

## WORKING WOMEN'S ALLIANCE OF LONDON

### STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Women in Canada comprise 35% of the work force and the number working outside the home is increasing. Becoming part of the work force facilitates the emancipation of women, however, women together with immigrant workers are among the most exploited. They are still largely unorganized. It is essential for women to join unions. Their living standards will improve and they will become part of the organized labour movement. The labour unions themselves have to respond to the needs of working women.

The Working Women's Alliance of London is dedicated to participating in the struggle to achieve greater freedom and opportunity for women. We will strive together to learn the problems, to assist in encouraging the organizing of the unorganized, to provide research skills and counselling services.

We are aware that changes are needed in existing trade unions to provide every opportunity for women to participate fully, and to ensure the undertaking of extraordinary measures to organize unorganized women. We will work toward these objectives in our respective union locals.

We will undertake educational programs for men and women and develop our skills which may then be used to help in the achievement of the full emancipation of women in society.

We came together under the impetus of the Women in the Work Force Conference held in May 1975. Its slogan was : "It's about time!"

We welcome organized and unorganized women to join in the fulfillment of these aims.

WORKING WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

AGENDA: Sunday, April 25, 1976, 7pm  
Urban Resource Centre

TOPIC: Women and the Wage Controls

1. Welcome (Pearl)
2. Minutes of the last meeting (Candi)
3. General reports: treasures report(Candi)  
Sparton Strike Fund Report (Beth)  
Publicity Committee(Mary)  
Garage-Ridout report
4. Alternatives for the summer (Pearl)
5. Women and the Wage Controls (Kathy) : Presentation  
Discussion
6. General Announcements and Comments (including Babysitting Fund)
7. Next meeting: Urban Resource Centre(tentative)  
Sunday, May 30th - 7pm
8. Invitation to join (Candi)

TOPICS OF FUTURE MEETINGS:

May - Discussion of Labour Day, May Day demonstrations  
also Canadian Labour Congress March 22 Ottawa Demonstration  
Resource person: Mary Campbell

June: Women and property law  
Resource Person: Kathleen Chapman

Note: Meetings of the Working Women's Alliance are  
scheduled for the fourth Sunday of every month.  
Babysitting costs are covered collectively by the  
group.

WORKING WOMEN'S ALLIANCE OF LONDON

January 21, 1976

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As you probably know there was a very tough strike waged here in the city by the Sparton's employeess on Elm Street. They were out for over eleven weeks and the management took a very tough stand agaisnt their more than reasonable demands. The contract finally accepted gives them only 20% over two years - not much in these times of rising inflation. The union also had to submit to the 'retiming' of the production line quotas. After 11 weeks on the line, these workers were forced to their knees.

The workers are organized into the National Council of Canadian Labour, a small Canadian parent body. They had no strike fund and during the strike, only their OHIP payments were covered. The vast majority of these workers are women; many the sole supporters of themself and their family. It is questionable how much longer these women could have held out.

In these times of economic crisis and wage control legislation, it is important that organized workers stick together and lend support to those that today are in the front line.

The Working Women's Alliance of London, a group of women dedicated to the betterment of women workers through trade unions, has taken up their cause and is making a plea on their behalf for any support fellow city locals can afford to make. During the strike, their small savings were totally depleted and many workers have fallen behind in rent payments, etc. Funds are needed!

You can make your donations payable to:

SPARTON STRIKE SUPPORT FUND  
c/o BETH BOSSENCE  
SECRETARY-TREASURER  
N.C.C.L. LOCAL # 212  
APT. 509 - 3 FRONTENAC ROAD  
LONDON, ONTARIO

Thanks for your support.

Yours fraternally,

*Kathleen Denomy*

Kathleen Denomy,  
On behalf of the Working Women's Alliance of London