


Are these clothes clean  
or made by **EXPLOITED HOMEWORKERS?**



**Join the Rally to  
STOP THE EXPLOITATION OF HOMEWORKERS!**



# A Pyramid of Profit Built on Exploitation

Dylex is Canada's largest specialty retailer. Dylex controls many stores found in shopping malls: Braemar, Fairweather, Club Monaco, Steel, SuzyShier, L.A. Express, Thriftys, TipTop Tailors, BiWay and Drug World.

In 1992 Dylex sales were almost \$2 billion.

Because Dylex controls so much of the clothing market, it is able to dictate to garment manufacturers the price they will pay for a garment, the time allowed to produce it and when they want it!

For example, in order to sell a jacket in a retail outlet such as Braemar, Dylex will turn to one of over 30 garment manufacturers to produce the jacket. Braemar will dictate design and the price of the garment. A manufacturer will buy the fabric and perhaps cut it into pieces for the jacket. Then the jackets are sent out to contractors. Finally, these contractors then farm out the garment to individual women who will sew it in their homes, more often than not, for less than minimum wage.

Dylex and stores like Braemar claim they care about the way clothes get made and the people who sew them.

Dylex tells its customers that, *"As Canada's largest specialty retailer, we share your concern about the treatment of workers. That is why we try to provide some of the best working conditions and benefits to our employees in the industry today."*

Mrs. Cheung\* sewed clothes at home for a Braemar contractor. Her average wage is \$4.00 per hour. The legal minimum wage is \$6.35. ***She sews sleeves in a jacket that sells for more than \$120.00 at Braemar.*** She often worked over 70 hours per week to meet the contractors deadline demanded by Braemar.

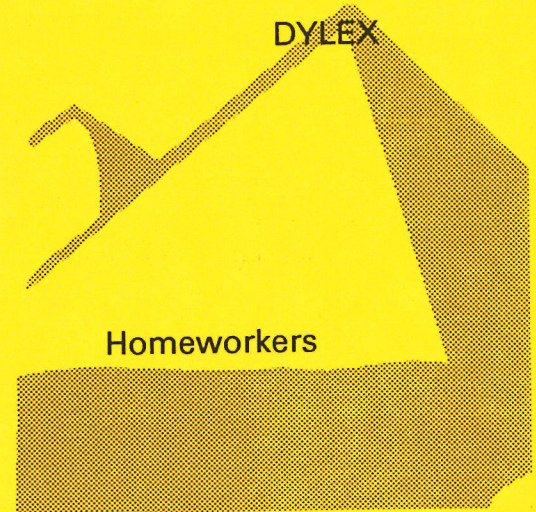
**Mrs. Cheung is owed over \$22,000 in back wages, vacation pay and termination pay!**

Bravely, Mrs. Cheung filed a complaint with the Ministry of Labour to stop the violation of her basic employment rights.

\*(The Homeworker's name is changed for her protection. Her story is not.)

Dylex tells its customers that, *"We have taken the initiative of requiring domestic contractors from whom we purchase goods to commit themselves to complying with all employment related laws including those pertaining to the use of homeworkers. We believe we are the first company in Canada to impose such a stringent requirement on the use of contractors."*

***Despite this promise, Dylex closes its eyes to a homeworker being paid below minimum wage!***





# BUY CLEAN CLOTHES

Tell retailers to stop exploiting  
Homeworkers!

Tell retailers to buy from garment  
manufacturers who pay **FAIR WAGES** and  
provide **DECENT, SAFE**  
**WORKING CONDITIONS!**

**CLEAN CLOTHES** are made by workers  
who are paid a **FAIR LIVING WAGE!**

For more information on the Clean Clothes campaign, contact  
The Coalition for Fair Wages and Working Conditions for Homeworkers  
33 Cecil Street, Toronto, Ontario M5T 1N1 Phone: 977-1384

