

NAC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE CANADIAN WOMEN'S ECONOMIC SUMMIT

CARLETON UNIVERSITY

OTTAWA, ONTARIO

MAY 10 - 13, 1985

The National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC) will have its Annual General Meeting at Carleton University in Ottawa, May 10-13, 1985. Along with our usual business meetings, elections for office and lobbying of parliamentarians, we are also holding

THE CANADIAN WOMEN'S ECONOMIC SUMMIT

WHY A WOMEN'S ECONOMIC SUMMIT? Because we are the only people who can hold an economic summit which adequately addresses women's issues. Many of us suspect that when the state talks of cutbacks, our hard-won and still inadequate services and rights will be eroded. We must strategize to hold on to what we have ... but also to advance.

By focusing on current economic issues facing Canadian women, NAC is playing its traditional role of highlighting in a public forum those subjects central to all women in our country. We welcome the participation of women from all over the country!!!

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MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

WATCH US GROW!

NAC WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBER GROUPS

- Beaches Women's Group
- Toronto Birth Centre Committee
- La Maison le Prelude Inc.
- Canadian Women's Movement Archives
- Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Women Teachers' Assoc.
- Women Skills Development Society
- Centre d'education et d'action des femmes de Montreal
- Movement contre le viol, Collectif de femmes de Montreal
- Langara Women's Collective
- Toronto Hadassah-Wizo
- Canadian Labour Congress - Women's Bureau
- Society of Transition Houses (B.C./Yukon)
- Laurentian Assoc. of Women/ Assoc. des femmes de la Laurentienne
- Perth County Status of Women Action Committee
- Business & Professional Women's Club - Stratford
- Alberta NDP
- Economists, Sociologists & Statisticians Association
- Groupe d'Aide et d'Information sur le Harcelement Sexuel
- Committee against Pornography
- Canadian Federation of Students (Pacific)
- Vancouver Rape Relief
- B.C. Federation of Labour-Women's Rights Committee
- Inter-faculty Committee on Women's Studies (Carleton)
- Women's Legal Education & Action Fund (LEAF)
- Society against Family Abuse
- CLOW - Quebec
- Lanark Co. Interval House
- Congress of Canadian Women B.C.
- Pacific Women's Research Institute
- Federation des Syndicats professionnels d'Infirmieres et d'Infirmiers du Quebec
- Federations Nationale des Enseignants et des Enseignantes du Quebec
- Zonta Club of Hamilton
- Lethbridge Sexual Assault Centre
- Antigonish Women's Resource Centre

NAC OFFICE CHANGES

EUROPE! The land of beauty, antiquity, foreign languages and quaint customs is claiming two, not just one but two NAC friends: Diana Bryden, one of our office staff is leaving us to go to Europe on an extended trip. She hopes to attend school in France. By the time you read this issue of MEMO Diana will be getting her bearings on the other side of the Atlantic. I said we were losing 2 people and it appears that our executive member Jane Evans will also be enjoying the excitement of meeting new people and enjoying life in another culture! Salute to both Diana and Jane, from all of us!

Rhona Berenstein will be taking over Diana's job. Well, she knows what she's getting into! Speaking of knowing what you're getting into - we will have a new staff person at NAC--Judy Campbell. She will be joining us as executive coordinator. In the April MEMO, we will more fully introduce Judy.

to start public hearings after Easter/Passover and to finish their hearings by early summer. They are required to report to the House by September 9th. The letter to Mr. Cooke, at this point, should say that the group wants to appear and an indication should be given of what section of the Equality Rights your group is concerned with (e.g. sex & race, sex & disability). Their schedule and location of hearings had not been established at the time this went to press, so for further information about that, get in touch with Mr. Cooke.

New legislation on divorce and on enforcement of maintenance payments is supposed to be introduced into the House in early April. Watch for this if your group wishes to respond.

An ad hoc group working on the Badgley Report on violence against children spoke to the Justice Cttee. and presented us with a resolution that they hope to have brought forward at the annual meeting which would involve NAC in pressing for the implementation of the Badgley Report.

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

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

On January 31, 1985 the federal government released its discussion paper, "Equality Issues in Federal Law" which is the federal government's paper on Equality Rights sections of the Charter. In order to offer an opportunity for groups to respond to this paper, a sub-committee of the Justice Dept. has been struck. The committee will travel across Canada hearing briefs from groups as to their response to the discussion paper and their views on Section 15 and what legislation should be amended by the government in accordance with Section 15, when it comes into effect on April 17, 1985.

If your group is interested in writing a brief to the Government, contact Mr. David Cooke, Committee Clerk, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ont or call him at (613) 996-1438. They intend

SURVIVAL COMMITTEE

NAC's Feminist Visions #4 "How to Love This Planet" was held March 10th as part of International Women's Week celebrations. Marion Dewar, Mayor of Ottawa, Carmencita Hernandez and Ursula Franklin were the speakers and Marilyn Aarons, Ann Swarbrick, Maude Barlow, Grace Hartman, Cynthia Wishart, Kappu Desai and Kay Macpherson served as resource persons in the workshops.

The conference was planned as one of a series of 'mini' conferences occurring across the country in preparation for the International Women's Peace Conference, "Women's Alternatives for Negotiating Peace", June 5-9, 1985 in Halifax.

Sister Rosalie Bertell, expert on the hazards of radiation, made the following observation. "If in the late fifties we had been more alert to the dangers of low-level

PENSIONS COMMITTEE

On March 21, NAC made a presentation to the parliamentary committee which is studying the federal government's proposals on the subject of child and elderly benefits. The main points we put forward to the committee were:

-The federal government's decision not to proceed with a reform of the more regressive elderly benefits (the tax exemption for age and the pension deduction) at this time is deplorable, especially considering the Conservative election promise to increase the federal benefits of the elderly poor (mainly widows) as soon as possible.

-On the question of benefits for children, NAC rejected both of the options presented in the government's consultation paper. Instead, we supported a variant of the first option that would incorporate the following features:

- No change in the family allowance
- Abolition of the regressive child tax exemption
- Use of the funds thereby saved to increase the refundable child tax credit for low and middle-income families
- Setting the turn-around point of the child tax credit (which is the level of family income above which the credit starts to be phased out) in such a way that no family with an income below the median (about \$32,000 a year) will be unfavourably affected by the changes
- Maintaining or increasing the present level of funding for all children's benefits, with no savings being made by the federal or provincial governments as a result of the reform

Copies of the full NAC Brief on Child and Elderly Benefits are available free of charge from the NAC office.

-----Louise Dulude - Chair-----
Pensions & Family Benefits

PORNOGRAPHY COMMITTEE

In the courts, there have been three good judgments and one temporary setback.

In Newfoundland, the crown won its case against H. H. Marshall for distributing an issue of Swank. The complaint centred on an ad, and the judgment contains careful arguments that can be used in future cases. The judge said that the state has no place in the boardrooms of the nation, but it certainly does have a place there.

The judgment in New Brunswick was based on "undue exploitation" and the one in Edmonton made distinctions among the kinds of pornography: one focusing on explicit sex and others including violence and degradation.

On March 15, however, Section 19 of the Customs Act was struck down in a charter case in the Federal Court of Appeal. The need for better legislation is obvious.

In British Columbia, the Periodical Review Board has been rejecting almost half the magazines which have already been passed by Customs. But in Ontario the Advisory Cttee. rejects very few magazines. The need for consistent national standards is urgent and obvious.

The Fraser Committee recommendations should be prepared to respond promptly and vigorously. In Ontario a number of groups have already arrived at consensus from which to critique the Fraser Report.

Groups should also be prepared to respond to a resolution on the Badgley Report.

There will be two pornography workshops at the AGM - one for beginners or newcomers to the issue; one for delegates who have already done substantial work. Delegates should choose carefully the appropriate workshop.

radiation and fallout from nuclear tests, young people like Terry Fox and Steve Fonyo might not have been the victims of the growing incidence of cancer in our population. They were born at the height of the atmospheric testing, before any Treaty was signed. There is still no Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty."

The Halifax conference will provide an opportunity for women around the world to consider women's participation and initiatives in negotiating non-violent solutions to the world's problems. These findings will be presented to the End of Decade Nairobi Conference (U.N.) in July of this year.

The following telegram was sent to Prime Minister Mulroney March 16:

"NAC opposes Canadian involvement in Strategic Defence Initiative. Deployment follows research. We deplore increased militarization of our north and the dangerous escalation of the arms race in space. Women are convinced defence funding could be better used for human needs."

NAC groups are encouraged to send similar communications to the Minister of Defence, Erik Neilson and other appropriate officials. The Survival Committee is sending letters to Mulroney re Freeze and 'Star Wars' and has prepared resolutions for the AGM opposing nuclear power and alternatives to Strategic Defence Initiative and the militarization of space.

Members of the Survival Committee continue assisting in the planning of the Halifax Conference as advisors and active members of the invitations committees. For information and registration at the Conference please write to: Canadian Coalition of Women's Groups, Mount St. Vincent University, 166 Bedford Highway, Room 9, Seton Annex, Halifax, N.S. B3M 2J6 Telephone (902)443-4450ext.313



AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Action Travail des Femmes, le Centre d'Education des Femmes de Montreal, and le Groupe d'Aide et de l'Information sur l'Harcelement Sexuel have been working to mobilize around affirmative action. They are pressuring the Levesque government to pass regulations defining affirmative action so that changes made to the Human Rights Charter two years ago can be implemented. Draft regulations which would require goals and timetables are being vigorously opposed by employers. The Quebec Employers Council is citing the Abella Report in support of the contention that goals and timetables are counter-productive.

Meanwhile, some employers in the Montreal area are responding positively to the CN decision. The Montreal Transit Commission has begun receiving and hiring women bus drivers and several municipalities have begun hiring women as landscape gardeners.

Also on the discrimination front, women journalists at Radio-Canada (CBC) are filing a systemic complaint against their employer, and the 2,000 member Comite des Femmes en Agriculture (Women in Agriculture Committee) has denounced the discriminatory policies of the Farm Credit Office.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

The Health Committee proposed and it was accepted by the NAC executive, that funding of health care be removed from the work of the Health Committee and be made part of a Federal/Provincial cost-sharing committee to be formed in the 1985-86 NAC year. Health cost-sharing is such a major issue, combined with the other Federal/Provincial cost-sharing that is being eroded, it should have specific attention paid to it. This change will allow the Health Committee to focus on pro-choice, DES, midwifery, menopause & other issues which are of concern to us all.

Abortion is the headline

word in newspapers and on TV across this country. It is but a part of the pro-choice position. Sex education for young people in our schools and for all in Family Planning Clinics is a part of it. And society's support structure for single parents and low income families in the forms of monies paid to them, availability of housing, day care and our tax structure is another part of it. It is the whole position of pro-choice that we must try to educate people about. Abortion is an unpleasant issue; the decision to have one is not an easy choice!!!

Canadians believe that good health care should be universal. Yet our governments are arguing over the cost-sharing arrangements for this basic service. It is only by knowing our rights concerning this service, that we can demand them from our government. Thus we are reproducing the following article for your knowledge:

CONSUMER RIGHTS IN HEALTH CARE

1. Right to be informed
 - about preventive health care including education on nutrition, birth control, drug use, appropriate exercise.
 - about the health care system including the extent of government insurance plans, the referral system to auxiliary health and social facilities and services in the community.
 - about the individual's own diagnosis and specific treatment program including prescribed surgery and medication, options, effects and side effects.
 - about the specific costs of procedures, services and professional fees undertaken on behalf of the individual consumer.
2. Right to be respected as the individual with the major responsibility for his own health care
 - right that confidentiality of his health records be maintained.
 - right to refuse experimentation, undue painful prolongation of his life or participation in teaching programs.
 - right of adult to refuse

treatment, right to die with dignity.

3. Right to participate in decision making affecting his health
 - through consumer representation at each level of government in planning and evaluating the system of health services, the types and qualities of service and the conditions under which health services are delivered.
 - with the health professionals and personnel involved in his direct health care.

4. Right to equal access to health care (health education, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation) regardless of the individual's economic status, sex, age, creed, ethnic origin and location
 - right to access to adequately qualified health personnel.
 - right to a second medical opinion.
 - right to prompt response in emergencies.

Source: Canadian Consumer, IV, (April, 1974), 1.

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EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

NAC's third party complaint on behalf of telephone operators at Bell Canada is still in progress. The decision by Commission staff to recommend dismissal is still under consideration after submissions were made by Lynn Kaye and Laurell Ritchie of NAC and Janice McClelland and Peter Klym of the Communications Workers of Canada at a meeting in March, 1985. To date, the argument put forth by Bell Canada and accepted by Commission staff remains the same: under section 11, you cannot compare a small group of men with a large group of women. NAC opposes the validity of this argument on the basis that it is an attempt to avoid section 11(5) which provides that an employer shall not reduce wages in order to eliminate a discriminatory practice. We expect that this case will be referred by the staff to the Commission in late April.

Equal Pay Guidelines

Watch for this! The Canadian Human Rights Commission will be publishing new draft guidelines for "consultation" on the interpretation of the equal pay section and exemptions to it. We are concerned that the Commission may adopt too broad an approach which rejects the validity of individual complaints. This so-called "systemic" approach could result in undermining the complainant's rights by placing too great a burden on the complainant and undermining our lobby in the provinces by forcing an interpretation which would require an overall job evaluation in an establishment.

Affirmative Action

Since the Abella Report, there has been much discussion in the Employment Committee about affirmative action and Flora MacDonald's recent announcement about an "employment equity" program provided yet another opportunity to consider this issue. The government program does not seem to offer more than data collection and as yet, there is no evidence that a

standardized approach to the collection of that data has been developed. There is no assurance of scrutinized goals and targets, nor clauses in contracts with companies doing business with the government. The weakness in Abella's enforcement recommendations may have contributed to this lack of strength in the government program.

Economic Issues '85

NAC's presentation at the Economic Summit will be made by Chaviva Hosek on March 22, 1985. Many of the concerns of the Employment Committee are affected by the economic approach of the government. Controlling the deficit by cutting social services and direct job creation can only hurt women. Creating jobs by militarizing the economy will produce the inflation that is supposedly being fought because of the wasteful nature of this type of stimulation and its fundamental risk to peace. The government's Economic Summit will not be the last word on these issues. NAC's Annual Meeting will address economic issues and strategies and will be a Women's Economic Summit. The following employment committee issues will be specifically addressed: equal pay, affirmative action, labour standards, union strategies, jobs.

Eaton's Strike

NAC is continuing to support the workers (80% of whom are women) who are struggling to get a first collective agreement. Eaton's has still refused to put into the contract the basic conditions of employment which already exist. Five stores are affected and the strike represents a fight for the rights of part time workers. The boycott efforts of supporters are now extending to a national level. Please support these women and let the Eaton's store in your area know that you are supporting the boycott. Letters requesting the intervention of Russell Ramsay, Minister of Labour, Ontario to get the parties to the table and to obtain a first agreement would be most

appreciated. Please send copies to NAC. Contact your regional rep for more details. This case demonstrates the need for amendments to the labour codes to permit the imposition of a first contract.

NDP Action Group on Jobs

In response to the invitation by the Action Group, the Employment Committee has recently made representations to it with reference to NAC policies on technological change, training, deregulation, rights of part timers, affirmative action, Canada Labour Code, job creation, cutbacks, peace, and harassment of victims, among others.

Consultation on Training

NAC representatives, Chaviva Hosek, Lynn Kaye and Jennifer Keck, and representatives of CLOW met with Flora MacDonald to respond to the government's consultation paper on training. One suggestion in the paper to which we strongly object is the requirement for a worker to use up her severance pay before being able to claim unemployment insurance benefits. We also saw a danger of harassment of the long-term unemployed in the provision for interviews, etc. of the long-term unemployed. In addition to our response to the paper, NAC addressed the issue of landing for domestics. If you would like more information about the policy statements about domestics received in reply from Canada Employment and Immigration, write to the NAC office requesting the letters of January 24th and 29th.

Reproductive Hazards at Work

NAC is supporting the case of Saskia Post, a Brampton, Ontario woman whose son Timothy was born blind and retarded after she was exposed to toxic fumes in her workplace. In a landmark case, she is suing her former employer, English Plastics, for \$7 million. A benefit for her case is scheduled at 427 Bloor St. W, Toronto for Wednesday, April 10, 1985, 8.00 p.m. Donations may be sent care of the NAC office.

Air Canada Workers Fight for Jobs

Included with this MEMO is information about the negotiations with CALEA. These negotiations represent a classic case of the interconnectedness of technological change and part time work. Please read the enclosed information and we will keep you informed.

Canada Labour Code

The government has delayed implementation of the occupational health protections for another year. Let your M.P. know your objection to this and your support for the NAC representations that Provisions should be included in the Code to provide at least pro rata benefits for part-time workers and rest periods for operators of V.D.T.'s.

Sexual Harassment

Bonnie Robichaud's case will be appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada. The Federal Court of Appeal upheld the decision of the Canadian Human Rights Review Tribunal that Bonnie was harassed but it overturned the Tribunal's decision that the Department of National Defence was liable for the harassment because it did not have a clear policy against harassment and did not investigate the case. The majority of the court ruled that the Crown could only be held liable if the Minister of National Defence or the Treasury Board were aware and authorized the harassment. This latter finding is being appealed. Letters of support and donations can be sent to Bonnie at 218 Terrace Lawn, North Bay, Ontario P1B 7P6.

Bonnie has also laid a workers' compensation complaint for time lost because of the stress from her poisoned work environment.

Commodore Business Machines Ltd. lost their appeal before the Ontario Supreme Court and has been found guilty of sexual harassment and liable to pay about \$21,800 in damages, lost wages and interest.

Equal Pay Case

The Atomic Energy Canada Limited is fighting an equal pay complaint against it. Should taxpayers money be used to oppose equal pay? This is hardly in keeping with Prime Minister Mulroney's promise to put his own house in order. Write to the Prime Minister asking that this case be settled.

HOTLINE

The Edmonton Working Women have set up a hotline to deal with employment complaints and inquiries. They are distributing a card called, "Is This Really Happening To Me?" Inside the card reads the following message: "Are You - working overtime without pay?, -fearful of being fired if you become pregnant?, being forced to work on your day off or on Sunday?,-angry at having no say in decisions that affect your life?, -concerned about balancing work responsibilities at home and on the job? Call the Working Women's Hotline, 432-1259." A great model for action.

Lynn Kaye
Co-chairperson



HELP!! NAC NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The NAC office staff can use all the help we can get. If you have a free morning, afternoon, or all day -- we need help with stuffing envelopes, typing and many other things. Please call the NAC office at 922-3246. We'd love to hear from you.

THANKS!!

FRIENDS OF NAC

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

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

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

There are several ways you can participate in NAC:

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

Whatever option you select NAC welcomes & appreciates your support!

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National Action Committee on the Status of Women
 Le Comité canadien d'action sur le statut de la femme
 40 St. Clair Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario. M4T 1A9

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

REGIONAL REPORTS

NEWFOUNDLAND/ LABRADOR

Provincial Election: On March 11, Premier Brian Peckford called a provincial election and it is popularly believed that the PC's will increase their majority. Hoping to join the lone NDP MHA is NAC Vice-President Dorothy Inglis, running in St. John's North. There are 3 women presently sitting in the House, among them Education Minister Lynn Verge, a committed feminist.

International Women's Day: Many groups organized events to mark March 8 and lots of positive publicity was generated. We were delighted to have Chaviva Hosek with us in two centres - Corner Brook, where she spoke at dinner Thursday night, and St. John's for a St. John's Status of Women lunch and a Network Dinner on Friday. Her visit gave a real boost to our celebrations. St. John's Status of Women sponsored a film festival organized by Annette Clarke, March 7-9. It was well-attended and gave us the opportunity to view many films by and about women not shown before in the province. MUN (Memorial Univ. Nfld.) Women's Resource Centre conducted a sale of feminist books to coincide with the festival.

Pornography: Two recent court convictions on obscenity charges are very encouraging. Two video stores were fined for distributing obscene tapes and H.H. Marshall, magazine wholesaler, was fined \$500 for distributing an issue of Swank which, among other things, solicited pregnant teenagers to pose for nude photographs. Charges in this case were laid in response to a complaint by the Citizens Coalition Against Pornography. The Coalition is to be congratulated on this victory and the other fine work they have done over the past year. Their newest undertaking involves inviting convenience and drug stores to remove pornography from their shelves and post "Porn Free" signs. Consumers are being encouraged to patronize those stores that are participating.

Funding grants: Member groups participated in a telegram

blitz of federal politicians in late February to remind them of who we are, what we do and the need for continuing government funding of our work.

Status of Women Councils in Corner Brook and St. John's have recently received grants for major projects. Corner Brook is setting up a Bed and Breakfast industry and St. John's is sponsoring research into the impact of microtechnology on office workers.

Beauty pageants: A public debate erupted in the St. John's area in February when the Provincial Advisory Council on the Status of Women voiced its objections to the "Little Miss" Pageant held as part of winter carnival in nearby Mt. Pearl. The competition featured 3-5 year-old girls paraded in bathing suits and party dresses. Other women joined in objecting to this pageant as well as one for teenagers also included in the carnival. Regrettably, the organizers' response focused more on the question of whether single-sex pageants are discriminatory than on the merit of events which glorify physical attributes and objectify individuals. The pageants are likely to go ahead again this year, though consideration is now being given to choosing Miss and Mr. Mt. Pearl.

Other news: Congratulations to Gender Status of Women on the opening of the province's newest Women's Centre.

St. John's was treated to a visit from Mary Daly, March 29, organized by the MUN Women's Studies Program.

The Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Labour is holding a Women's Conf. in St. John's, April 12-14.

--Bonnie James (709)364-2001--

MARITIMES

New Brunswick women held a one-day conference to learn about the new Equality Rights legislation. On April 17, 1985, Section 15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights will become law guaranteeing all people of Canada equality. Speaker after speaker explained the possible

interpretations from affirmative action plans to equal access for all to medical facilities, including abortions; to day care being part of the guarantee to good education available for all; to decent housing and living standards for all.

These 'guarantees' are not going to be handed to us by the politicians. Probably we will have to fight in the courts for each decision. Thus we must select sound, air-tight cases to begin with so that the decisions are both favourable for us & backed by reasonings that we can use as precedents for further cases.

The cost of these fights will be borne by the women involved. As the women from the Human Rights Commission explained, it is not in their mandate to handle a case which challenges the interpretation of the Charter of Rights; rather they will proceed in specific incidents where your human rights have been violated. There is an organization LEAF (Legal Education Action Fund) set up specifically to help women in dealing with the Charter. Funds donated by women across the country will be used to help women across this country to obtain equality.

Nova Scotia women can learn more about Section 15 of the Charter of Rights by contacting Public Legal Education at 1127 Barrington St., Halifax B3H 2P8 for the small booklet on this subject. Thelma Costello from Public Legal Education is teaching a 4-evening course on the Charter of Rights and women in April at Dalhousie University. The cost is \$15.00.

March 18-20 was pornography awareness week in both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. People Opposed to Pornography (POP) provided a week of discussions and movies. The highlights were Dorothy Inglis from Newfoundland Coalition of Citizens Against Pornography (and NAC's co-chair of the Pornography Committee) speaking on how citizens can deal with pornography in their communities; an educational video prepared by POP which will be shown on T.V.; the NFB film 'Not a Love Story' followed by a discussion.

POP's educational video will be available to other

groups. For more information please contact: Tim Johnson, People Opposing Pornography 855 GrandAve

Fredericton, N.B. E3B 3Z7
Telephone: (506) 457-2534

In Nova Scotia three groups are involved in bringing pornography forward for discussion. The Public Legal Education group have arranged:

(1) A debate on "Freedom of Expression/Hate Literature" Lorene Clark will be one of the speakers.

(2) The showing of the NFB film 'Not a Love Story'. Media Watch and NAC are sponsoring a discussion period afterwards including Mary Clancy, a lawyer; Susan Shaw - a researcher who has studied the reactions of people to pornography; Georgina Chambers to speak against censorship and pornography.

The women of Bridgewater are having to deal with pornography in their lives daily. The sub-post office has been moved to a new store, one which sells pornographic material at the front of the store, forcing the women to walk past it to buy stamps. Letters have been sent to the postmaster general but so far there has been no reply!

International Women's Day was celebrated with films, readings, art shows and marches. Hopefully those of you outside Halifax received some coverage in your paper. Halifax's paper only carried a picture and story on Toronto's IWD March. This in a paper that assures us it covers women's events!!

NAC has joined with churchgroups, native groups, black groups and labour in forming an Atlantic Coalition for Fair Unemployment Insurance. The proposed changes:

(1) lengthening eligibility period to 14 or 20 weeks.

(2) taking pension/severance pay into account & the possibility of using family income to decide if a person receives UI benefits (means-tested welfare scheme?)

(3) maternity benefits to come out of General Revenue, rather than employer's contributing to an employee's benefits.

(Will this lead to means-testing here too?!)

--Kit Holmwood (902)455-8170--

QUEBEC

Status of Women Minister: The Quebec Premier, who had been his own Minister responsible for the status of women, recently appointed Francine Lalonde -- not an M.P.P. -- as his Minister in that position. Ms. Lalonde, a former trade-unionist, gained favour with Mr. Levesque with her public attack on Quebec public sector unions who had opposed government-rule over salaries and working conditions by decree in 1982, contrary to provisions of the Labour Code.

Perhaps the good side of this appointment is that we Quebec women have no choice but to count on our own collective strength to protect our gains and make further improvements.

Action-Travail des Femmes: Action-Travail des Femmes, who had obtained a precedent-setting decision from the Federal Human Rights Comm. in its complaint that CN discriminated against women in hiring, is now campaigning for Quebec Human Rights regulations that would ensure affirmative action.

Sexual Harassment: A group of women who aid victims of sexual harassment at work is giving information and assistance to an increasing number of women callers. The case of a UAW woman worker at General Motors in Ste. Therese who complained about sexual harassment by her Union steward is not yet resolved.

Members of the Canada Employment & Immigration Union, a component of the Public Service Alliance of Canada (CEIU-PSAC), with support from CEIU President Renaud Paquette, picketed government offices in St. Jean, Quebec over sexual harassment of women workers by a member of management.

Nurses get involved: The February Convention of nurses, members of la Federation des Infirmieres et Infirmiers du Quebec (SPIIQ) with 17,000 members, was an occasion to celebrate half a century of organization and 25 years of continuity in trade-unionism. Ninety-five per cent of the nurses are women. At the

convention, it was made clear that recent government cut-backs on nurses' jobs and conditions resulted in overwork, inability to give sufficient care to many patients and a deterioration of the quality of health-care to patients, especially to those on low income.

The practice of some doctors who oversubscribe drugs to keep patients quiet because there are not enough nurses to look after them was strongly criticized.

It was resolved that nurses should work more closely with other health care workers and with groups in the community, to improve health care services and to correct present abuses. Midwifery and other more natural approaches to health care were advocated, where practical.

Simone de Beauvoir Institute of Concordia University in Montreal sponsored a 3-day conference on "Women and the Invisible Economy". The well-attended conference was an effort to frame the debate on unpaid work in its various forms and to consider appropriate policies to deal with it.

International Women's Day: International Women's Day activities in Quebec, which lasted over 2 weeks were numerous and well-attended. They were held in Montreal, Quebec City, Hull, Shawinigan, Joliette, the eastern townships, the Gaspé and elsewhere. Women's committees in unions and other groups of women in various centres worked together on the projects. The theme loosely translated as "Imagine women holding power" was thought-provoking and stirred up discussion. In most cases, it turned out that women-power was desired, but not to dominate or exploit others, as had been done to them, but rather, to be shared equally, to pursue common and sometimes separate goals. The Montreal celebration ended with a tribute to Lea Roback, an 80-year-old feminist, unionist and peace activist who organized women garment workers in Montreal in the 1930's and never stopped fighting. She walked picket lines for Eaton's women strikers these winter months.

Public sector women: A coalition of unions representing 360,000 public and para-public sector workers has been formed in efforts to save the democratic collective bargaining laws which the Quebec government side-stepped in 1982 and which are now threatened with drastic changes. Efforts are being made to activate the Inter-Union Women's Committee in order to give a more distinctive voice to women, who constitute two-thirds of the membership of the coalition.

Indian women: NAC has been campaigning with affiliated and non-affiliated women's organizations in Quebec, in support of Indian women's demands for equality rights, lost by the Indian Act, 1869. The federal government's Bill C-31, tabled February 28/85 is still unfair to the children of women who married non-Indians. The response has been good. Many organizations, trade unions and women's groups have been sending messages to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and to other parliamentarians, calling for band membership and residency rights on the reserve for the children, as well as for the mothers who were discriminated against. It is a matter of human rights. NAC has cooperated with Indian women's organizations in this campaign.

Madeleine Parent (514)768-3256

SOUTHERN ONTARIO

OFL AFFIRMATIVE ACTION CONF.
 APRIL 25-26-27 Westbury Hotel
 Toronto - Fee \$30.00
 The conference begins Thursday evening at 6:30 with Linda Murray from CUPE Winnipeg who will speak on labour women in the current economic crisis. The conference will continue with workshops and panels for a full day on Fri. & Sat. For information or registration contact: Janice Sarra, Ont. Federation of Labour, 15 Gervais Dr., #202, Don Mills, Ont. M3C 1Y8.

International Women's Day events in southern Ontario were many and varied, with perhaps the highlight being

the sellout crowd for Angela Davis at Convocation Hall in Toronto.

The Women's Lobby Coalition is working on organizing a forum for women's issues during the provincial election in the spring.

Pro-Choice Demonstration: On Feb. 22nd, there was a huge pro-choice demonstration in Toronto in support of the Morgentaler Clinic. It is crucial to keep writing both the federal and provincial governments in support of the Clinic. Henry Morgentaler's speaking engagements include March 29, Convocation Hall and April 1, Erindale College (University of Toronto). Donations in support of the Clinic can be sent to P.O. Box 935, Station Q, Toronto, Ont. M4T 2P1.

Eaton's: There was a round of successful women's demonstrations in support of the Eaton's workers on February 2nd and on International Women's Day. Actions will be continuing in southern Ontario as elsewhere across the country.

LEAF: The Ottawa Committee of LEAF (Legal Education and Action Fund) is organizing a fund raising event for the Fund on April 17th, called "A Date With Equality" to be held in Room 260 on Parliament Hill. For information on tickets contact Penny Collette at (613) 722-2723.

The Charter of Rights Coalition is staging a fund raising buffet and cabaret for LEAF on April 17th at St. Lawrence Hall (Toronto) - \$20.00. All NAC Presidents, past and present will perform. Many other wonderful women will perform as well. Call for information. (416)482-9086

Equal Pay Coalition: On March 14th, the Equal Pay Coalition staged a demonstration to protest Dennis Timbrell's (Minister Responsible for Women's Issues) backtracking on the principle of equal pay for work of equal value. It seems the current view of the Ontario government is that, despite the fact that they supported equal value in principle in 1983, it is now too "radically intervention-

ist". It is very important that people write the Ontario government supporting equal pay for work of equal value now to put pressure on them before the election. Letters should be sent to Dennis Timbrell-Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, Russell Ramsay-Minister of Labour and Frank Miller-Premier, all at Queen's Park, Toronto.

-Kathleen O'Neil (416)923-0897-

NORTHERN ONTARIO

Women's groups have been active on a variety of issues in the northwestern and eastern parts of the province. As part of wider national and provincial campaigns, letters and telegrams were sent to the provincial governments in support of the Morgentaler Clinic and to the federal government in support of NAC's letter to the First Ministers' Conference and in support of Secretary of State's continued funding of women's equality programs. NAC's network proved to be particularly useful in getting information to groups and soliciting their support in these areas.

Violence against women - services: In addition to taking part in wider provincial campaigns, there were a number of events and activities that took place looking specifically at issues affecting northern women. On February 16-17 northern transition houses and family resource centres came together in Sault Ste. Marie for a weekend of education, networking and sharing of resources. The combined group outlined their concerns on safe home programs and the need for funded transportation and communication costs. The northern houses meet again in February 1986 and in the interim the northeastern and western groups will meet in their region and network through newsletters.

There were also two training sessions held in Thunder Bay and Sudbury, organized by the provincial Ministry of Community and Social Services. The training sessions were

designed for workers from the different sectors who provided services to battered women.

Health - Abortion: Access to abortion continues to present problems for women living in northern Ontario. While the debate continues in southern Ontario around the re-opening of the Morgentaler Clinic, northern newspapers have been deluged with letters from the so-called Right-to-Life movement. In northeastern Ontario there have been a number of trial screenings of their new film "The Silent Scream" and churches have been actively encouraging their members to write to the federal and provincial governments.

In February Joe Borowski was invited to speak to a group of approximately 300 people. Women's groups in North Bay and Sudbury countered with a press conference which raised into the question the tactics of Borowski and others who officially announced death threats against Morgentaler. While Borowski initially denied having done so, he was later pressured by the media and claimed that he had been "misunderstood".

While the anti-choice groups have been organizing, there has also been considerable support expressed for the pro-choice position. Within 48 hours over 300 telegrams and letters were organized and sent to Frank Miller from northeastern Ontario protesting the R.C. demonstrations at the Harbord Street clinic in Toronto.

Employment: Women's groups in Thunder Bay and Sudbury joined the national protest against Eaton's in support of members of the Retail Wholesale Dept. Store Union employees on strike at six southern Ontario stores. Three demonstrations were held. A benefit organized by a coalition of women's groups was held March 30th.

NAC northern Ontario and the Northwestern Ontario Decade Council made formal representations to the NDP task force on Jobs in Sudbury and Thunder Bay in March. (For copies of the briefs contact: Sudbury Women's Centre, 106 Beech St. W., Sudbury, Ont. P3C 1Z3 or Northwestern Ontario Decade Council, 221 Bay St.,

Thunder Bay, Ont. P7B 1R1.

The Northwestern Ontario Decade Council is continuing with its project to conduct workshops on women and economic decision-making for groups in northwestern Ont. The workshops have been designed to look at the number of women representatives on boards & councils responsible for economic development and other decision-making bodies in their region. The intent is to try and increase the number of women participating in these groups. (For more information contact: Northwestern Ontario Women's Decade Council-address above)

Charter of Rights: Two workshops on the Charter were organized by groups in northeastern Ontario. North Bay Women's Centre invited Nancy Jackman from LEAF to make a presentation on the Charter and its implications for women during International Women's Week. In Sudbury, the Sudbury Women's Action Group (SWAG) sponsored an evening workshop on the Charter with Kathleen O'Neil (NAC Justice Committee and Southern Ontario rep.). The meeting was well-attended - over 150 women took part.

The Sudbury group has also produced a small booklet on the Charter entitled "The Charter of Rights: What's In It for Women?", written by Andrea Levan (past-president). Groups interested in receiving a copy should write: Andrea Levan, SWAG, 1463 Laurentian Village, Sudbury, Ont. P3E 2M5

Ontario Advisory Committee on Women's Issues: The provincial advisory committee was in Sudbury to meet with women's groups March 21-23rd. A forum was held on March 23rd with a number of groups presenting briefs on employment, health and social service issues as well as problems facing native, rural and Francophone women. A number of local NAC groups took part including SWAG, YWCA-Geneva House, the Sudbury Women's Centre and the West Bay Homemakers' Club. For more information and/or copies of the briefs contact: Sudbury Women's Centre (705) 673-1916.

New Women's Centre for Hearst: Plans are underway to finally have a women's centre in Hearst. Franco-femmes (a NAC

member) has received funding for a short-term work project to initiate the project. Congratulations!

A N N O U N C E M E N T S :

ACTION*Support*ACTION*Support

The Northwestern Ontario Women's Decade Council is asking for support from other northern women's groups in its appeal against the closing of their local CBC Station. CBQ Radio is an important link for many groups in northwestern Ontario who face long distances with few other links for communication. There is a real danger that with the next round of budget cuts the station will be closed. To show your support for the station you can write:

Iain Angus, M.P. Thunder Bay-Atikokan
Ernie Epp, M.P. Thunder Bay-Nipigon

Northwestern Ontario Women's Decade Council has produced a new BRIEF on PENSIONS. For information contact Decade Council (address above).

The Women's Centre in Thunder Bay has moved to a new building with friends at Northern Women's Journal, Northern Women's Bookstore and Womenspace. New address: 69 N Court St. Thunder Bay P7A 4T7

Thunder Bay Women's Centre is presently involved in the organization of a Northwestern Ontario Women and Disabilities Conference in May.

The Ontario Asso. of Interval & Transition Houses has recently developed a paper entitled "Violence Against Women: An Economic Issue". For a copy of the paper write: Trudy Don c/o OAITH, 29 Dalton Rd. Toronto, Ont. M5R 2Y8

The North Bay Women's Centre has received funding to offer a workshop program for students from kindergarten to grade 8 on the prevention of sexual abuse and assault. For further information contact: Lee Helmer, North Bay Women's Centre, #209-269 Main St. W., North Bay, Ont. P1B 2T8.

-Jennifer Keck (705)673-5427-

ALBERTA/NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Health/Medicare: A private company from the U.S. has set up an alcohol & drug program in the Wetaskiwin General Hospital. This is the first privatization scheme being supported by the Alberta Government which apparently hopes to divest itself of the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission and turn over all addiction counselling to the private sector.

Edmonton General Hospital is to be closed in favour of a new hospital in the south-eastern part of the city. This will replace a needed 200-bed emergency unit with a 25-bed facility.

A recent study of Edmonton's inner city reveals a shocking 70% malnutrition rate amongst residents.

Native people: Legislation introduced by Federal Indian Affairs Minister David Crombie changing Section 12(1)(b) of the Indian Act has been severely criticized by native women in Alberta.

Social services: An on-going & tragic series of suicides amongst foster children in Alberta caused Social Services Minister Neil Webber to say that it is inevitable that some government wards will die while in departmental care. At least 29 wards have died in the last two years and Webber says "that's mainly because they have more medical problems."

The same minister, when confronted by a study entitled Hunger in Our City by the Edmonton Food Bank denied that people on social assistance do not have enough money for food and blamed it on their inability to budget. His department then sent a letter to Safeway asking that clerks not allow social service customers to buy "inappropriate" purchases, and to report those people attempting to buy pots and pans, cigarettes, candy, etc. One woman was humiliated when asked why she needed to buy large cans of tomato juice. Safeway has since stopped complying with the government's request to hassle and harass welfare recipients.

An Edmonton alderman publicly stated his belief that day care contributes to the destruction of the family unit. At stake is the possible denial of City funding for 13 municipal day care centres, leaving day care completely to the private sector. The U.S. profit based Kinder-care Corporation already has 15 privately run day care centres in Calgary and boasts that it has made \$135 million profit in 1982 in its U.S. operations.

Human Rights: Alberta's gay community is seeking legislative protection against discrimination. They are asking for an amendment to the Individual Rights Protection Act so that gay people will be protected against discrimination in employment and residency.

The Human Rights Comm. is urging employers in Alberta to draw up and post policies on sexual harassment in keeping with the amendments to the Canada Labour Code.

Pornography: Alberta's Attorney General, Neil Crawford says he will not get into the business of classifying video because it would not provide legal protection for the dealers if obscenity charges were laid against them.

Reproductive rights: Dr. Morgantaler was in Alberta in January and raised \$25,000. His visits to Calgary and Edmonton brought anti-abortion groups out in numbers, but more happily, he brought out much larger crowds of pro-choice supporters.

The Minister of Hospitals, Dave Russell, used the occasion of Morgantaler's visit to condemn Alberta's "alarming abortion rate". "I think it indicates there's something amiss at the level of community and family life in the province. There were 6,500 abortions in Alberta in 1982 - that's pretty high". In fact, only 22 hospitals out of 124 hospitals in Alberta have therapeutic abortion committees.

Unemployment: Edmonton's unemployment rate is 14.5% and Calgary's is 12.5%. Alberta's rate is 10.9%.

The Unemployment Action Centres have closed because they were refused government monies.

Labour: Alberta workers are supporting Eaton's Ontario workers striking for a first contract.

New Right: SPERM has arrived in Alberta - the Society for the Protection of Equal Rights for Men.

The Alberta Federation of Women United for Families have put out 2 recent newsletters worthy of note.

In one they attach a postcard against choice to be sent to Mulroney. They also report on their annual meeting and the guest speaker, Gwen Landolt of R.E.A.L. Women. She alerted them to the push by feminists for "gender-free" legislation through section 15 of the Charter. She urged them to write letters to MP's opposing "gender-free" legislation, affirmative action, abortion, no-fault divorce and the present tax system which is "unfair to mothers who stay home".

The second newsletter concentrates on R.E.A.L. Women's request for Secretary of State funding. They suggest writing a note to all their members asking for donations so that they can "work towards eliminating our need to ask for government grants".

Peace: The two Cruise tests held recently in Alberta were opposed despite short notice, long distances, and the cold. Cruise protesters were labelled "misguided" by Intergovernmental Affairs Minister, Jim Horsman.

Maintenance payments: The Maintenance Action Group met recently with Attorney General Neil Crawford who said the Alberta government has long been dissatisfied with the existing system. He said the government would commit to a new system within a year. The new system will take the form of a publicly-funded agency responsible for monitoring and enforcing maintenance orders, and would include a central computerized registry.

WOMEN IN ALBERTAE m p l o y m e n t :

1. A conference on Women Confronting Work Hazards is being planned for July 4-6, 1985, in Edmonton.
2. Edmonton Working Women have set up a hotline for women experiencing employment-related problems. It is being well-used and has involved the group in many situations which women would otherwise face alone.
3. Seven women have been fired from the Saxony Hotel in Edmonton because the hotel tavern was re-decorated and they "no longer fit the image". Edmonton Working Women has attempted to negotiate with management but have been refused a meeting. They have organized pickets of the hotel and are inviting women and people in unions to support these seven women.

Charter:

1. The Edmonton Charter Group is holding a workshop April 13 with women lawyers speaking on Alberta's compliance or lack thereof to Section 15. The Attorney General has been invited to attend later in the day for women to question him on Charter issues.
2. The Alberta Federation of Labour also is planning a conference on Charter issues and has published an excellent tabloid entitled "Rights for Working People". It is designed to provide workers with the information necessary to pressure the Alberta Government to make changes in Alberta legislation.

Women's Resource Centres: The Women's Resource Centre at the U of A held its open house March 8th. Every-woman's Place in Edmonton is hiring a project coordinator and two outreach workers.

Black Women's Association of Alberta: This group is holding a black women's culture exhibition in which they will display cultural contributions that black women have made to various societies.

National Household Careers Corporation: This NAC group focuses its work upon the

legislative inequities in Alberta that affect domestics. Only agricultural workers and domestics are excluded from the right to unionize. National Household Careers attempts to change this legislation and to help domestic workers organize to change the conditions in which they work as near-slaves.

DES Action Alberta: This group continues to search for DES mothers and DES daughters in order to up-date these women on health problems caused by DES.

International Women's Day Events Held:

1. Arlene Mantle concerts in Calgary & Edmonton.
2. Connie Kaldor concert in Edmonton.
3. IWD march & celebration in Calgary, March 8. The march included a re-naming of the Family of Man statues, and some street theatre.
4. IWD march & festival on March 9 in Edmonton.
5. Bev Ross concert in Edmonton.
6. An evening with Dr. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross.

Affirmative Action: The Alberta Federation of Labour not only supports affirmative action but created four special positions for women in the upper echelons of the federation. The new program ensures one woman vice-president and three women council members. The federation has 17 executive positions.

Military women: I have contacted a group of women whose husbands are in the military. They are interested in making contacts with other feminists living on military bases.

Trudy Richardson (403)482-2766

SASKATCHEWAN

SAC-NAC MEETING IN REGINA: For some time now, Saskatchewan Action Committee has recognized the need for Sask. women's groups to be more actively involved on the national level. However, NAC has had, over the years, a very low profile in Sask. and

groups had little sense of the advantage of joining NAC.

In December, SAC decided to invite NAC president Chaviva Hosek to come out to Regina for a day-long meeting with women representing a wide cross section of Sask. women's groups. It was to be in a sense a think tank. Chaviva made several presentations throughout the day which helped to set the stage for small and large group discussions. There were recommendations made for Sask. follow-up and for ways in which NAC could more sensitively serve the needs and concerns of Sask. women.

We felt that this was a very successful day. Forty women including 4 from Manitoba attended the March 2nd meeting. Both Sask. and Manitoba women agreed that it would be useful to continue to hold meetings such as this one on a regular basis and that additional regional funds from NAC would be necessary in order to do so.

It was clear that in order for Saskatchewan women to become more involved in NAC, NAC was going to have to be more involved in Saskatchewan.

Cutbacks: The women of Sask. will probably have to continue biting the economic bullet in 1985 because Premier Grant Devine's government has no plans to help them out. There will be no increase in the minimum wage, which has been frozen for almost three years; no planned increase in day care subsidies; and legislation forcing private companies to develop affirmative action programs and hire more women isn't being considered.

First Ministers' Conference: SAC organized a news conference to coincide with the meeting of the First Ministers in Regina Feb. 14-15. Carol Gordon of the NAC executive read NAC's open letter to the First Ministers. The message was that "equality for women can only be achieved in a society in which government plays a central economic role in reinforcing the social safety net and in providing a wide range of services which are both necessary and an important source of employment opportunities for Canadian women."

A dozen other women's groups and community organizations also participated in the news conference and joined SAC & NAC in calling for meaningful economic changes that would benefit the millions of Canadians who are workers, unemployed, on social assistance or pensions. The statements of all participating groups were sent to P.M. Brian Mulroney.

Briefs: SAC with the Sask. Native Women's Asso. presented a brief to the Sask. Human Rights Commission hearings on native education.

A brief was presented to the federal NDP task force on unemployment in Feb. and a statement of SAC's federal budget concerns was sent to Vic Althouse, M.P. for the NDP pre-budget consultation with women's groups.

Outreach Conference: SAC's Women & Work Committee & Youth Committee held the LOOKOUT for Young Women's conference in Regina Feb. 23-24. The Popular Education method of raising awareness and promoting change was used by conference facilitators. Interest in follow-up sessions & extending the reach to other young women was called for on the final day. LOOKOUT young women of Sask.

Regina Affirmative Action Group: Gloria Geller, on behalf of the affirmative action group presented a brief to City Council in early March, calling for a Mayor's Task Force on affirmative action. A wide range of issues affecting Regina women's status have been added to the group's concerns. The trade union movement has joined forces with the group. Local improvements to enhance the status of Regina women are anticipated.

-Carol Gordon Member-at-large-
-Palma Little (306) 872-2256--



SOUTH-CENTRAL B.C.

Our province now has 49% more poor families than in 1981 but it also has the community with the highest average wage (West Vancouver).

Economic polarization continues. We read about the "late" recession, and "the recovery" while our unemployment, bankruptcy, prostitution and neighbourhood crime rates continue to rise.

Twenty-four school boards have refused to comply with the Minister of Education's latest demands for cuts. The government which has "privatized" many services to achieve, supposedly lower costs and greater efficiency, has tacitly acknowledged the failure of cutbacks and begun to talk of job creation and "incentives". But readers of the federal government's "New Directions" paper were alarmed to find Bennett rhetoric "the new reality", "downsizing" government services.

Since income assistance in our province may provide an income almost 50% below the poverty line, a food bank especially for single mothers was set up in Vancouver.

Human Rights decisions on sexual harassment are inconsistent. In a case which was dismissed recently on the grounds of lack of evidence, it has been discovered that a waitress filed a complaint against the same employer six months before and no action has been taken.

The Eaton's boycott is getting little press coverage (see Employment Committee report). Sun coverage of International Women's Day was inferior.

Women continue to work in their own interests. A good peace conference was held in Vancouver. A group of single mothers have formed the Entre Nous Housing Society to develop a non-profit housing project designed for families with children. WomenSkills (Burnaby) has funding to research the impact of technology on women's work and to explore economic alternatives for women. Regional NAC concerns about the family benefits were submitted along with those of other social agencies to the United Way for their contributions to submissions to

government.

Charter groups which wish to appear before a Justice Department Task Force on federal charter issues should contact them (see Justice Committee report). The Charter Coalition has arranged a live open-line show on the Knowledge Network April 10 at 8:00 p.m. It will be aired again April 15 at 10:30 p.m. The Chief Justice has given his permission for a Charter celebration Tuesday evening April 16 in the Great Hall at the Law Courts.

The Douglas College conference on pornography attracted the highest male attendance of any similar conference. The Nelson Women's Centre will use two of the same resource people for its April 13 event.

-Donna Stewart (604) 986-9604-

NORTHERN B.C./YUKON

Fort St. John's Women's Resource Centre is doing research on pornography within their community. They are interviewing male and female strippers about their views of the difference between erotica and pornography. They are also interviewing bar managers and people watching the "shows" and the community at large to see what people in Fort St. John want and what's available. They are going to publish a written report. In April there will be a self defence for teenage women course, their AGM and their Women's Network luncheons. The topics at the luncheons will be nuclear disarmament and the funding of Transition Houses. They are running a film series every other Wednesday featuring films on issues of interest to women. The fact that their clothing exchange is used by upwards of 100 families tells us something about the state of the economy!

Fort Nelson's Women's Centre is doing a door-to-door survey to find out what activities women in the community would like to see happening at the Women's Centre. They are still waiting patiently for their turn to have the NFB film "Abortion: Stories North & South". They are also making

a presentation in the high school and the junior school on birth planning, abortion and the resources of the Women's Centre. Fort Nelson has a cancer unit and there will be training of nurses to teach women to do breast self-examinations. At the present time Edith Clark, their public health nurse is the only health care person who is trained in this area. On April 13 and 14 there will be a self defence course for teens taught by Cathy Morningstar of B.C. Teachers Federation, as well as an assertiveness training workshop for teens. On April 16 and 17 the Fort Nelson Centre will be involved with the Social Service Community in "Playing the Poverty Game" an experiential workshop created by Branching Out in Dawson Creek. On April 17 welfare and UIC recipients will attend a workshop talking about their rights. The Women's Centre has written a letter to the Prime Minister vis-a-vis the funding of groups like R.E.A.L. by the federal government. The Women's Centre has received a \$4,000.00 grant from legal services for public legal education and to train legal advocates.

Northern Lights College will be working with the Women's Centre and will help create programs in assertiveness, pre-employment and women's studies. Their regional representative from Secretary of State is from the Special Development and Social Development Section. They were hoping that the hiring of a Secretary of State Rep. for the Northern Region based in Whitehorse would stop the Women's Centre projects being passed from pillar to post; but there has been a hiring freeze at Secretary of State in the region and it's not clear what will happen next. So you see, if you don't have enough to do - being active in your community government can offer more fun and games!

Terrace Women have a young mothers support group for women in their teens or 20's; they also have been asked to help organize a widows' support group and mental health wants them to help form a menopause support group.

The centre is doing life skills training in the high school and the junior high school. Some of the special areas they are dealing with are teenage alcohol dependency, family violence, teenage suicide (a big concern in Terrace) and dating violence. March 25th they were on C7DK with R.E.A.L. Women.

Recently the Terrace Women's Centre did a presentation to a committee entitled "Let's Talk About Schools" which is seeking community input for changes to the B.C. Schools Act on the education of female student. 100 women and men participated in International Women's Day. There were 12 displays -- some of the participating groups were: Amnesty International, the disarmament groups, the unions, Ribbon & Blues-a native group -- all in all a real success.

In early April, there will be a meeting with health professionals, educators and some women travelling with Oxfam. The three areas to be discussed will be "drug dumping in the Third World", "what Third World countries really want" and "health care for all by the year 2000". The centre's pro-choice counselling service is doing very well. On the down side are two situations - one that's all too common and one that bears watching. There was not enough money in the Secretary of State funding to keep their bookkeeper even though the person had been previously employed through the CEIC's career access program that has been deleted. I wonder what's happening to other persons across the country who were in this type of program? The situation that bears watching is the apparent difference in the ability for native and non-native women to seek sterilization. It appears that non-native women have to be over 35 years old and as the centre person said "prove you have two brains" in order to be considered for such medical procedures. Native women who are 25 years old and seemingly with a minimum of questioning are okayed for these procedures. Hmmmmmmmmm.

Chetwynd Women's Resource Centre has received monies from 'Volunteernatives' to

employ workers to do the exterior work on their house. As well, as of April 15th, there will be two women to do a study on Home Helpers. The women's luncheons are continuing. As well, there will be workshops on Rape & Sexual Abuse, a series of Women & Credit, a training program for Interim Shelter Workers, and the current laws on child support, apprehension and child maintenance. There will be a workshop with members of NAPO (National Anti-Poverty Org.) on welfare rights. And they assured me they had sent their various lobby letters as a NAC member group. Good to know that the information is getting out!

Yukon NDP Women are preparing for the Yukon NDP Convention in April 1985. They will hold a workshop during the time of the convention on "Women in Politics". More information about women and the spring convention will be included in their newsletter. There was discussion on how to make riding associations more active - an ongoing concern of political organizations.

Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre has had a busy year. In January, 4 Yukon women were sent to the facilitators' workshops on self-help sponsored by the Vancouver Women's Health Collective. Subsequently, 2 workshops on PMS and 1 on cervical-vaginal health have been scheduled for March 1985, and in May 1985 a workshop on menopause will be presented. They are also sponsoring a course on cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and obstruction rescue for parents.

The feminist film series finished recently and was quite successful. The support group for women involved in separation and divorce continues successfully. The Centre was one of the co-sponsors for International Women's Day. The evening was quite a success.

Upcoming courses and plans at the Centre include: the 9th Annual Women's Weekend-March 29-31, 1985; Celebration for April 17th when the Charter comes into effect; a weekend course on Wen-Do; the B.C./Yukon Women's Centre Conference in May; the B.C./Yukon Regional Conference

OUR READERS WRITE

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

on Women Negotiating for Peace and of course the NAC AGM! Last but not least they have been invited to participate on the Yukon government's coordinating committee "Services to Battered Women".

Yukon Status of Women Council (YSWC) has submitted along with the Women's Centre & the Yukon Indian Women's Assoc. the names of 4 Yukon women for the End of the Women's Decade Conference in Nairobi. Alison Reid attended the National Association of Women and the Law (NAWL) Conference in Ottawa for YSWC and Buffy Blakly attended the Family Law Reform Conference sponsored by the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women in the same city for YSWC. The YSWC did a workshop at the March 16th weekend on Human Rights with Bishop Remi DeRo. The YSWC made application to and received funds from the Women's Bureau of the Yukon Territorial Government (YTG) to do a project which will look at Small Business Employment for Women. YSWC also applied to do a research project on how the Charter of Rights & Freedoms and YTG legislation will impact on Yukon women. There are also funds for an archival project for Yukon women which will consist of recording oral history, cataloguing material presently available and a written history of Yukon women. Finally there will be a section in the Territorial Archives labelled "Women"!

Chimo!

Jon Leah Hopkins(403)668-3257

Dear Sisters:

I would like to thank all of the staff of MEMO for your dedication in putting together such an information-packed publication. As a Friend of NAC I find it an indispensable source on the activities of member groups in my area and a vital link with what is happening across the country.

It was as a result of seeing a mention in MEMO that I attended the Survival Workshop on March 10th, which was co-sponsored by NAC and the Voice of Women as part of the International Women's Week activities. It was a kind of "mini-conference" held in preparation for the International Conference being held in Halifax in early June.

For myself, this was one of the most significant events of the week. As we worked to develop specific strategies for bringing women's voices and experiences to the international negotiations for peace, I felt a tremendous reassurance that the course to destruction on which the super-powers have placed us can be changed through the strength and imagination of women uniting to find alternatives to negotiating peace. I felt a sense that women have a real and unique

contribution to make if only we unite our voices until we no longer can be ignored.

In this respect, it was made very clear that we cannot separate our struggles for equality and justice from our struggle for peace. When we cry out for more quality day care we are decrying the increasing expenditures on so-called "defence". When we demand pensions for elderly women and homemakers we are demanding that the welfare of people take precedence over preparing for global suicide. When we protest for the right to exist without the fear of sexual assault and domestic violence we are protesting against the use of force as a way of life in this world.

Women in the peace movement insist that peace is not simply the absence of war. Peace, for women, is a state in which equality, justice and compassion are the common experiences of all children, men and women. As we struggle in our daily lives against the absence of these things, we must add our voices to those for peace.

Thank you all again.
Yours in peace,

Catherine Grainger,
Toronto 21/3/85

PLEASE RENEW TODAY!!!!

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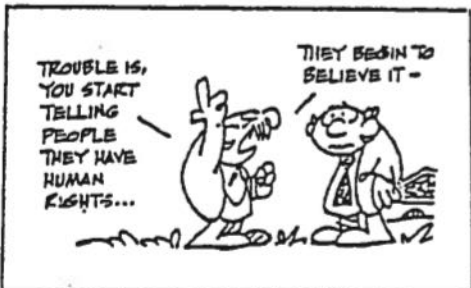
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National Action Committee on the Status of Women
Le Comité canadien d'action sur le statut de la femme
40 St. Clair Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario. M4T 1M9



CANADIAN MUSEUM OF *****?

The Museum is going to change it's name! An avalanche of mail apparently provided the necessary impetus. Although the process will take 3 years (sigh!), it's going to happen.

Here are some suggested names for the Canadian Museum of ***** in Ottawa submitted by Moira Armour, Toronto chair of the NAC Survival Committee:

Anthropological Institute of Canada
 Anthropological Museum of Canada
 Canadian Anthropological Museum
 Canadian Anthropological Institute
 Canadian Heritage Institute
 Canadian Heritage Museum
 Canadian History Institute
 Canadian Museum of Sociology
 Canadian Insitute of Sociology
 Canadian National Heritage Institute
 Canadian National Heritage Museum
 Canadian National Institute
 Canadian National Museum
 Canadian Peoples Heritage Institute
 Canadian Peoples Heritage Museum
 Canadian Peoples Institute
 Canadian Peoples Museum
 Canadian Institute
 Canadiana Institute
 Canadian Museum
 Heritage Canada
 Institute Canada
 Institute Canadiana
 Institute of Canadian Heritage
 Institute of Canadian History
 National Canadian Museum
 National Canadian Museum of History
 National Institute of Canada
 National Museum of Canada
 National Museum of Canada
 Public Institute of Canada
 Public Museum of Canada



ACTION-ACTION

ACTION-ACTION

"THE R.E.A.L. WOMEN" attack on NAC and request for federal funding from Secretary of State Women's Programs means that we too must get more organized!

Immediately, right this minute, pick up your telephone and send CNCP mail-o-grams for \$4.00 to: Walter McLean, Secretary of State, and The Right Honourable Brian Mulroney, House of Commons, Ottawa K1A 0A6 saying:

"I request your assurance that federal funding will go only to groups endorsing the equality of the sexes in accordance with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms."

It's URGENT that an avalanche of mail reaches the House of Commons supporting our view.

WHOOOPS we goofed...

In the materials sent out by Feminists of London, it was stated that 3,000,000 cards against the right to choose had been received. We have recently been informed that the figure is closer to one million. It's still worth making your views known!



MORE ECONOMICS

The Social Policy Reform Group has warned the federal government that the consultation process initiated in Nov. 1985 could break down. The group established by National Council of Welfare, NAC, Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, Canadian Association of Social Workers, NAPO (National Anti-Poverty Organization), and the Canadian Council on Social Development in a letter to the Prime Minister of Feb. 28, 1985 pointed out that community groups need substantial advance notice and clear information on existing programs and issues in order to make an informed input.

When Finance Minister Wilson tabled the government's Economic Statement in Nov. 1984, almost the entire range of government programs and activities were put up for discussion. Since that time many government departments have published papers giving their positions. Unfortunately many of these papers have had limited distribution. Since the federal government is suggesting spending reductions in many of its programs and activities including social programs, it's very important that national and community organizations be given a realistic time frame in which to review material and make recommendations.

The Social Policy Reform Group strongly recommends that several months should be allowed if the Mulroney government really wishes to have a meaningful consultation process. As the group points out in its letter: Assuming that groups become aware of the policy issues, have access to the consultation document, are able to get volunteers together, research the issue carefully, make some kind of response -- which also needs review and approval of their board of directors. In many cases the time frame is too short.

It's important that this government have the input of women. Contact one of the Social Policy Reform group members to find out what you or your organization can do.

INSTRAW

"We must work to ensure that as the 'Decade for Women' draws to its finish we do not lose the few advantages that have been gained and that we persist in lobbying for additional gains."

Recently I received mail from two organizations half a world apart. One was the NAC open letter to the Canadian First Ministers and the other was the house organ of the United Nations International Research and Training Inst. for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) News. NAC's office is in Toronto and INSTRAW's is in Santo Domingo. After reading both missives I made the following notes:

NAC felt, that at the February First Ministers Conference in Regina, "no women's voice would be heard!" INSTRAW News stated in the December 1984 issue: "The progress of nations is measured by among other things, the scientific research carried out for the prosperity and well-being of the people. However, reality is that research and training activities, when related to women, are most often not considered a priority area for urgent action."

NAC went on to say "... issues traditionally monopolized by men will be discussed ... Women cannot allow the debate to be framed in such a way as to disassociate economic issues from social consequences." INSTRAW News points out: "Sustained development and progress for all nations may be materialized only if the entire population is included. Insufficient, inadequate or unequal participation of women in development would produce half effective achievements since women constitute 52%, more than half of the world population."

The message that NAC has been receiving in our lobbying from all levels of government is that pensions for home-makers, transition homes, and child care are all luxuries that Canada can't afford. At the same time, cutbacks have resulted in deterioration in health care, education, and the loss of jobs by thousands of women. Canada's business leaders argue that cutbacks in social spending are essential

in order to reduce the national deficit and that any resultant problems or loss of employment are unfortunate but essential.

The U.N. and INSTRAW are aware that a "huge" gap exists in the world between the progress of nations and the integration of their female population into the development process. Does this mean the so-called developed countries such as Canada would indeed be more sane places to live if more women were involved in planning, etc?

NAC believes that Canadians both want and can afford equality for women. NAC is convinced that equality can only be achieved in a society in which government plays a central role, especially economically to reinforce the social and economic programs that provide the opportunities for women to become integrated into the Canadian economy and thus into the development process.

INSTRAW News quotes Sec.-Gen. Javier Perez de Cuellar of the U.N.: "...during the Decade on Women, the importance attached to research, training and information in the achievement of the equality to women... will continue to contribute significantly to meeting the needs of women within the framework of national, regional and international development goals." Perhaps we could write the U.N. and ask them to take a closer look at what our federal government's development goals are in regard to women. Perhaps NAC could team up with INSTRAW! After all, with goals and objectives like "...giving attention to the problems facing women; participation of women in the formation, design and implementation of development at all levels; increasing opportunities for women to acquire skills in order to meet the challenges in today's society..." we sound like sister organizations!

Alas, cooperation between government & NAC or NAC & INSTRAW will have to wait for a year other than 1985. What NAC will do this year instead is have: THE CANADIAN WOMEN'S ECONOMIC SUMMIT at our 1985 AGM in Ottawa May 10-13. As we go about our business - all the NAC delegates, alternates, visitors - will fit what we are hearing and doing into an all-too-real "fact" framework:

FACT: We are 52% of the world's population.

FACT: We are 54% of Canada's population.

FACT: A "huge gap" exists between where women are today and where we want to be.

FACT: Women are just as "unheard" in Canada as as in any so-called "developing" country.

FACT: It's almost the end of "The Women's Decade".

FACT: We ain't equal yet!

"Women have done much for humankind. When will mankind accept and finance the reforms which are necessary so that women can achieve equality?"
INSTRAW NEWS, December/84

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



WE ARE ALL AS ONE

The woman in a developing country is described by Elise Boulding (1977) as the "breeder/feeder". Her day, to a greater degree than in developed countries, is a double day. In Africa she is responsible for between 60-80% of the agricultural output. As a child she may walk as far as 3 miles to draw the family's water. With the spread of deforestation and desertification she may spend several hours a day collecting firewood for cooking and heating. She makes her family's clothing and is the main provider of health care.

She is less likely to receive an education than the male children in her village or city and if she is allowed to go to school it is usually for fewer years than boys attend. In Africa she has only a 27% chance of being literate, in Asia a 47% chance, and in Latin America a 77% chance. (UNESCO, 1981) Yet we know that if you improve the literacy rates of women, population growth declines, infant mortality and morbidity rates decline and the general quality of life improves.

If she is born in Morocco she may, at the age of seven, work up to 72 hours a week in a factory which produces carpets for export to developed countries. If she is born in Nepal she is likely to be married soon after reaching puberty. She will live with her husband's family, usually strangers. As the outsider she will be assigned the most menial and onerous tasks. In Pakistan her word is worth only half the value of a man's and so, in court, two female witnesses are the equivalent of one male witness.

Like her counterpart in the developed world, the woman in a developing country earns only 60% of the wages earned by men. Because of the persistent attitude that housework and child rearing are primarily her responsibility, most of her energy goes into work that brings no formal salary and, in fact, competes with any wage-generating activities. What she does at home in caring for family and subsistence farming is recorded as part of the Gross Domestic Product by only a few countries.

For all that she does, it is amazing that she has been persistently overlooked by

planners in their project designs. It is only recently that donor countries have insisted that development projects consider the impact on women (1973 in the United States, 1984 in Canada).

From: Affirmative Action
Advisory Committee
Newsletter #17, April 1985

IMAGES OF WOMEN

Emily Murphy who will appear on a 32-cent stamp to be distributed April 17, 1985, was the first woman appointed a magistrate in the British Empire.

Murphy was born near Cookstown Ontario in 1868. In Manitoba she began a writing career under the pen-name of Janey Canuck. She also took an active part in the movement to gain the right to vote for women in western Canada. After her appointment as a judge, Murphy led the movement to prove that women were persons under the BNA Act and could sit in the Canadian Senate. Emily died in 1933. Two years later Cairine Wilson became Canada's first woman senator.

National Film Board of Canada (NFB) has released another film in its documentary series on Japanese society. "Japanese Woman" is the third in a series of 5 films and examines the status of women within Japanese society. The film moves from archival footage describing the patriarchal feudal system to an analysis of contemporary Japanese social values. In interviews, 3 generations of Japanese women and men discuss how they perceive each other's role, American influences on their lifestyle, society's expectations of women and the feminist movement.

Therese Casgrain founded the League for Women's Rights in 1920. The League tackled problems affecting women, including the right to vote in Quebec. The Quebec National Assembly had voted against the vote for women 12 times! In 1938, Therese succeeded in having the women's right to vote included in the Liberal Party platform. In 1940, the government in power honoured its election promises in spite of the opposition from some members of the Quebec clergy. Therese Casgrain was appointed to the Senate in 1970 and died in 1981.

NEWS ABOUT ORGANIZATIONS

MIDWIVES ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA: MABC was founded in 1980. It is a professional association of midwives supported by an associate membership which includes doctors, obstetrical nurses, childbirth educators and other professionals and consumers. You can support the purposes of MABC as a midwife voting member; as an associate member, which includes doctors, obstetrical nurses, childbirth educators and all other professionals and consumers. \$20 pays for your yearly dues and a subscription to the Maternal Health News. Send cheque or money order to MABC, P.O. Box 46698, Station G, Vancouver, B.C. V6R 4K8

MIDWIFERY TASK FORCE: This is an interdisciplinary organization of persons who share a unifying belief in midwifery. Their goals are: to legalize midwifery; to establish a school of midwifery. One of their visions is to respect parents' values, needs and their power to transform their childbearing experience. Membership fees are \$20 payable to Midwifery Task Force, c/o Ms. M. Laxton, 4951 Prince Edward St. Vancouver, B.C. V5W 2X1 (604) 324-3293. More information can be obtained from 926 School Green, Vancouver, B.C. V6H 3H7

WOMEN'S SKILL DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY: WSDS is an organization currently forming a plan to direct a project on micro-technology and women's work. Their top priority right now is to build a working collective. Messages can be left at (604) 430-0450 or contact Rita Chudnovsky (604) 520-5400(B)/(604) 438-9566(R), or Mary Carlisle (604) 467-6811(B)/(604) 531-0975(R)

WOMEN'S ART RESOURCE CENTRE: WARC is an organization which originated out of the need to document women's cultural work and to actively generate feminist aesthetic theory in Canada. WARC is run collectively by a coordinating committee, which is open to input and participation. For more information contact WARC at 455 Spadina Ave. Room 215, Toronto, Ont. M5S G28 (416) 593-0058.

TORONTO BEACHES WOMEN:

Are you interested in joining a new women's group? Do you believe in Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value, Affirmative Action, Homemakers' Pensions, etc.? Are you pro-choice? Do you want to do something about violence against women? If you've answered yes to all the foregoing then what about joining a brand new women's group in the Beaches - Phone Lynn Lathrop (416) 699-0830

RESOURCES

TOOLS FOR CHANGE

A resource package for women has been reprinted by Women-Skills of Burnaby, B.C. The package helps women make informed career and job choices. Included with Tools for Change is a reprint "Surviving the 80's: Work, Women & Technological Change" an instructor's guide. A \$20 fee covers mailing & handling. WomenSkills, #9-4443 Irmin St. Burnaby, B.C. V5J 1X8

NOT JUST PIN MONEY

Selected essays on the history of women's work in B.C. Edited by Barb Latham & Roberta Pazdro. Available from Camosun College, 3100 Foul Bay Rd., Victoria, B.C. V8P 4X8 for \$12

WOMEN AND EQUALITY: WILL THE CHARTER MAKE A DIFFERENCE

A pamphlet free from Public Legal Education Society of Nova Scotia, 1127 Barrington Street, Halifax, N.S. B3H 2P8 (902) 423-7154.

PORNOGRAPHY EDUCATION VIDEO

30-minute educational video available from People Opposing Pornography (POP), \$15 c/o Tim Johnson, 855 Grandame, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 3Z7

WOMEN'S INFORMATION LINE (WIL)

WIL offers information about groups, events, political activities and feminist resources in Toronto. They are available Wed. & Thurs. evenings between 7 & 10 p.m. WIL speaks like a feminist clearinghouse. WIL is a vehicle to make already existing service and affinity groups more visible to an ever-increasing number of women. Send your brochure, newsletter, business card for their files. Call (416) 926-8700 and hear their Feminist Quote of the Week!

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) FELLOWSHIPS

Competition for Canadian citizens wishing to undertake short-term studies abroad are available. Information and application forms can be obtained by writing: WHO Fellowships, Intergovernmental & International Affairs Branch, Dept. of National Health & Welfare, Jeanne Mance Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0K9.

MONEY AVAILABLE

Funds available to develop, strengthen and expand community programs and services for women who are or may be in conflict with the law. Project proposals must be submitted speedily. Start-up funds available where warranted. Contact your regional representatives of the Secretariat for principles, priorities, guidelines and help.

NOVA SCOTIA

Lorraine Casey
CSC Parole, 35 Webster St.
Scotia Pl., Kentville, N.S.

QUEBEC

Janice Russell-Quinn
RHQ, Quebec, 3 Place Laval
Laval, P.Q.

ONTARIO

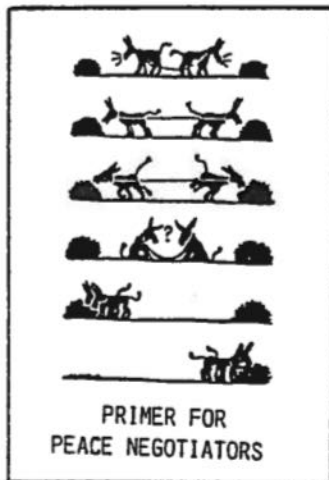
Julia Hobson, RHQ, Ontario
Kingston, Ontario

PRAIRIES

Denis Bonthous RHQ, Prairies
2002 Quebec Ave. P.O. Box 9223
Saskatoon, Sask.

B.C.

Diane Wilkinson
Matsqui Institute,
P.O. Box 2500, Abbotsford, BC

CONFERENCES
MEETINGS
GATHERINGSFEMINIST FANTASY OF THE FUTURE
April 17, 1985

Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms Comes into Full Force
CELEBRATE-COME TO THE CABARET!
St. Lawrence Hall (King & Jarvis-Toronto) 6-10:00 p.m.

COMEDY * MUSIC * SKITS * FUN
Tickets: Dinner & Show \$20.00
(416) 482-8086 -limited number

Starring:
THE NORMAL TABER'NAC'LE CHOIR
& others

CLAUSE 15 IS OURS!!

WOMEN'S ALTERNATIVES FOR

NEGOTIATING PEACE June 5-9/85
Mount Saint Vincent Univ.
Halifax, N.S. Canadian women
will meet with counterparts
from east, west, and
developing countries to
consider women's participation
and initiatives in negotiating
non-violent solutions to the
world's problems.

THE CHARTER OF RIGHTS & FREEDOMS: IMPLICATIONS FOR

HUMAN SERVICES April 19/85
Park Plaza Hotel, Toronto Ont.
For information contact Robert
Doyle or Suzanne Olsen (416)
961-9831

Social Planning Council of
Metro Toronto. 185 Bloor St. E
3rd floor Toronto Ont. M4W 3J3

NATIONAL WOMEN'S STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF THE U.S.

7th annual convention
"Creating Choices through
Feminist Education". Special
book display planned. They are
concerned that your material
by and about women gain
visibility. They won't be
able to take orders but they
will talk it up! The deadline
for reply is May 15, 1985. For
more information contact Ms.
Jackie Eubanks, Brooklyn
College Library, Brooklyn,
N.Y. 11210 (718) 780-5510

THE CANADIAN WOMEN'S ECONOMIC SUMMIT

The Annual General Meeting of
NAC is being held in Ottawa,
Ontario May 10-13, 1985.
Deadline for registration is
April 26, 1985. For more
information contact AGM
Coordinator, NAC office, 40
St. Clair Ave. E. Suite 306,
Toronto, Ont. M4T 1M9 (416)
922-3246

WOMEN'S STUDIES IN CANADA
Researching, Publishing & Teaching - a 2-day conference at York University, Toronto, April 19-20. Fee \$15 per day + \$20 Friday evening dinner. For additional information contact Women's Studies Conference, 142 Founders College, York University, 4700 Keele St., Downsview, Ont. M3J 1P3 (416) 667-3179

CHILD ABUSE CONFERENCE
April 12-13, Landmark Inn, Regina, Sask. Sponsored by Saskatchewan Action Committee. For more information write SAC, 2149 Albert St., Regina, Sask. S4S 2V1

DR. HELEN CALDICOTT
Speaking engagement presented by Toronto Disarmament Network April 12 7:30 p.m. Convocation Hall, University of Toronto
More info.: (416) 537-0438

RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES, REVOLUTION?
A full-day symposium on the future of parenthood. Apr. 17 Ottawa National Arts Centre; Registration fee \$60, Deadline April 7, 1985. For more information contact: Planned Parenthood Federation of Canada #200-151 Slater St. Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5H3 (613) 238-4474

ORGANIZATION OF SPOUSES OF MILITARY WOMEN
A national support group is being organized for spouses of military members. For more information write to: Box 26, Mynorski Park, Alberta T0M 1N0 (403) 886-4422

REPRODUCTIVE HAZARDS IN THE WORKPLACE
What do we do about reproductive hazards in the workplace? Wednesday, April 10 8:00 p.m. Trinity St. Paul's Centre, 427 Bloor St. W., Toronto

CANADIAN ABORTION RIGHTS ACTION LEAGUE (CARAL)
11th Annual Meeting May 4/85 Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, Toronto
Panel: Faith & Choice - Religious Perspectives on Abortion
Screening: 'The Silent Scream'
Info: CARAL, P.O. Box 935, Stn. Q, Toronto, Ont. M4T 2P1

WOMEN'S ALTERNATIVES FOR NEGOTIATING PEACE REGIONAL CONFERENCE B.C. & Yukon regional conference
May 10-12, 1985, University of Victoria, B.C. This conference is critical for developing priorities for facilitating peace within our communities, and society as a whole. Registration fee is \$20; student, seniors, & unemployed \$10. For more information contact Gillian Brewin (604) 384-3262 or 598-3773. Pre-registration and travel subsidy deadline is April 30, 1985.

NAC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

CAUCUSES

This year the executive is trying to build a formal time for meetings with representatives from various regions and others who might want to meet regarding special interests. The Saturday lunchtime will be organized in such a fashion that groups will be able to meet to discuss mutual interests.

Each regional rep. will be organizing a meeting of delegates from the different regions. If you or your organization is interested in organizing a similar meeting for a special interest group (ie. women working in transition houses, rural women, etc.) please consider advertising the workshop through the next issue of MEMO or contact the NAC office to indicate that you are interested in having space at the lunch.

SCHEDULED CAUCUSES

NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR:
Provincial member groups and any other women who are interested will meet over lunch at the AGM Sat. May 11.

YUKON/NORTHERN B.C.: Northern and rural women, let's get together to discuss how we and NAC can best serve each other!
When: over lunch Sat. May 11th
Where: location will be posted at the AGM. See you there!

SOUTH-CENTRAL B.C.: Lunchtime Sat. May 11. Location will be posted.

NORTHERN ONTARIO: All northern Ontario groups are reminded to meet over lunch Saturday May 11th. Start thinking now if there are any issues or areas that you would want to discuss or put on a tentative agenda. Contact Jennifer Keck (705) 673-5427-home; 675-1151-work).

RURAL WOMEN'S NETWORK: A network of rural women and their organizations may become a reality at NAC's AGM. A room (TBA) has been set aside for a luncheon meeting of rural women Saturday May 11th.

LESBIANS: Lesbians and friends are invited to meet for lunch Sat. May 11 during the AGM. Place will be posted at AGM.

WOMEN WORKING IN SERVICES RELATED TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: There will be two workshops at the AGM dealing with violence against women. I suggest that all of us who work in services specifically dealing with violence against women use this opportunity to get together and discuss mutual concerns.

Some women from the Western Provinces met in Regina last January and we made a start at identifying specific concerns in regards to services provided for battered women and their children, such as professionalization, privatization and the possible cutback in funds by focusing on Safe Home programs, and trends found at the provincial govt. level.

During the AGM we should try to meet and start to develop a national policy, or at the very least, start identifying national issues of concern. If you are interested in this idea and plan to attend the AGM, please let me know. Trudy Don c/o Ont. Asso. of Interval & Transition Houses, 29 Dalton Rd., Toronto, Ont. M5R 2Y8 (416)929-9628 B. 925-1052 R.

ANTI-PORNOGRAPHY DISPLAY: If groups have anti-porn material which they have developed, please send to Stephanie Holbik, 99 Westmoreland Ave., Toronto M6H 2Z8. A special display area will be designated at the AGM.

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

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

Registration kits will be mailed directly to member groups and Friends of NAC. For further information contact the AGM Coordinator, c/o NAC office.

NAC LOBBY: During the federal election NAC led women's groups across the country in putting women's issues on the political agenda. Let's make sure we pursue that agenda when we follow through with the annual NAC LOBBY of the three political parties on Parliament Hill. This has always been a highlight of the AGM, and as always it is important to have as many people there as we can.
PLAN TO ATTEND THE NAC LOBBY ON THE MORNING OF MAY 13TH.
 Groups should plan to lobby their MPs while in Ottawa.

LOBBY COMMITTEE

Please take some time to contact your M.P. before the Annual Meeting to let him know that your group is in his/her riding and inform him/her about your groups' activities.

The time allotted at the NAC AGM for private meetings to lobby your own M.P. is Monday afternoon, May 13 or Tuesday, May 14. Please make your own appointments. We would appreciate getting a report in the office of your meetings. We will be lobbying the caucuses of each of the parties on Monday morning, May 13, and preparing for this lobby on Sunday, May 12. If you have any comments or suggestions about procedures, please write to Lynn Kaye, Chairperson, Lobby Committee, c/o NAC office before May 1.

THE COSTS:

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

- \$ 70 each for 1 delegate & 1 alternate from member groups in good standing
- \$100 each for Friends of NAC & other observers
- \$ 35 for one-day only - includes lunch, coffee breaks, conference kit
- \$ 35 Sat. evening banquet/entertainment

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

ACCOMMODATION AT CARLETON:

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

Bed & Breakfast:

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

Deadlines to remember:

- Circulation of resolutions by NAC office April 10th
- Nominations April 26th
- Biographical material to NAC office May 3rd
- Registration deadline April 26th

URGENT**ACTION**URGENT**ACTION

Negotiations between Air Canada and CALEA have broken down. Conciliation report expected soon and strike imminent. Please take this into account if you are booking cheaper fares to the NAC AGM. Try to book another airline as well and let Air Canada know you support the women.

Letters can be sent to:
 Pierre Jeannot,
 Air Canada Place-26th floor
 Montreal, Que. H2Z 1H5
 urging him to withdraw the demands for concessions and settle the dispute. (copies to NAC and CALEA)

NOTICE OF ELECTIONS:

Under the NAC Constitution there are 22 on the Executive Committee who are: Immediate Past President, President, Vice-Presidents(3), Secretary, Treasurer, Members at Large(5) 10 regional representatives, one each from:
 Northern B.C. & Yukon Terr.; South/Central B.C.; Alberta & NWT; Sask.; Man.; Southern Ont.; Northern Ont.; Que.; N.S.-N.B.-P.E.I.; Nfld. & Lab.

The next package of material to member groups will have the nomination forms for the NAC executive. Start thinking about new candidates now. Deadline for postmark is April 21 or by hand, April 26.

POLICY RESOLUTIONS & AMENDMENTS TO THE NAC CONSTITUTION:

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

* Resolutions should further goals & objectives of NAC.

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

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS:

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

SEE PAGE 20 FOR
 SCHEDULED CAUCUSES.

REGISTRATION FORM

1985 NAC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

PLEASE RETURN TO THE NAC OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, NO LATER THAN APRIL 26, 1985.
 REGISTRATION FEES MUST BE ENCLOSED (YOU MAY POST-DATE CHEQUES, MAY 6, IF NECESSARY)
 PLEASE NAME THOSE YOU THINK ARE COMING, ESPECIALLY DELEGATES. REPLACEMENTS CAN BE
 MADE BUT WE NEED TO KNOW NUMBERS. USE ADDITIONAL SHEET IF NECESSARY.

MEMBER ORGANIZATION _____

ADDRESS _____

VOTING NAME & HOME ADDRESS _____

DELEGATE: _____
 POSTAL CODE _____ PHONE NUMBER () _____

ALTERNATE NAME & HOME ADDRESS _____

DELEGATE: _____
 POSTAL CODE _____ PHONE NUMBER () _____

OBSERVER: NAME & HOME ADDRESS _____

POSTAL CODE _____ PHONE NUMBER () _____

OBSERVER: NAME & HOME ADDRESS _____

POSTAL CODE _____ PHONE NUMBER () _____

ENCLOSED IS OUR CHEQUE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ _____ (\$70 for each full registration)
 (\$35 for each one-day registration)
 (\$35 for banquet only)
 (\$100 for observers)
 (\$10 for observers on low income)

DISPLAY SPACE REQUEST

MEMBER ORGANIZATION _____

NAME OF DELEGATE _____

DESCRIPTION OF YOUR DISPLAY _____

(We welcome displays so that we may get to know each other)

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

BILLET REQUIRED NAME (S) _____
 CONTACT ADDRESS _____
 PHONE NUMBER (S) _____
 NON-SMOKING? _____

CHILD CARE NAME & AGE OF CHILD (REN) _____

OTHER NEEDS DESCRIBE _____

