE TIME PRODUCTION AND RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FOR NON-VIOLENT SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS FACING THE WORLD TODAY."

We could ask that Canada's vote at the U.N. reflect a greater urgency and commitment to issues on disarmament (our voting record has been wishy-washy and Canada voted against one freeze resolution). No Stamp needed for M.P.'s, House of Commons, Ottawa, K1A 0A6,

**RISK PEACE**  
**NOT WAR**

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.... NAC will be represented at a planning meeting (June 1-3, Toronto) preparing for mini-conferences across Canada, and an international Women's Negotiating Conference, 1985. Over 30 national women's groups will be represented. Following is another NAC 1984 AGM Resolution:

**"BE IT RESOLVED THAT NAC: (1) ENDORSE & ENCOURAGE THE PROPOSAL INITIATED BY VOICE OF WOMEN FOR A WORLD PEACE GATHERING OF WOMEN TO BE HELD IN CANADA AS A WOMEN'S PEACE NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE"**



PEACE PETITION CARAVAN CAMPAIGN ... Canvassing and organizing is already under way in many localities. Join in whenever you can. Consult your local PPCC or disarmament group or union or contact PPCC, 600 Bank Street, Ottawa. Kits are available -- canvassing with a petition is a wonderful way to discuss many issues which concern us. Ask how a person feels about nuclear war. Then LISTEN. Aim to understand their point of view and try to feel how they feel. We want to use cooperative confidence-building techniques for negotiating sanctions internationally. Let's try them out on our neighbours. Yet another 1984 NAC Resolution:

**"BE IT RESOLVED THAT NAC:**

- 2) SUPPORT THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PEACE PETITION CARAVAN CAMPAIGN AND ENCOURAGE THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN PROMOTING THIS INITIATIVE:
  - a) to stop the testing of the cruise missile in Canada;
  - b) to have Canada officially declared a nuclear weapons free zone;
  - c) to redirect the wasteful spending on the arms race so as to fund human needs and ensure prosperity through peace; and
  - d) that the above-stated objectives be subject to ratification through a "free vote" in the Parliament of Canada."

Survival cont'd...



**\*\* MOTHER'S DAY ACTIONS \*\***  
Sunday, May 13th

Peace Bell Treaty

In 1983 bells rang out on Mother's Day in Germany, Brazil, the U.S. and Canada declaring PEACE. This year on Mother's Day, May 13th, from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m., children will lead their elders in the ringing of bells for peace and life.

- \*\* Get your communities to ring bells - church bells & others.
- \*\* Ask you religious leaders to talk about peace, plan services and talks about the subject.
- \*\* Walk with your children for Peace.
- \*\* Organize other activities, festivals, concerts for children and parents.
- \*\* Show films, play, dances, puppets, etc. Draw pictures

NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION AGAINST CRUISE MISSILES - APRIL 28!

Check with your local disarmament group. We want to end development, production, deployment and testing of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons.

Hansard, March 5, 1984..... Pauline Jewett, M.P., asked the Hon. Allan MacEachen, Secretary of State for External Affairs, if he would give serious consideration to having at least one woman involved in the arms control and disarmament division of his Department .... (and) will he fill the position of ambassador for disarmament which has been vacant for many months, with a prominent woman who is concerned about the issues that that ambassador is supposed to be concerned about, namely, disarmament and peace.

Mr. MacEachen replied: "... I am quite favourably disposed toward doing what is possible to reflect the particular point of view of women in the Department where that is possible. The Hon. Member has suggested that we consider an ambassador for disarmament. I would do that, and if she has any candidates she would like to propose, I would be happy to receive the names from her.

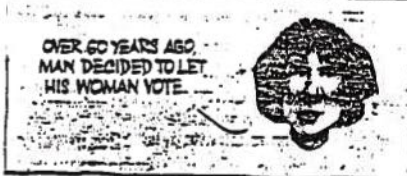
Ms. Jewett replied: "Don't you know any?"

\*\*\*\*\*If you have suggestions, please send the names to Pauline Jewett, or to Mr. MacEachen, House of Commons, Ottawa K1A 0A6.

**ATTENTION: NAC CONFERENCE DELEGATES**

If anyone picked up a Blue Pottery "Women for Peace" pin at the AGM Display Room and did not have funds to pay for it at the time or was unaware of the price of the pin (\$7.00), the Second Story Women's Centre would be most appreciative if you would send a cheque to cover the cost. The pins are a fundraising project for the centre, and they would be happy to receive more orders. Add \$1.00 extra for postage. Write to:

Second Story Women's Centre  
724 King Street, Bridgewater  
Nova Scotia B4V 1B4



WOMEN OF CHINA

A group of five women from the Women of China editorial staff will be visiting Canada next fall. Women's groups have offered to help plan the visit. For Details Contact: Kay Macpherson, C/o NAC Office



## saskatchewan

Days before presenting their annual extensive brief to the provincial Cabinet, the Saskatchewan Action Committee on the Status of Women was informed that they would have to wait till June or September because some members of the Cabinet Committee were "too busy" to meet with them. "The point is that women can't "wait"; too many women live below the poverty line... are assaulted and abused ... face the threat of job dislocation... do not have reasonable access to training and retraining programs", said SAC President, Palma Anderson. Ignoring the postponement, SAC arrived at the legislature and delivered the brief, along with bread and roses, to the members of the Cabinet Committee and others, including the Premier. SAC's recommendations included protection and benefits for part-time workers, a minimum wage increase, job training, child care, counselling, funding for transition houses and sexual assault centres, elimination of pornography expansion of the unified family court, mandatory math and science in high schools, and regular consultation between the Women's Secretariat and women's groups.

As well, SAC is organizing eight workshops to help women run for political office. The day-long workshops will be held around the province on September 8, including Saskatoon, Regina and Prince Albert, and will also involve women who want to support female candidates.

The recent Saskatchewan budget had SAC in the news (again!!). "From a women's point of view, (it's) a "pathetic effort", they told the press. Inadequate financial support for day care and promised money to establish programs to deal with wife battering (which did not materialize) were their main concerns. .... UPDATE..... This month the government finally came through with funding for assistance to battered women... they promise \$800,000 and to-date have given \$250,000 to the new Saskatchewan Battered Women's Advocacy Network (a coalition of 12 groups).

SAC has become highly visible in the province and receives daily calls from the press asking for statements on various issues.

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## northern bc/yukon

Yukon women have planned a very active year, with March 8 serving as the focal point. The Yukon Status of Women Council are involved in several projects, all of which are of an on-going nature:

- supporting the local Media Watch representative
- monitoring the legislature's attempts to create labour legislation, including maternity leave
- public education through monthly public seminars on women's and current public issues
- participation in a weekend retreat for women held the last week of March, together with the Whitehorse Women's Centre.

The Whitehorse Women's Centre has completed the planning of its Spring program and is looking forward to full enrollment. CLOW is creating a pamphlet tentatively titled "Women in Non-Traditional Trades" scheduled to be placed in local schools this autumn. In conjunction with the Yukon Status of Women, CLOW has participated in "Career Days" at the local high school on April 14.

The NDP Standing Women's Committee has announced that they will field a woman candidate in the upcoming federal election, and the four local women's organizations will meet with her this weekend, an excellent opportunity to "mobilize for power" in 1984.

-----Audrey Loughheed-----

## south/central b.c.

The Fraser Committee hearings on Prostitution and Pornography and the Women's Centre Conference were encouraging. The privatization of social services was not. The cuts in income to the young and single were worse, but some groups are fighting back. They are asking for long overdue increases in social assistance on the grounds that inflation hits the poor hardest, since almost all their income is used for necessities.

Funding problems continue in all women's services. Vancouver Status of Women's funding is still in doubt.

R.E.A.L. women continue to attack NAC, saying that we are anti-family. In North Vancouver, Women Exploited mounted a well-attended meeting at which the speakers claimed that they were "deceived" by feminists, doctors and counsellors into believing that the fetus is not a potential child.

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

## B.C. Human Rights

Bill 11 came down in British Columbia, and the Minister of Labour had ignored most of the advice of his Advisory Committee:

- 1) there is still no education body
- 2) the Council is still not responsible to Legislature as a whole
- 3) the "without reasonable cause" is still omitted
- 4) proof of intent to discriminate is still required
- 5) there is no provision for properly trained investigative staff
- 6) the Council can still label complaints "trivial vexations"
- 7) there are no limits on the Council's power to order discontinuance of a complaint
- 8) Sexual harassment is not covered; pregnancy is doubtfully protected
- 9) discriminatory application forms are not forbidden

FURTHERMORE, BILL 11, IF PASSED, WILL EFFECTIVELY END PROTECTION FOR MOST VICTIMS OF DISCRIMINATION (B.C. CIVIL LIBERTIES ASSOCIATION). THE HUMAN RIGHTS COALITION URGES CITIZENS TO:

- write to their MLA asking for the withdrawal of the legislation and the resignation of the Minister of Labour, Bob McLelland
- write to Lieutenant Governor Steven Rogers asking him to refuse to sign Bill 11 into law.

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

The Holiday Inn - Harbourfront, in Vancouver, has no pornography in its magazine shop. The North Shore Women's Centre has written to express appreciation and find out if this represents a policy change in response to last fall's demonstration of mental health workers. Members are encouraged to check out their local hotels and express approval or disapproval of the magazines stocked therein.



## alberta/n.w.t.

The University of Alberta is opening a women's resource centre in a house on June 1. The centre houses the office of the Women's Program and will combine the research efforts of community action women and academic women into a research collective. CLOW is also involved in the research centre. An Immigrant Women's Centre is in the planning stage and will happen soon.

The 1984 Miss Universe Pageant is planned for Calgary, and Alberta Status of Women Action Committee (ASWAC) has written an analysis brief which calls for action to cancel the pageant. A Calgary woman is organizing an International Feminist Forum to take place at the same time as the 1988 Winter Olympics. She is trying to get international women's groups to hold their annual conferences in Calgary at the same time.

The Metro Association of Alberta has produced a half-hour video on incest. It has lost its feminist content and its recommendations echo government groups' stands. There is an incredible amount of political manoeuvring by establishment agencies for government dollars attached to incest-related programs. Meanwhile, battered women's shelters continue to be haphazardly funded and underfunded. Front line workers face exhaustion and burn-out. There is a worker-led attempt to standardize funding, salaries and programs and thereby form a united front to government rather than compete for funds. Shelter intake forms now ask questions re pornography in order to build a research base. ASWAC has written a draft position paper on long-term funding for women's groups with a fairly exhaustive analysis of government funding versus independent sources and structures of funding. As well they are researching the structures of the newly formed government Women's Secretariat and its relationship to Alberta women's groups.

Much activity is taking place against the proliferation of Pornography, including:

- lobbying for changes in the Alberta Municipal Act to allow for by-laws which can govern the sale, distribution and display of pornography
- education in schools
- the development of kits for use in neighbourhood action
- speakers bureau referrals for talks on pornography

A group of Edmonton women wish to make contact with Vancouver women working on the Jim Pattison distribution of pornography. Please phone Alberta Regional Rep if you can help.

Alberta Food Bank: Government social assistance cutbacks and the general economic downturn have created a dramatic increase in food demands. A coalition in Edmonton plans to pressure the government into reassuming their share of responsibility to feed people in need by increasing social assistance payments. At present the vast majority of Food Bank recipients are women and children. Solidarity Alberta, a strong labour-backed coalition is confronting government cutbacks, layoffs and "recession" measures. The Government is now withdrawing Student Maintenance Grants to single parents and disabled people who take less than five courses. 90% are women.

Medicare: The Government is adamantly opposed to provisions of the Canada Health Act which impose dollar penalties for provinces which allow double-billing, user fees and all other direct payments for guaranteed health services. They also oppose any federal restrictions on premiums for health care. The Alberta government is prepared to lose over \$85 million dollars per year from federal funds in order to defend their regressive position. They are telling Alberta residents that the federal government only funds 14% of total Alberta health care. This percentage is created by ignoring federal tax points credits and by including in total costs the provincial "enrichments" which are beyond cost-sharing agreements. The federal government actually funds 44.5% of Alberta health costs.

Alberta Friends of Medicare has been named "public enemy number one" by Premier Lougheed. Friends of Medicare have organized ten community forums across the province and have mobilized opposition to provincial government policy. They have four members on two hospital boards and have a long-term strategy to have members in decision-making positions on hospital boards.

Health & Welfare Canada is funding an employee assistance program demonstration project for women alcoholics.

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

## québec

An urgent request was made on behalf of Mary Two-Axe Early that the CACSW take action to hold the federal government to its promise of March 8, 1984, to legislate equality for non-status Indian women and their children. It was mentioned that time for the fulfillment of this commitment is running short.

In early April, the Québec government announced that it would allocate an additional \$4.6 million to provide 4,000 day care places in 77 new centres. Le Regroupement des garderies du Québec complained that this is insufficient as there had been no substantial increase in facilities since 1979.

Congratulations to La Vie en Rose were in order for their excellent March 8 show for women. In Montréal, over 3,000 marched on International Women's Day and other demonstrations; dinners and meetings were held in Québec City and many centres through the region.

The regional representative was interviewed on a CBC Montréal radio programme where the principle of the universality of family allowances was defended by NAC in response to attacks on this social benefit from a spokesman of the Fraser Institute in British Columbia.

Criticism was made of the arbitrary manner in which Mme. Louise Leblanc-Bartley, the new Québec Minister on the Status of Women is seeking to impose her control over the Advisory Council. NAC intends to keep in closer contact with women's groups in the face of this new threat.

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

## manitoba

Following is a brief outline of major activities of M.A.C.S.W. since beginning of October 1983.

- Information seminar on pornography to municipal and government officials in October.
- Submission and presentation on pensions to the Royal Commission on Pensions by our Political Action Committee.
- Ongoing lobbying for increased funding for shelters for battered women is a major project of the Political Action Committee. MACSW is part of a coalition of women's groups working on this issue.
- Making connections with other women's groups, in particular Réseau (a francophone women's organization). A representative of Réseau is now a member of our Executive. Efforts are made to connect with native women's organizations to broaden our base.
- This past year has been an exercise in working as a collective, that is without a chair, vice-chair and secretary. Also decisions are made by consensus whenever possible. (Staff are, and have been for years, full voting members of the Executive.)
- An ad hoc committee of MACSW is doing local research on the issue of prostitution, and is preparing a brief for the Fraser Commission for when they come to Winnipeg in the beginning of April.
- The Violence Against Women Committee together with the Media Monitoring Committee is working on an educational package on pornography, which is expected to be finished this spring.
- The Media Monitoring Committee will be taking on monitoring for Media Watch in Manitoba as a committee project.
- Work is being done with the Incest Survivors Encounter group to lobby for changes in legislation to protect incest victims, and also supported their protest against the acquittal of a local sex offender because of a technicality.
- The excellent outreach work done by our Brandon office has resulted in active committees in several Western communities. So much so that our monthly newsletter ACTION is published in a rural community every other issue.
- Brandon office has an ongoing video project, making tapes for use in presentations, as well as for a program on their local Access cable station.
- A very successful rural women's conference was held in Minnedosa in October called "Weekend for Women".
- A unique series for girls going thru puberty called "Changing Bodies, Changing Lives" was organized by our Brandon office. Approximately 60 young women attended, an overwhelming response, and the series was well received.

-----Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women-----



## southern ontario

Equal Pay: Bill 141, the Act to amend the Employment Standards Act, which introduces the composite test, but does not provide equal pay for work of equal value is expected to be back in the Ontario legislature on April 24 after question period. Visiting the galleries to support amending the legislation to provide for equal value is recommended.

Affirmative Action: The Minister of Education has announced that they will be "requesting and encouraging" school boards to develop affirmative action plans and to collect data on occupational distribution and salary distribution by sex. The Ontario Federation of Labour is holding a lobby and conference, April 26-28, as follow-up to their forums on Affirmative Action. Those wishing to lobby the provincial government should meet in the NDP caucus room at 11.00 a.m. on April 26. The conference will be held on April 27-28 at the Ontario Federation of Labour, 15 Gervais Drive.

Charter: The Charter of Rights Coalition has now available a 15 minute slide tape presentation with script. Rental \$20. Purchase \$400. (Suggestion: Organizations could buy and rent out to cover costs.) CORC can suggest bilingual speakers too. Write CORC, 184 Roxborough Drive, Toronto, Ontario M4W 1X8. Phone (416) 961-7744.

Midwifery: There will be an international conference of midwives in Toronto in the fall. Details later.

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

## northern ontario

Annual Report 1983-84

We wish to welcome our new member groups in Northern Ontario which include 2 francophone groups from Hearst and a group from the West Bay Indian Reserve on Manitoulin Island. This has been a year of funding problems for several member groups which, hopefully may be resolved with the increase in Secretary of State Women's Program funding and new streamlined procedures.

NAC's main role in Northern Ontario has been to serve as a link to keep the member groups in touch with each other and exchange ideas for conferences, funding and on specific issues. Member group activities include:

Thunder Bay: Work in the areas of pornography and wife battering, and their new transition house has purchased a permanent residence. Conferences have been held on the economy and family violence, and briefs presented to task forces on the economy and pornography.

Sudbury: Organized a successful Mothers' Day Peace March, and were otherwise active on peace and pensions issues. The issue of Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value has brought groups together. Sudbury is organizing and sponsoring the North Eastern Ontario Women's Conference scheduled for Spring 1984.

Sault Ste Marie: Member groups here have also been active on the issues of pornography and peace, and held a successful Mothers' Day Peace March. In addition they have been active in outreach in order to assist other communities to develop women's centres.

Hearst: Work towards the establishment of a women's centre which will provide counselling services as well as emergency shelter and second stage housing for women. They also organized a francophone women's conference, and have developed a greenhouse business.

North Bay: Active work on the issues of daycare, single parenting and teenagers' needs. They have been discussing the establishment of a CARAL group and have held several conferences.

One of our goals for 1984-85 is to discuss the possibility of holding a Northern Ontario Women's conference. Since the north has been traditionally split into east and west, a unifying project would be beneficial to all.

-----Lynn Beak, 1983-84 Rep-----

## new brunswick/nova scotia/p.e.i.

There are two main issues concerning Maritime women at this time:

Pornography: CRIAW has prepared their brief for the Fraser Commission and had a discussion evening around the topic.

### Confidentiality/Discrimination:

- The N.S. Family Benefit Act does not allow single sole-support fathers to collect benefits (only single mothers over 18)
- Personal information contained in a citizen's file was disclosed to the public via radio and newspaper by the Social Services Minister, Edmund Morris. This has horrendous potential to any users of services in the health field, mental health field, family and individual counselling, addiction field, etc. The reason given for this loss of confidentiality was the citizen's public criticism of public policy (i.e. public appeal to not have gender as a basis for receiving family benefits).

Anyone wishing to protest these issues should write to Premier John Buchanan and Edmund Morris, Minister of Social Services, at Province House, Halifax, Nova Scotia, with copies (or letter of support for the case) to: Social Policy Review Committee, 2nd Floor, 5194 Blowers St, Halifax, N.S. B3J 1J4

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

## newfoundland/labrador

The Newfoundland Status of Women Council held a Women's Festival to celebrate International Women's Day and to bring together women artists, singers, poets, musicians and actresses from all over the province. A display of women's arts/crafts were featured through the three-day festival. Although the event was by and large a raging success, bad press arose around a poster contest open to women only. This regulation served to raise the 'ire' of the more 'sensitive' male members of the artistic community who felt that gender had no significance in the arena of the arts.

The economic situation in Newfoundland continues to worsen. Our premier's response to the bleak situation is to hit the workers again, this time with a two-year wage and hiring freeze for Provincial civil servants. Women, who account for the majority of clerical, nursing and teaching positions within government, will be adversely affected by this new move. Further, the freeze will widen the already massive gap between men's and women's salaries.

Unemployment in Newfoundland now stands at 16%, although real figures are somewhere around double that figure. Again, women are the worst hit. Many fish plants in Newfoundland, which were the only source of employment for women, are still in uncertain status while the fishing industry faces a restructuring program. If these plants do not re-open for the summer fishing season, women in the small communities of Newfoundland and Labrador will have very few, if any, employment opportunities.

-----Barbara Doran-----



## announcements

MOTHER'S DAY PICNIC & RALLY, Sunday May 13, 1984, 12 noon till 3.00p.m.  
Themes: Motherhood by Choice, Abortion a Women's Right.  
Events: Music, entertainment, clowns, food, lots of children.  
In case of rain: Trinity-St. Paul's Church, 437 Bloor Street West.  
ORGANIZED BY: Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics. Info: 532-8193.  
Location: Queen's Park, Toronto.

1994: WHERE WILL WE BE WHEN WE GET THERE? A Conference on Women and the Workplace, June 5-6, 1984, St. Lawrence College Saint-Laurent, Brockville.  
Speakers include: Flora MacDonald, Jennifer Cossitt, Jean Piggot, Penny Kome.  
Information: Sydney Bright. Ph: (613) 544-5400, Ext. 225.

"DES: THE TIMEBOMB DRUG", a new documentary film from DEC FILMS/DES ACTION  
TUESDAY, MAY 8, 7.30pm, Women's College Hospital Auditorium, 76 Grenville St,  
Toronto. Followed by panel discussion. No Admission. Donations Welcome.  
More Information: 968-2844.

TOWARD COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE. MAY 11-13, St. Luke's United Church, Toronto. Sponsored by Quaker Committee on Jails & Justice/Rape Crisis Centre/ Education: Wife Assault/ and Elizabeth Fry Society, Toronto.  
Further Information: 922-6128.

NORTH YORK WOMEN'S SHELTER, Fundraising Dinner. JUNE 7, 7.00pm. OLD ANGELOS THEATRE RESTAURANT. Further Information: Isabella or Kay, 663-2733.

LESBIAN SEXUALITY CONFERENCE. June 8-10, O.I.S.E., Toronto. Information: Branching Out Conference, Box 141, 2 Bloor Street W., Suite 100-99, To.M4W 3E2.

OUR TIME IS NOW, Canadian Women's Music and Cultural Festival. Sept 1-2. Kildonan Park, Winnipeg. Information: Kris or Joan (204) 786-1921.

GRINDSTONE ISLAND CENTRE ... Ongoing summer program... women & spirit.... women & militarism.... celebration - a women's retreat.... alternative camp for younger/older children .... Information: 923-4215

TORONTO WOMEN'S BOOKSTORE... GRAND REOPENING... May 4-5, 73 Harbord Street, Toronto. Book Sale, storyteller, music, poetry, writers. Info: 922-8744.

CANADIAN WOMEN'S SAILBOAT RACING ASSOCIATION will enter the first all women's team in the ninth Victoria to Maui International Yacht Race. Starting Time: June 30.... membership or sponsorship welcomed by CWSRA... Ph: (604)738-3268.



## announcements

CANADIAN COALITION AGAINST MEDIA PORNOGRAPHY address: P.O. Box 1075, Station B  
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5R1

VANCOUVER WOMEN IN FOCUS SOCIETY celebrates their 10th anniversary this year as a national and international producer and distributor of feminist film/video. They need support from women's groups to make use of their collection which addresses numerous women's issues: pornography & violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic violence, depression, media images, alcoholism, nuclear power, low income mothers, non-traditional work, sexism, sports, childbirth. They will be delighted to assist you with selections for your film/video festival. Write for their catalogue .. donation of \$2.00 for publication and mailing costs.

Contact: Brenda Ingratta, Women in Focus, Suite 204-456 West Broadway,  
Vancouver, B.C. V5Y 1R3.

CANADIAN WOMEN'S MAILING LIST. A non-profit society providing information services to women, the WEB Women's Exchange has started the List as a communication tool. Inspired by a U.S. endeavour. For Information: write WEB 9280 Arvida Drive, Richmond, B.C. V7A 3P4. Ph: (604) 272-5335.

SHARED CUSTODY? Dr. Cerise Morris is currently studying the co-parenting family as an alternative to the traditional sole-custody arrangements. Co-parents willing to be interviewed or to complete a questionnaire (all information will be treated confidentially) should contact her at: Dawson College, Social Service Dept, 535 Viger St, Montreal, Quebec H2L 2P3. Ph: (514) 849-2351, extension 277.

CHARTER OF RIGHTS Slide Tape Show. Available from the Charter of Rights Coalition, 184 Roxborough Drive, Toronto, Ontario M4W 1X8 Ph: 961-7744. 15 minutes. Rental \$20. Purchase \$400. Organizations could buy and rent to cover costs.

### collectors' item

NAC HAS 'ALMOST' COMPLETE SETS OF STATUS OF WOMEN NEWS, DATING BACK TO 1973, VOLUME 1&1..... MORE THAN A DECADE OF VALUABLE INFORMATION DEALING WITH NAC, ITS HISTORY AND ROLE IN LEADING THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT IN CANADA AND PERSPECTIVES ON MANY TIMELY AND VITAL ISSUES THAT CONCERN ALL CANADIAN WOMEN.

FOR THE COST OF POSTAGE, WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO SHIP A COLLECTION TO GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS..... PLEASE SEND \$3.00 AND ASK FOR THE "STATUS ARCHIVAL SET"



## getting CN on track

OR CN Porn Update (a standby alert)

Come May Day, women may have cause to celebrate or cause to demonstrate. In any case, the traditional May Pole will be transformed into your local CN Hotel.

Following the demonstration against the sale of porn at the Chateau Laurier Hotel at the time of the NAC annual meeting in March, MEDIA WATCH sent a forceful letter to the president of CN Hotels, Daniel Oberlander. On April 9, Ginette Busque of the FFO Porn Subcommittee, Carole Wallace of the NAC Executive and Sylvia Spring, National Director of MEDIA WATCH/EVALUATION-MEDIAS met with Mr. Oberlander, Don McIntyre, Public Affairs Manager of the CN Corporation and Peter Thomson, Vice President of Human Resources for the United Cigar Store Group, to discuss our concerns.

What became clear to us at the meeting was that CN and UCS were taking us seriously and that they'd already decided to act by May 1. Our delegation stressed women's roles and power as consumers and potential clients of CN Hotels, saying that we will not tolerate being treated directly or indirectly as second-class citizens. We did not allow the conversation to get side-tracked into discussions of legal definitions or solutions but, rather, spoke as a powerful consumer force whose opinions they could not afford to ignore. After 2½ hours of 'education', the men assured us that we had clarified much of their confusion. They (CN and UCS) said they would definitely take action, but we were warned that we might not think that the solutions they come up with go far enough (ergo our assumption that they had already decided on policy).

We left the meeting feeling that the mountain had moved slightly, but determined not to allow ourselves to be 'railroaded' by CN. We now ask you to stand by for the next instalment of "ON TRACK".

-----SYLVIA SPRING, MEDIA WATCH/EVALUATION-MEDIAS-----

## U.N. Decade for Women

NAIROBI - 1985

Plans are moving ahead for the U.N. Decade for Women (1976-85) to be held in Nairobi, Kenya, from July 15-26, 1985. A wide range of issues crucial to women will be discussed. Equality, Development and Peace are the main themes, with Employment, Health and Education as the sub themes. Progress will be assessed in both the official government conference and the NGO Forum. Status of Women Canada, in Ottawa, is preparing an up-date on the National Plan of Action to document Canada's progress in the past decade.

Since space is limited to around 3,000 delegates, it is important that any groups planning to attend the Forum have a well thought out and documented program for the NGO section.

The planning committee for the Forum, headed by Dame Nita Barrow of Barbados, has almost no funds to date. CIDA (Canadian International Development Assistance) will be contributing some funds as they did in Copenhagen. If you wish to help out, send funds to:

Secretariat for the Planning Commission  
777 United Nations Plaza, 11th Floor  
New York, N.Y., 10017, U.S.A.

-----Doris Anderson-----

## congratulations

NAC is proud to have one of its early Executive members appointed Chair of the Ontario Labour Relations Board. Judge Rosalie Abella (the youngest judge ever appointed to the Ontario Family Court nine years ago) helped revise NAC's Constitution and has been a member of the Ontario Human Rights Commission. She is at present finishing her report as the Commissioner of the federal Commission of Inquiry on Equality in Employment.



### CANADIAN ABORTION RIGHTS ACTION LEAGUE

#### 10TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - MAY 5

CARAL is holding its 10th Annual General Meeting in Toronto, May 5, 1984.

Dr. Henry Morgentaler and defence lawyer Morris Manning will give updates on the clinic trial in Toronto. Guest speaker, Dr. Uta Landy of the National Abortion Federation, will talk about the United States experience with abortion clinics.

Registration at 9.00 a.m., ROOM 72, LEARNING RESOURCES CENTRE, RYERSON POLYTECHNICAL INSTITUTE, at Victoria and Gould. For more information or pre-registration, telephone CARAL at 961-1507.

#### NATIONAL ANTHEM

The National Council of Women of Canada is asking for support for their proposed changes to Canada's National Anthem, including elimination of "sons" command. Individuals and groups may write for their full proposal:

National Council of Women of Canada  
270 MacLaren Street, Room 20  
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 0M3



# Day Care

The Canadian Day Care Advocacy Association (a NAC Member Group) has just announced that on MAY 28 two events will mark the growing strength of the Day Care Lobby in Canada.

ON MAY 28 -- The cross-Canada steering committee of the Canadian Day Care Advocacy Association (24 elected people) will lobby all three parties on Federal day care policy. This will take place in Ottawa on Parliament Hill.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- 1) Contact the Canadian Day Care Advocacy Association (CDCAA) and ask for more information (you can get a number for their Executive member in your area by phoning (306) 664-4128
- 2) Contact your local MP and tell them why they should attend the lobby - tell them Day Care will be an election issue

ON MAY 28 Judy Erola will meet with all provincial Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women. Day Care is on the agenda.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- 1) Write Judy Erola, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, House of Commons, Ottawa K1A 0A6 -- and tell her how vital the issue is and request a follow-up structure for Provincial-Federal discussion on Day Care. This must not be a one-time effort.
- 2) Write your provincial Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women and tell them:
  - a) how vital this agenda item is
  - b) press them to request a follow-up structure for Federal-Provincial discussions on Day Care.

## ONTARIO COALITION FOR BETTER DAY CARE

### Conference and Lobby, May 6 & 7

LOCATION: OISE, 252 BLOOR STREET WEST, TORONTO. MAY 7 LOBBY OF PROVINCIAL MPPS  
This Conference will provide a forum where Ontario daycare activists can develop a clear daycare policy to put before the provincial government, and discuss strategies to implement these policies. It will also allow participants to meet, and exchange information about the situation in their various areas.

All provincial MPP's will be invited to the Monday group lobby, following a lobby workshop the night before. The Metro Day Care Coalition will talk to politicians in their own ridings prior to the conference, and urge you to do the same, stating your views on daycare.

NOTE: Many politicians are not in their Toronto office on Monday mornings. When contacting your MPP, stress the importance of their presence at the group lobby on MAY 7. Urge them to change their plans to accommodate the meeting. Do contact them prior to the lobby. The more they hear about day care, especially the concerns in their own ridings, the more responsive they become. **THEY NEED TO KNOW DAY CARE IS AN IMPORTANT ISSUE, AND NEEDS TO BE MADE A POLITICAL PRIORITY.** For more information on the conference/lobby, contact Wiesia Kolasinksa. Ph: 966-3424.

## Action .. Urgent .. Action

NAC is most concerned that the new museum to replace the former Museum of Man not be renamed "Museum of Man". We have written to The Honourable Francis FOX, Minister of Communications, and the National Museums of Canada Chairman, urging that they find another name that includes both sexes and acknowledges the very great contribution women have made through the ages in the arts, crafts, agriculture, communication and continuance of the human race. Two suggestions we made are:

Museum of Humanity -- Musée de l'humanité  
Museum of Civilization -- Musée de la civilisation

This matter is pressing -- the decision could be made any time now. Please help us by writing, and urging all your friends to write to Mr. Fox and the members of the board of the National Museums of Canada, as follows:

Gerard Pelletier, Chairman  
Leo Dorais, Vice Chairman

Members

Richard Alway  
Roger Hamel  
Jane Thompson-Edwards  
Michelle Nolin-Raynauld

Ex Officio

Dr. Larkin Kerwin  
Timothy Porteous

National Museums of Canada  
Headquarters  
L'Esplanade Laurier Building  
300 Laurier Avenue West  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0M8



# CLOW's National Conference

TORONTO  
AUGUST 19, 20, 21, 1984

**Educating for Change:  
Women in the next decade**

"EDUCATION FOR CHANGE" is the theme of C.C.L.O.W.'s three day Conference designed to engage women in strategic positions in Canada in discussions of current issues in the education of women and to focus on the role, content and format of education for women in the future.

New efforts and strategies to shape the future in a changing social, political and economic context is the challenge. Building on past and present strengths to devise the links and bridges necessary to shape the future is the task. The Conference is designed for persons who are concerned with learning opportunities for women and the strategic interventions for the future. The Conference will be of interest to educators, social workers, guidance counsellors, teachers, health and fitness educators, consultants, programmers, administrators and managers.

Co-Sponsored by The Canadian Congress for Learning Opportunities for Women  
and

The Department of Adult Education, The Ontario Institute for Education  
Principal sessions will be simultaneously translated.

Some presentations and workshops will be conducted in English  
and others will be conducted in French.

Write or phone for further information: Eleanor Christopherson,  
Conference Coordinator, C.C.L.O.W., 692 Coxwell Ave, Toronto M4C 3B6. 461-9264