

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

March 10, 1984

A SPECIAL CALL TO TRADE UNION WOMEN

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 1984 has to be the biggest celebration, protest and show of solidarity between the women's movement and labour that Ontario has ever seen!

We are going to say that we don't believe that women, workers, immigrants and minority groups got our economy into this mess. We know that the government and the bosses aren't offering us any real solutions.

We won't fall for "divide and conquer" tactics.

When the corporations demand concessions, we'll demand paid maternity and parental leave as well as wage increases that are above the rate of inflation. In the face of layoffs and unemployment, we are fighting twice as hard for affirmative action for women and full employment for everyone.

We are united against wage controls and for equal pay for work of equal value and everyone's right to free collective bargaining. More social spending cutbacks will make us call louder for universally accessible child-care and full funding for battered women's shelters. When governments and business introduce automation, we'll be together demanding that it benefit us and that they spend their money on a real job creation program.

The women's movement will be a participant in every step of the fight against the erosion of labour's rights and real wages. We'll need labour's continued support for the fight to end sexual harassment and to end discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation. The OFL's position in favour of free-standing abortion clinics is one example of the way in which we have worked together in the past year.

On INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 1984 we all have to be there to resist these attacks on working people and to show that the fight for women's rights will be even stronger during these hard times.



HARD TIMES WON'T STOP US!

WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 1984

- initiate or get involved with International Women's Day coalitions in your area
- put your name on our mailing list
- get your union local, riding association, women's committee or other organization to endorse International Women's Day 1984
- ask for a speaker or film for your group
- publicize the event by holding discussion groups, leaflettings, etc.
- organize a contingent from your group to participate in the International Women's Day events
- support your local International Women's Day Coalition with a donation to cover the cost of mailings, posters, etc.
- build the links between the trade union movement and the women's movement, support each other's struggles!

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In Toronto, the first planning meeting will be held on:

Wednesday, December 7, 1983 at 7:30 pm in Meeting Room D,
Metro Library, 789 Yonge St. (1 block north of Bloor)

For more information, write to:

March 8 Coalition, P.O. Box 70, Station F, Toronto M4Y 2L4
or call 789-4541

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY COMMITTEE

Despite what our name suggests, the International Women's Day Committee is not only active around March 8th. Over the past six years we have worked actively to help organize solidarity actions for striking workers at Bell, the Post Office, Radio Shack, Ontario's hospitals, and Mini Skools. We see the need to support unions when they take up women's rights issues in their bargaining and strikes and have consistently tried to organize other women and women's groups in support of these struggles.

We have also worked with unions and other women's and community groups in demonstrations, pickets and forums for abortion rights, lesbian and gay rights, against violence against women and in support of international issues. We have joined with the OFL and other groups in the Coalition for Affirmative Action.

Our work for women's liberation and for changes in the social and economic system brings us together with the trade union movement and other progressive groups. The unity that we demonstrate on International Women's Day is strengthened as we cooperate on a whole range of issues throughout the year.