

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

NEW DEMOCRATS NEO-DEMOCRATES

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Queen's Park, Toronto/Rms. 228, 230

AGENDA

JAN 20 1984

- Saturday, February 25**
- 11:00 a.m. Registration, \$17.00 fee (\$5.00, pensioners, unemployed). The fee includes the conference, lunch on Saturday and the Dance. \$13.00 is the fee for the conference and lunch only.
 - 1:30 a.m. The Year in Review - Panel Chaired by Marion Bryden, MPP; Shelley Acheson, Human Rights Director for the OFL; Andrea Knight, I.W.D.C.; Lynn McDonald, MP; Mary Rowles, ONDP Women's Committee President. Followed by a discussion of priorities for the Women's Committee and the women's community for the coming year.
 - 1:30 a.m. Nominations and Speeches for the five table officers of the ONDP Women's Committee Executive.
 - 2:15 p.m. Lunch with Bob Rae, Leader of the Ontario NDP - a chance to hear from and talk with Bob about issues facing the Party in 1984.

Lunch will be served on the premises and included in the Registration Fee.
 - 2:30 p.m. Balloting will continue until 2:00 p.m. for five table officers.
 - 1:30 p.m. Lunch Ends

Plenary Session begins - to introduce the workshops on the Provincial Convention of the NDP in July 1984 and to discuss strategies and issues.
 - 2:00 p.m. Workshops on the upcoming Provincial Convention.
 - 4:00 p.m. Plenary Session on Provincial Convention Workshops.
- Saturday, February 26**
- 9:00 a.m. Registration
 - 9:30 a.m. Nominations and Speeches for Members at Large
 - 10:30 a.m. Plenary Session to introduce Strategies and Issues for the probable Federal Election.
 - 11:00 a.m. Announcement of Elected Table Officers.
 - 5:00 p.m. Session ends
 - 8:30 p.m. **Dance**

Music by "Womynly Way", D.J.'s
 - 12:00 p.m. Lunch (lunch not provided but available on the premises)
 - 1:30 p.m. Balloting ends

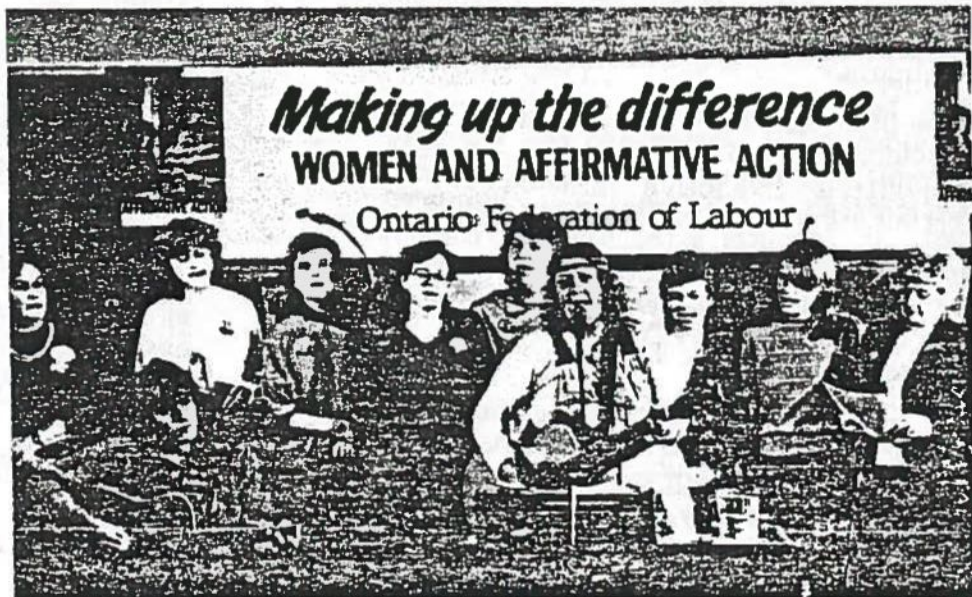
Final Plenary Session begins

All Resolutions must be ready to present to Plenary
 - 3:00 p.m. Conference ends
- At: Church Street Community Centre, 519 Church Street, Toronto
- Admission: The \$17.00 Conference fee includes the dance or \$5.00 at the door (\$2.50 unemployed).

Workshops on probable Federal Election

Also: Balloting of Members at Large, which continues until 1:30 p.m.

Panel Discussion - NDP Women Running For Election



Toronto Affirmative Action Forum - courtesy OFL

THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE

1984's conference of the ONDP Women's Committee will focus on strategies for raising issues which are of concern to us as women. 1984 will be the year of the ONDP Provincial Convention and possibly a Federal Election.

The conference has been structured so that we can discuss in depth specific resolutions for Provincial Convention, and strategies to ensure that women's issues are put forward and given a central focus by the Federal Party during the election.

We must also reach and work with others in the coming year - those in the women's movement, the trade unions, the solidarity movements, and community groups. The conference will discuss our directions for the coming year.

If there are any specific resolutions you wish to raise, bring them with you, or prepare them at the Conference. Your ideas and energy are needed. Plan to attend, and to bring with you a co-worker or friend.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Mary Rowles

The Women's Committee and its Executive have participated in a number of events this year as well as initiating some of our own. Here are some of the highlights.

In Toronto and other cities, individual NDP women and the Women's Committee Executive organized and participated in **International Women's Day**. In Toronto, a representative from the Women's Committee was included for the first time as a platform speaker at one of the IWD events, on reproductive choice.

The Women's Committee sponsored or co-sponsored forums throughout the year: on pornography, on Central American solidarity, and on feminism and Socialism.

Before **Federal Convention**, the Women's Committee Executive invited women delegates to caucus at Queen's Park, to discuss resolutions being

forwarded to Convention.

We also encouraged women in Central American support groups, women's health groups, and immigrant women's organizations to participate and provide displays at the **ONDP Spring Fair**. A number of poets, performers, and writers also volunteered their services. Reaction to the torrential downpours and the performances was mixed.

The reaction to our **Skills Training School** held in November in Toronto was enthusiastic. The Executive is eager to help local women's committees organize similar schools in their own area.

We also participated in some other big events.

Throughout the year, the Women's Committee Executive and NDP women in cities across Ontario supported the activities of the **Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics**. In September the Executive raised \$3,000 at a dance for Doctors Smoling, Morgentaler and Scott, who are charged with conspiring to procure abortions in Toronto.

During the Fall, the Women's Committee participated in public forums on **Affirmative Action** sponsored by the Ontario Federation of Labour, and organized by the OFL Women's Committee. A brief presented to the Toronto forum, prepared by Marion Byrden, discussed legislative measures which can be taken to guarantee affirmative action. The brief also outlined NDP initiatives, for example, **Bob Rae's Private Members Bill**, which would guarantee Affirmative Action in the workplace.

The Women's Committee helped publicize the debate on the private members bill, and sponsored a reception at Queen's Park after the debate to console activists when the Bill was defeated by the government.

Lastly, for purposes of this list, the **Communications Co-ordinator** has been assiduously gathering names of individuals and organizations for our mailing list to increase communication with Party and community activists. Any additions can be made by contacting me (see back page for address) and I will see that they are added.

REGIONAL REPORTS

OTTAWA - Abby Pollonetsky

The Ottawa Area Council NDP Women's Committee was formed in 1983. The committee comprises one delegate from each of the ridings in the Ottawa area as well as ex officio representation from any women from an Ottawa area riding who serves on the Provincial Women's Executive.

Over the past year this committee has endorsed a number of public meetings of interest to women and party members such as a visit of a group of mothers of political prisoners from El Salvador as well as endorsing the actions of women's peace groups.

The committee organized a very successful Skills Training Workshop for NDP women in the early summer. Members of the Committee were included on the Steering Committee for the Ontario Federation of Labour's Affirmative Action forum which took place early in November. Our committee submitted a brief to the forum which was well received.

Future plans include a series of events to take place during International Women's Week in March of this year.

HAMILTON - B.J. Richmond

The NDP in Hamilton in 1983 was riding on the crest of success municipally. An active campaign had elected four NDP aldermen to City Council. The municipal caucus had begun to function well, and NDP'ers were feeling optimistic.

It was in this context that eight women who are active in the party at various levels met over brunch to organize a public meeting which would bring women in the party together for discussion.

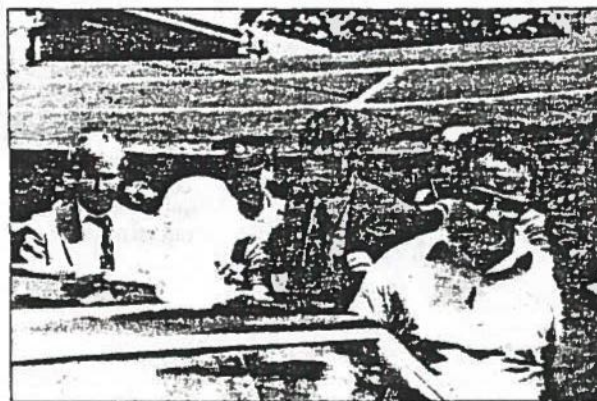
Under the umbrella of the Area Council, this small Area Women's Committee organized an evening to discuss reproductive choice, and the police raids on the Morgentaler Clinic.

The meeting was informative, and set a positive tone to debate issues and policies within the party.

Early in 1984, the women who

organized the meeting will be getting together to discuss whether it is possible to move towards a full-time Area Women's Committee. If you would like to be a part of this discussion, call Maggie Fischbuch at 523-7471. NDP women in Hamilton have lots to talk about before the next municipal election!

Note: Women NDP'ers were active in other regions besides Hamilton and Ottawa, but because of production deadlines for the Newsletter, their reports were not able to be included.



Police Raid Toronto Morgentaler Clinic - courtesy Canadian Women's Movement Archives and D. Meredith

THE EXECUTIVE AND EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS by Mary Rowles, President

The Committee was established at Provincial Convention back in 1972 and was given responsibility for generating policy on issues of particular interest to women. In the late 1970's a great deal of comprehensive policy was formulated and adopted as a result of the Women's Committee efforts. The Committee is also responsible for educating the public and our own members on policy, and in the recent past, more effort has been required simply to safeguard and promote existing policy on women's issues.

In addition, the committee works with women in the trade union movement and with community-based coalitions on campaigns which are compatible with the aims of the NDP. We also attempt to attract more women to the Party and to encourage women who are already members to assume a more active leadership role in their own Riding Associations, at Council, and Convention; and to encourage the

nination of more women candidates.

At present the Executive is composed of 5 Table Officers, and 10 members-at-large who will be elected at the Conference. In addition, the Executive includes a representative from the ONDP Caucus, and from the Provincial Executive, as well as the representative of Women Committee" representative who is elected at Provincial Convention and who acts as liaison between our women's committee and the Federal Council's Women's Committee.

The duties of the Table Officers are as follows:

President: to call meetings of the Executive, co-ordinate day-to-day business, act as spokeswoman for the committee.

Secretary: to keep a record of all meetings, reply to correspondence, write such letters as are initiated by the committee.

Treasurer: to keep the Committee's books and present audited statements.

Communications Co-ordinator: responsible for phoning Committee,

seeking out and maintaining contact with individuals, groups, organizations which should be aware of the Committee's activities.

Past President: to provide continuity

To prevent the Committee from being pre-occupied with the politics of Toronto, each member of the Executive is given responsibility for one geographic area and is asked to initiate contact with women in that area. To strengthen regional representation, we urge women from outside Toronto to consider standing for election to the Women's Committee Executive. Travel subsidies are available.

In addition, Members-at-large are expected to assume responsibility for co-ordinating one area of the Committee's activities, for example, liaison with other groups.

Anyone interested in running for election should submit a biography which can be reproduced and made available for distribution. There will be an opportunity for introductions and for short speeches by candidates before balloting.

Billeting

As part of the preparation for the conference, we require volunteers living in Toronto who would be willing to billet out-of-town guests to the conference. If you can put some one up for one night (Saturday, February 25), please call: Susan Shaw, home: 533-1566 work: 531-2411 and let her know how many, smoker or non-smoker. Thanks.

(531-2411)

(533-1566)

Free Daycare Provided

Free daycare will be provided close to the conference site. Details will be provided in advance at the conference but you must register for daycare by February 17.

Canadian Women's Movement Archives

The Archives has grown out of, and is part of, the women's movement in Canada. It is ours. It belongs to all of us engaged in every struggle which gives us more autonomy in our lives.

It is an organized archival collection maintained through consultation with other archivists, and is accessible to all unless donations have specific conditions to be closed to the public. Send us your material (clippings, photos, documents, posters, buttons) and use the resources.

1970-1975: Mondays to Fridays, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
or by appointment
110 Bloor St. W. Toronto, Ontario M4Y 1P1
Tel: (416) 977-8868

Advertisement

REGISTRATION Women's Conference February 25, and 26, 1984

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

RIDING _____ UNION _____ OTHER ORGANIZATION _____

I have enclosed my registration fee of: _____

I require billeting ___(yes) ___(no) smoker ___ non-smoker ___

I can offer billeting ___(yes) ___(no) smoker ___ non-smoker ___

If daycare is required: Saturday ___(yes) ___(no) Sunday ___(yes) ___(no)

Number of children: _____

Any special needs of children, e.g. dietary _____

Age of children: _____

Please register by February 17. Space may be limited. Include registration fee -- \$17.00 for Conference, Saturday's Lunch, and Dance (\$5.00 for unemployed and seniors), or \$13.00 for the conference and Saturday's Lunch only.

Send to:

Women's Committee Registration, Room 201, North Wing,
Legislative Building, Queen's Park, Toronto, M7A 1A2.