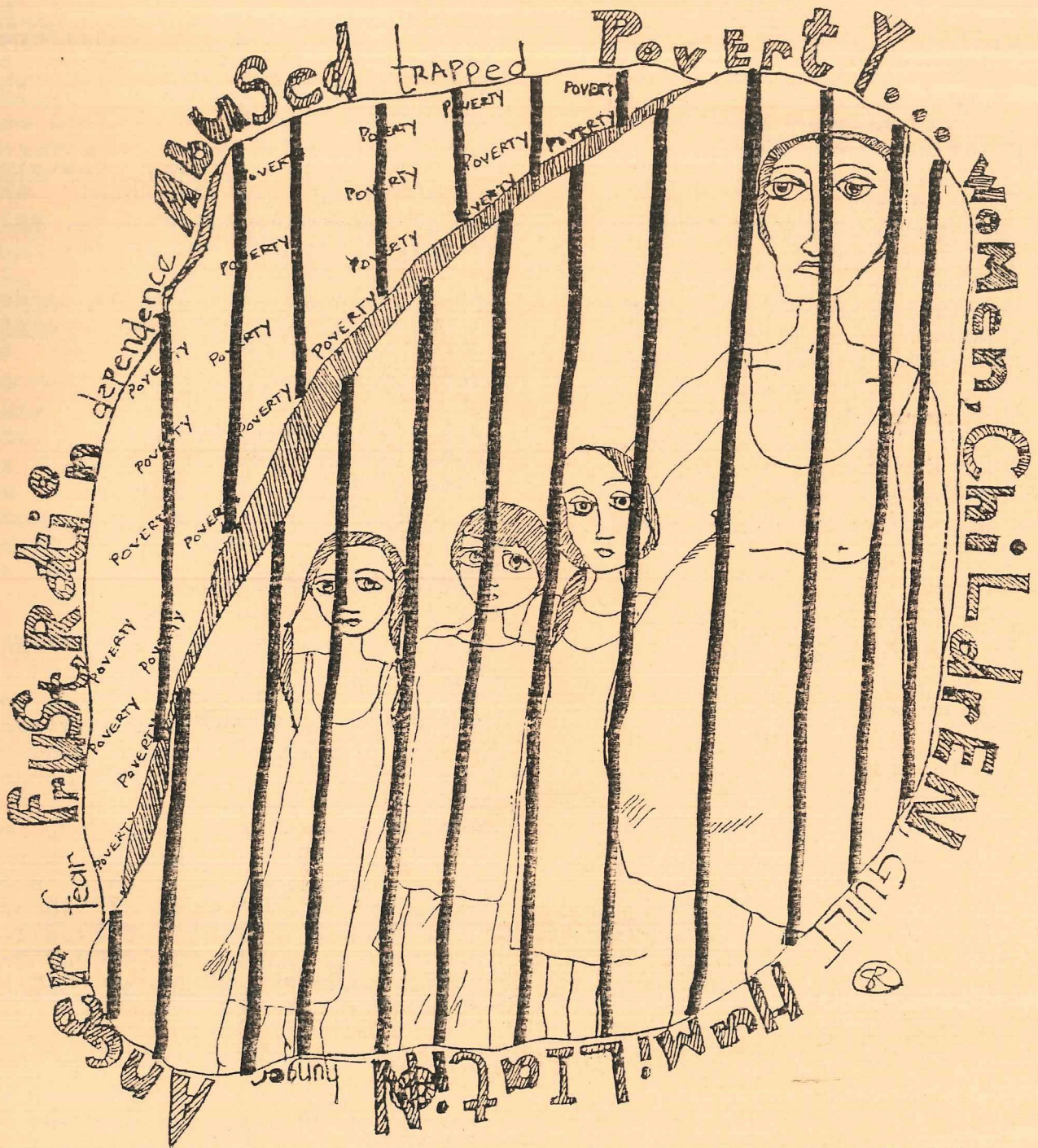


# TAPESTRY

WARD KOWELL  
NOV 25 1988  
NEILL

A FEMINIST QUARTERLY



FALL 1988  
\$2.00



TAPESTRY is published by the

## Vernon Women's Centre

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Cover illustration by artist  
Susan Roch.

Women who worked on this issue:  
Ann Bolivar, Teresa Murphy,  
Robin LeDrew, Helen Douglas,  
Marcia Browne, Lana Maree, Susan  
Roch, Muriel Hurry

The views expressed in TAPESTRY  
are those of the authors' and do  
not necessarily reflect those of  
the Tapestry collective or The  
Vernon Women's Centre.

The Vernon Women's Centre is  
primarily a resource centre of  
information pertinent to issues  
of concern and interest to  
women. We are a registered  
society and are supported by  
fees, donations, fundraising and  
government grants.

Our resource library contains  
non-fiction, governmental and  
non-governmental reports as well  
as novels, poetry and prose.

In addition to TAPESTRY we offer  
workshops, seminars and confer-  
ences throughout the year on  
such topics as:

- violence against women
- sexual harassment
- human rights
- sex role stereotyping
- childcare
- pay equity
- homemakers pensions
- the physically challenged
- visible and invisible minorities
- women in conflict with the law
- employment standards
- reproductive hazards
- non-traditional work
- pornography
- prostitution
- world peace
- the environment

The Vernon Women's Centre is  
located at #6 - 3000 - 30th St.  
in Vernon B.C. Office hours are:  
Monday-Thursday 9a.m. to 4p.m.  
Friday 9a.m. to 1p.m.

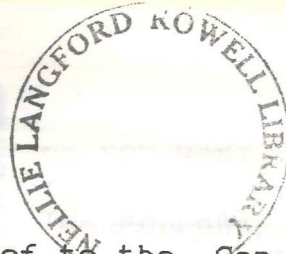
The mailing address is:

P.O. Box 1242  
Vernon B.C. V1T 6N6

Phone 542-7531 or 545-6406 for  
more information.



## Co-ordinators Report



In this issue of Tapestry, the collective has gathered a range of material both local and national on Women, Poverty, and Politics.

Poverty is most definitely a feminist issue. Women are more likely than men to be poor, no matter what their age or education. Do we need legislated change or an attitudinal shift? Are women poor because of social discrimination or because they make the wrong choices?

Some of the projects the Vernon Women's Centre has undertaken in the last quarter have been designed to focus attention on the feminization of poverty.

We have kept up a stream of letters to the editor about the \$50.00 cutback from the Ministry of Social Services and Housing. We have received calls from a number of women who want to fight this decision and have helped them through the appeal process.

There are a number of new books in our library on women and work and women in poverty, including Sheila Baxter's NO WAY TO LIVE, a book about poor women in Vancouver.

We included the National Film Board release, NO WAY TO LIVE, in a mini film festival at the Vernon campus of Okanagan College. In this excellent film, Rosemary Brown makes an eloquent appeal to teenage girls to beware the trap of single parenthood.

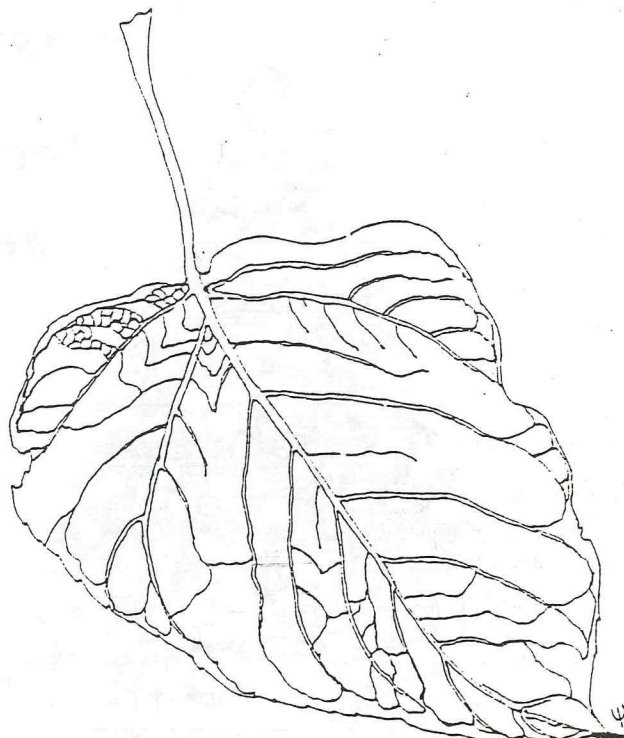
Two delegates attended the Federated Anti-Poverty Group annual general meeting in Victoria, whose theme was appropriately, The Feminization of Poverty.

We presented a brief to the Canadian Council on Social Development on WORK IN THE NINETIES, a national project concerned about the future of women and work.

Probably our most successful event this fall was a playing of the Poverty Game. This board game is played in a workshop setting and is designed to help people understand the welfare system and comprehend the day to day realities of people on a low income.

Thirty-five interested community members attended, including several hopefuls in the upcoming election. Most people felt it was a positive experience and we hope to expand on that interest by offering a poverty advocates training workshop in the near future.

Please feel free to drop in any time. The library and the teapot beckon!





## Coming Events

### NOVEMBER

- 8 Women for Sobriety meets every Tuesday from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Vernon Women's Centre.
- 10 Join us every Thursday at the Vernon Women's Centre for lunch time video presentations. 12:10 p.m. Topics will vary. Bring a lunch. We have coffee and tea.
- 14 Re-evaluation counselling support group for women meets every second Monday at 6:30 p.m.
- 14 All candidates debate at the Vernon Recreation Centre. 7:00 p.m.
- 21 Federal election. Don't forget to vote!

### DECEMBER

- 1 Lunch time video presentations at the Vernon Women's Centre. 12:10 p.m.
- 6 Women for Sobriety Meets every Tuesday 11:45 to 1:00 at the Vernon Women's Centre.
- 12 Re-evaluation counselling support group for women meets every second Monday at 6:30 p.m.
- 16 Christmas Open House at the Vernon Women's Centre. Refreshments served. Everyone Welcome. 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- 19 Vernon Women's Centre closed for Christmas break until January 2.
- 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS



## *Christmas Open House at the Vernon Women's Centre*

*#6 3000-30th Street*

*Friday, December 16th  
4p.m. til 7p.m*

*Refreshments  
will be served*

*Everyone Welcome*



# Videos

The Vernon Women's Centre has donated fifty National Film Board videos to the regional library system. These will be available in the Vernon Library on a browsing basis until April 1989 after which time they will become part of the circulating collection available to the entire Okanagan Regional Library system. Some of the titles include:

- Abortion: Stories from North and South
- Behind the Veil: Nuns
- Child Safety
- Class of Promise
- Dad's House Mom's House
- Doctor Woman
- If You Love This Planet
- Japanese Women
- Loved, Honoured and Bruised
- Next Step Series
- Why Men Rape
- Daughters of the Country
- Firewords
- Thin Dreams



*Any women wishing to contact the  
RURAL LESBIAN ASSOCIATION*

*Please write to us at:*

*Box 1242  
Vernon B.C.  
V1T 6N6*

*or  
phone 542-7531*

*All enquiries will receive a reply*



DO YOU WANT  
TO HELP END  
THE NUCLEAR  
ARMS RACE?

Join the Canadian Peace Pledge Campaign and help vote Canada out of the arms race.

Millions of Canadians feel threatened by the risk of nuclear war. Millions of Canadians want the arms race to end. But Canada continues to support the build up of nuclear weapons.

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Federal Riding\_\_\_\_\_

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Phone\_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed a financial contribution : \_\_\_\$15\_\_\_\$30  
\_\_\_\$50\_\_\_\$100\_\_\_ other

Mail to:  
Canadian Peace Pledge Campaign  
c/o Canadian Peace Congress  
300 Bathurst Street  
Toronto, Ontario M5T 2S3



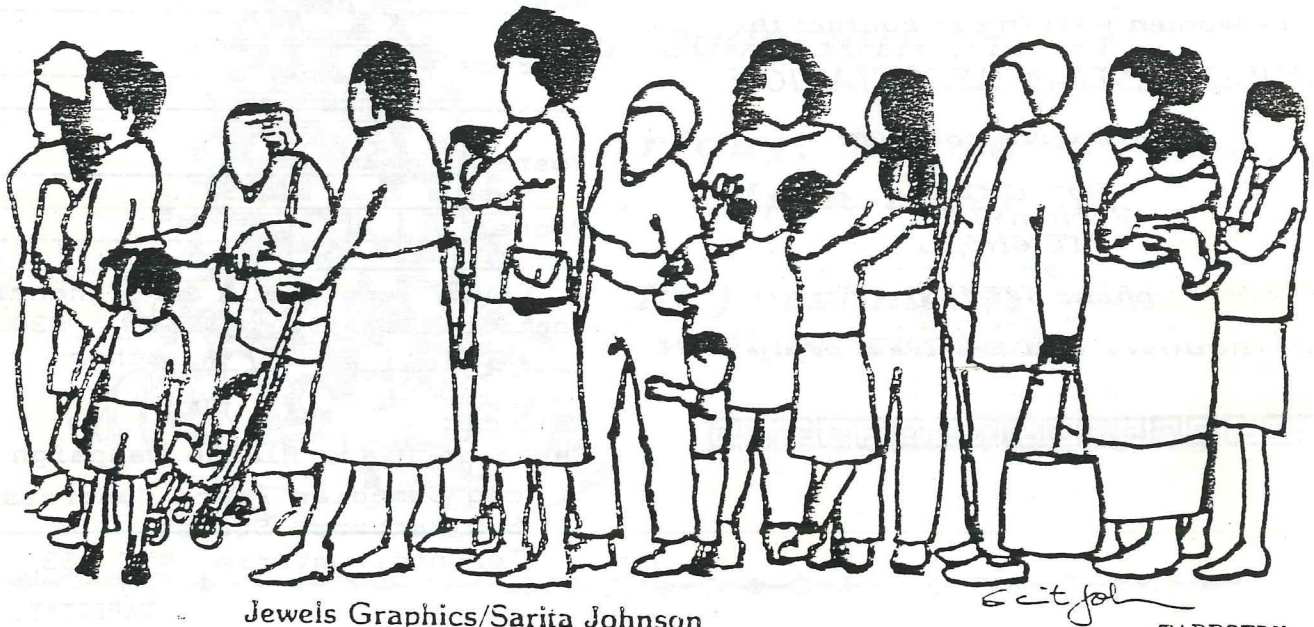
## The Office

I have lived below the poverty level, on and off, for the last ten years. After my marriage broke up I was left with the caring of my 19 month old daughter. Since I had limited skills and felt very strongly about staying home to care for my child, the only option I could see at the time was Gain. (Guaranteed Annual Income for Need) I met my first financial aid worker and she was very kind and understanding, so this first encounter with the system was a positive one.

When I moved to a different town a few months later, I made the next pilgrimage. I was made to wait almost an hour for my appointment, though I had made sure to be there on time. I had a small toddler with me who was tired and cranky. By the time I was finally shown into an office I was bedraggled and near tears. This time the worker was not so helpful. He chose to immediately rake me over the coals about why I had moved to the Okanagan, which was so financially depleted. Then I was badgered to try to get money from my family, spouse or any other place I could find it rather than from

him. When finished filling in the forms and assuring him that, yes I was poor, and no I did not have a hidden bank account, I was permitted to leave.

Looking back to that encounter now eight years later, I feel a well of anger and frustration surface inside of me. In that office I was treated like a number. There was no compassion or caring. I was very young, vulnerable and afraid. I bought into the shame and self-disgust at having to ask for help. From that point I refused to admit to anyone that I was on welfare. I felt it was some invisible brand I carried. I would lie to people, make up some imaginary job I did at home. Each time I told the lie I hurt myself more. I was not only silently suffering from financial poverty, inside myself the emotional poverty I felt was unbearable. This to me is the real injustice of our system. It does not encourage feelings of self-esteem and worth. I have never heard a Gain recipient say with pride, "Yes, I'm staying home to parent my children until they are school age." or "I am on Gain now because of the high unemployment rate in this area."





I remember waiting each month for my cheque. I could never be totally confident it would arrive. Since I did not have my own transportation the extra trips I had to make into town, to pick up the cheque, that had somehow not been sent, were always frustrating.

The unexpected yearly home visits were feared. "What if the house is a mess? What if my boyfriend is here? What if they think I'm a bad parent and want to take my children?" Many of my fears were exaggerated by my ignorance of the system and my rights. There were times I felt cornered and afraid of the Ministry. My worker once called me into his office because he had received a complaint that I was a prostitute! I was horrified. Rather than asserting myself, I fell apart in the office, tearfully and timidly voicing my innocence. It was a terrible experience, one that I still think of and wish I could have changed.

I truly believe many Gain recipients live with shame and guilt. I know I did for a long time, until I was able to validate myself and my right to an existence for my family. The last few years I was on Gain I was able to say with pride that I was choosing at this time to stay home with my children. It felt good. I no longer cringed at the thought of case workers, the office or the system. The only sadness I feel is when I walk into an office and see the pain and humiliation of the people in the waiting room. Many of them look defeated, the way I used to feel. This is wrong. In our country of affluence and senseless government spending on nuclear weapons and the military, we as a people deserve food, shelter and support both financially and emotionally. It is a basic human right.

Lana Maree

1988  
NOUVEAU! NEW! NOUVEAU! NEW!

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des **FEMMES**  
du Canada



Canadian  
**WOMEN'S**

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# the fantastic single mother's survey

federated anti-poverty groups of  
b.c. presents  
the results of the  
fantastic single mothers' survey

In March of 1988, Belinda Halpin and Gus Long conducted a survey of single mothers in B.C. We found the results very interesting and in an effort to help publicize them we offer excerpts of the survey here.

=====  
Of 160 surveys distributed, 80 were returned. Not every mother answered every question. A few obviously had limited literacy skills and may have had difficulty understanding the questions.

We knew that social assistance recipients would be especially reluctant to complete the survey. Despite assurances that the Ministry of Social Services and Housing were not involved and guarantees of anonymity, there was fear that individual information would somehow reach the Ministry. One woman said that even if her name were not used, the Ministry might recognize her handwriting!

So the single parents who did respond so promptly and honestly deserve our very special thanks.

We have refrained from drawing any conclusions. Interested individuals and groups might consider the results in the light of recent government policies and statements concerning abortion, hungry schoolchildren and statements concerning abortion.

- 
1. No. of respondents 80  
No. on social assistance  
No. on unemployment insurance  
No. of employed 6  
Supported by parents 3

These 80 single mothers support a total of 134 children: 55 of them are under the age of 6; 75 are between 6 and 17 years of age; 4 are aged 18 and 19.

-----

2. The 67 single mothers on social assistance gave the following reasons (many had multiple reasons):

loss of income due to separation or divorce	28
unable to find employment	21
motherhood	17
loss of employment	14
own health	11
safety	5
children's health	2
husband incarcerated	1
no answer	1

-----

3. They described their feelings about being in receipt of social assistance.

depressed	44	anxious	26
frustrated	43	unimportant	24
powerless	36	grateful	21
worried	35	angry	20
guilty	31	resentful	16
ashamed	29	afraid	12
insecure	29	secure	6
humiliated	28	happy	2*
inadequate	27		

\*I finally got it!

-----

4. Of the women on welfare, 28 are attending school and 15 are actively seeking employment.

"I want to get off welfare and provide an honest, personally satisfying living for myself and my children. I am tired of being poor."

-----

Almost 1/3 of the mothers in receipt of social assistance had applied for and been refused education benefits.



5. Only 24 of the single mothers receive child support payments, and only 15 receive such payments on a regular basis. 7 were "urged" by the Ministry to pursue child support through the courts. Four were told that they would be denied or cut off benefits unless they did so.

"Welfare said I had to. I told them he was as poor as I was and it would waste taxpayers money to take it to court. They insisted. The judge awarded me \$25.00 a month. He paid it once."

6. Almost 70% rated themselves as good parents and 28% as adequate. 48% considered themselves good providers and 30% as adequate.

"If you mean (as a provider) of love, care and understanding, good."



7. Over 94% felt that low income is causing problems for them; 80% that it causes problems for their children; and 55% that it is causing problems between them and their children.

"I find it hard to always be saying no, we can't afford it when the children want to do extra activities or buy something new or go out for supper."

8. Almost 19% of the single mothers admitted that they at some time considered giving up their children for fostering or adoption.

"I can't provide the best."

"She could get better food, less stress at home maybe. Nice clothes and a better chance for higher education."

9. 27 of the women said that if they were to become pregnant they would choose to terminate the pregnancy.

"I feel like another baby would lock me into poverty forever ."

"Low-income mothers have to take handouts to survive. I have no chance right now to make things better for that child."

10. 24% of the women had been reported to and investigated by the Ministry for alleged child abuse\neglect.

"I do know by whom, he was trying to cause trouble for me. A worker came to see me, saw my children weren't being abused, told me to keep up the good work, and left."

Two of the women had their children apprehended but subsequently regained custody.



11. Over 72% of the single mothers reported shelter costs in of either the maximum Gain allowance or 30% of their income. 31% report such problems as vermin, dirty, unsanitary, unsafe poorly built and run-down buildings.

12. The women listed the following as places where they buy clothing and footwear.

thrift shops	52
discount stores	28
department stores	14
sales	12
rummage sales	1
flea markets	1

13. Almost 1\3 of the single mothers on social assistance said that they requested food vouchers within the past year. 82% of the requests were granted.

14. 30 of the women admitted using food banks:

weekly	9
twice monthly	3
monthly	4
every other month	1
occasionally	12
"3 times a year, that's all that's allowed"	

15. 6 of the respondents admitted to sending their children to school without breakfast or lunch.

"Not enough money to buy groceries after rent and bills etc. are paid."

16. Over 76% expressed concern about their family's diet.

"Without proper nutrition the kids cannot function or learn properly. I am concerned about the physical well-being of my children



so that they can have the best chance at a life possible."

17. Over 60% of the single mothers admitted receiving income which they did not declare to MSSH or UIC.

"I can't survive without it."

"It wasn't much, a few times I didn't declare \$50.00. I needed it. I never lied to anyone ever before in my life till I got on welfare."

18. Over 16% of the women on social assistance have been reported to and investigated by the Ministry for fraud. No fraud was proved against any of the women.

19. 24 of the mothers said they had been on medication for stress in the past year.

20. Friends were listed as the most important source of personal support, followed by family members, professionals, children, and peer groups.

"I usually just keep everything to myself."

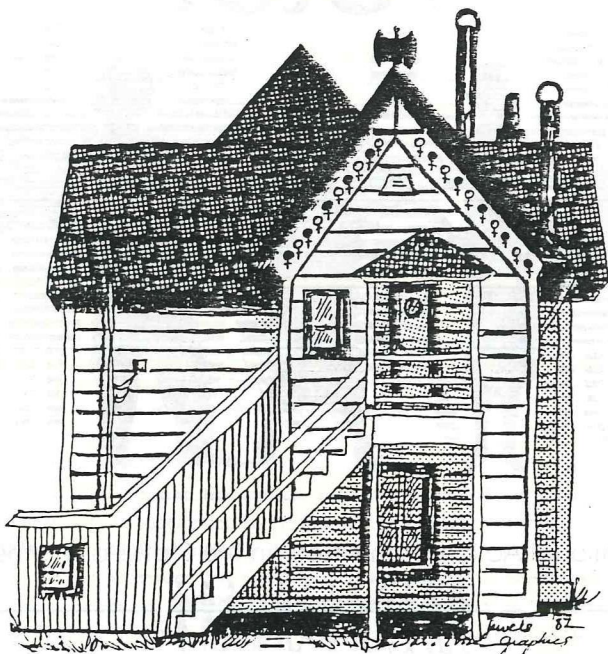


The GAIN Act and Regulations provide some additional benefits such as diet allowances, crisis grants, food vouchers, bus passes and child care. It is the duty of the Ministry to advise recipients of these available benefits.

Under the terms of the Canada Assistance Plan Act, B.C. is required to have an appeal system under which decisions can be appealed by recipients. The Ministry does post information on the appeal system in its offices. However, many recipients remain unaware of their rights. In fact the survey showed a 100% failure of Ministry personnel to inform recipients of their right to appeal.

14 medical\dental applications were refused. Not one of those people was advised of their right to appeal.

Appealing a decision of the Ministry is not an exercise in futility. Neither is asking the Ministry for help begging: they are there to help. Also, there are many community groups and organizations that will help recipients and act as advocates. If you need help ask.



According to the 1986 Census, a total of 702,000 Canadian women were lone parents. But the Census provided only a snapshot of an ongoing phenomenon: it did not indicate the number of women who have been lone parents at sometime in the past or how long those episodes of parenting alone lasted. Statistics Canada's 1984 Family History Survey overcame this limitation by asking women about their past marital and childbearing experiences. According to this survey, 1.4 million women aged 18 to 65 had been or still were lone parents. These women represented 18% of that age group overall and 26% of those who had had children.

For about two-thirds of these women, parenting alone had ended, either when the women entered a new union or when their children left home. Overall, the survey showed that lone-parent episodes lasted an average of five and a half years, although this estimate may be slightly understated because it includes episodes that were continuing at the time of the survey.

Female lone parents are a diverse population. The age at which parenting alone begins, its duration, the chances of it ending, and the way it ends all vary widely. One factor that affects these variables is the circumstance that led to lone parenthood in the first place; that is, whether the women became lone parents as a result of separation, divorce, widowhood, or having a child outside marriage (including outside a common-law relationship).

The length of lone-parent periods has important social and economic implications. Female lone-parent families tend to have lower incomes than two-parent families, and therefore, they are likely to require support services and assistance. Moreover, the number and proportion of children under age 25 living in lone-parent families is rising. In 1986, 1.16 million Canadian children, or more than 14% of all children in families, were living in lone-parent families. This was up from just under 900,000 children, or about 10% of the total, in 1976. The numbers and proportions of children who have at some time lived in lone-parent families are, of course, much higher.

CANADIAN SOCIAL TRENDS — AUTUMN 1988





# PRIORITY ISSUES FOR WOMEN'S EQUALITY

## REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

The right to control our reproduction is basic and fundamental to women's autonomy. This year's Supreme Court decision granting women the right to make their own decision concerning abortion is perhaps the most important step forward in women's equality since the last federal election.

The Supreme Court decision, consistent results in public opinion polls, and most recently, a resolution by the Canadian Medical Association, are all telling the government not to re-criminalize abortion.

While abortion is no longer a criminal offence in Canada, there is not equal access to abortion services for women in different regions, because the provinces are developing inconsistent policies on the funding of abortions through their respective provincial medicare schemes.

Recent cutbacks in funding for birth control and sex education are also depriving women of their right to choose and plan their families.

## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN

We live in a world in which a woman is sexually assaulted every six minutes. At least one woman in eight is abused by her husband or partner every year. Four out of every ten girls are sexually abused before they reach the age of eighteen, and 90% of the perpetrators are male.

Violence against women and children is epidemic in Canada. Stronger laws and more appropriate penalties must be instituted to help put an end to all forms of violence. If the courts are to prove a tool for victims, the judiciary and all relevant professionals must be educated. Courts are not enough; an approach of prevention of violence and victim support must also be adopted.

## CHILD CARE

The new Canada Child Care Act is a backward step for child care in Canada. Instead of helping to expand services the legislation introduces new ceilings on spending. The new Act lacks national objectives and guidelines for quality, availability and affordability. Without guidelines and a long-term vision, the Act will entrench the current fragmented child care situation across Canada.

The Act will make operating grants available to commercial child care for the first time, providing an incentive to the growth of commercial care which has been shown to provide poorer quality care. The Act's use of tax credits in place of direct subsidy is a poor use of scarce resources; giving parents \$100 to \$200 does not help them find non-existent services or afford fees of \$5,000 per year. Federal government dollars should be put directly into the development of services and programs.

## THE FREE TRADE DEAL

It's hard to think of an initiative that is so far-reaching and potentially more damaging to women than the Free Trade Accord between Canada and the United States with its economic, social and cultural impact.

Women, and particularly immigrant and visible minority women will lose jobs. Lower wages and poorer working conditions caused by the downward pull of competition with American companies will affect the most disadvantaged more severely. Hard fought equality rights like Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value will be more difficult to achieve.

The Free Trade Deal will threaten the quality and universality of health, social services and child care not only because it permits unfettered American private investment in these areas but also because the 'harmonization' which will inevitably result from the deal will mean that Canadian services will start looking more and more like those of the United States.

The move towards a Canada which is no different from the U.S. - with more reliance on a market economy with less government intervention, more privatization, and a more competitive economy - will severely threaten everything the Women's Movement has been fighting for, and the gains Canadian women have made.

# WOMEN Vote!



National Action Committee on the Status of Women





# QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES



## CHILD CARE

Will you oppose, defeat or repeal (if necessary) the Canada Child Care Act and introduce new legislation which will establish national objectives and guidelines for quality, availability and affordability of child care services?

## DISABLED WOMEN

Will you take appropriate action to prevent the further sterilization of any women, including disabled, native, immigrant, visible minority, low-income or other women, without their clear and informed consent?

What measures are you prepared to take to ensure that disabled women have equal access to educational, training and employment opportunities?

## EMPLOYMENT EQUITY

Will you amend the Federal Employment Equity Act to ensure that employers are required to establish employment equity plans with mandatory targets and timetables, including substantial penalties to ensure compliance, and creation of an independent commission to monitor the implementation and compliance?

## FAMILY LAW

Do you support amending the Divorce Act to ensure adequate financial protection to ex-wives who have young children or who have been long-term homemakers?

Will you commit yourself to opposing involuntary joint custody and mandatory mediation?

## FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Given its extremely detrimental effect on women in Canada, will you commit to tear up the Free Trade Agreement with the United States?

## HOUSING

Will you implement a federal land-banking system to protect federally-owned land from speculative and inflationary cost increases so that it could be available at low cost for non-profit housing?

## IMMIGRANT AND VISIBLE MINORITY WOMEN

What will you do to improve the current inadequacy of language training for women whose language is neither English nor French?

What will you do to create adequate skills training and retraining programs aimed at immigrant and visible minority women?

## LESBIANS

Will you amend the Canadian Human Rights Act to include sexual orientation as a prohibited ground of discrimination?

Will you end the discriminatory practices against programs related to sexual orientation that exist in the funding policies of the Secretary of State Women's Programme?

## MEDIA AND BROADCASTING

What will you do to ensure that equal rights and dignity are extended to women in the programming and operations of the Canadian broadcasting system?

## THE MEECH LAKE ACCORD

Will you guarantee that the rights of women will be protected by ensuring women a place at all constitutional talks?

## NATIVE WOMEN

Will you ensure that within a six-month period the reinstatement process will be accelerated to bring a fair and conclusive response to the 60,000 applicants awaiting a reply as of June 1988?

Will you ensure that effective action be taken to provide adequate funds to improve present housing and infrastructures on reserves; and that housing funds for off-reserve Native persons be reinstated?

## PENSIONS

Will your party raise the Guaranteed Income Supplement for the aged to bring the federal guaranteed income of all seniors up to the poverty line?

Is your party committed to ending the discrimination of the Spouse's Allowance program by introducing an equivalent federal benefit for all low-income people aged 60 to 64?

## PRIVATIZATION

Do you oppose the closing of rural post offices and the privatization of postal services, and do you support the re-hiring of women postal workers who have lost their jobs through privatization?

Do you oppose the privatization of the social and health services?

## PROSTITUTION

Will your party commit to the repeal of Sections 193 and 195 of the Criminal Code so that all prostitution-related activities will be decriminalized?

Do you support excluding prostitutes from Bill C-61?

## REFUGEES AND IMMIGRATION

Will you work to oppose, defeat or repeal (if necessary) Bills C-55 and C-84?

How will you ensure that women have the same access to becoming Canadian Convention Refugees as men, and that refugee selection will not favour the most able, healthy, trained and wealthy?

## REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE

Will you ensure that abortion remains out of the Criminal Code?

Will you amend the Canada Health Act to ensure access to and funding for abortion services equally in every province.

## RURAL AND FARM WOMEN

What will you do to ensure rural women equal access to the same health and social services currently available to women in urban centres?

What measures will you take to protect the future existence of the family farm in Canada, and recognize women's role as agricultural workers?

## SECRETARY OF STATE FUNDING

Will you support increasing the budget of the Secretary of State's Women's Program, so that women's groups throughout Canada can have long-term, guaranteed operational funding, indexed to the cost of living?

Do you agree that the government should not interfere with the established priorities of the women's groups through the funding mechanisms?

## SURVIVAL

Will you support withdrawal of the White Paper on Defence?

Will you oppose the purchase of nuclear-powered submarines?

## TAXATION AND FAMILY BENEFITS

Will you commit to the full indexation to the cost of living of family allowances and all tax credits?

Will you introduce a low-income credit to ensure that people with incomes below the poverty line will no longer have to pay income taxes?

## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN

In light of increasing violence against women and children in Canada, will you support ongoing federal or provincial core funding for rape crisis centres, services for battered women and their children, and services for the survivors of incest and sexual abuse?



## Poverty

There's a poverty beyond the  
Ken of man,  
It's that failure of the spirit  
to rise and fight again  
when the payment and the penalty  
for the rent that's overdue  
makes a hopelessness of trying  
to live as others do.  
When the runs are in the stockings  
and the holes are in the shoes  
and we settle for survival  
for it's all that we can do.  
Still it's the runny nose of children  
less than sheltered, less than fed  
and continued aggravation from  
the systems deaf and dead.  
It's bread crumbs in the gravy  
and water in the soup,  
it's that endless macaroni and  
the sawdust wiener group, makes  
the daily grind of living  
on the edge and on the dole  
that will strip you of your pride  
and grind away your sole.  
It's the measure of our country  
as she strives to take her place  
that the poorest of our children  
are the last to feel her grace.

Gert Beadle



## Victim Assistance Service

VICTIM ASSISTANCE SERVICE is a support and advocacy service for victims of spousal assault, sexual assault or child assault. We will provide information about resources and services available in the community. We will assist with witness preparation forms, victim's compensation application, legal and related services and we will accompany persons to court. We provide emotional support to people who are experiencing trauma as a result of abuse. No fee is charged and information is confidential (except in cases of suspected child abuse, as required by law).

The developmental stages of our program began in January of 1988. The perceived need has more than proven valid and we have provided services to many people in the few short months of our operation.

We have established our offices in the old Vernon Train Station. Our area consists of a main office, a consulting room and a playroom for children while their parents are in consultation.

The recruiting, interviewing and training of our volunteers took place under the guidance of coordinator Bob Bennett. They have been drawn from a cross segment of society and came to us with background interest and skills in this very complex field. We have initiated a unique method of volunteering that has been found to be most effective. They work in teams of two volunteers with one client. The advantage of this is that the workload is shared and should one person be absent the other team member can carry on. Hence cases can smoothly run their course. We presently have four victim support volunteers that average ninety volunteer hours per week in total.

We have been inundated with cases and feel we must address several concerns.

We see many of our clients as multiple abuse victims that have gone through years of emotional trauma. They require assistance in the prevention of further victimization and require professional help in reestablishing self worth and esteem.

We see a great need for client interim counselling, to see them through the emotional stresses of the legal system and the impending family break-up that will occur as a result of their disclosures.

We must also address the generational aspect of abuse that we are becoming aware of. Many clients require counselling to learn parenting skills to properly nurture their offspring and break the cycle of abuse.

We also recognize the existence of male victims of female offenders.

We are enthusiastic about our program and community acceptance has been encouraging. If you need us or know anyone who does please call.

— ADDRESS —

SUITE 7-3101-29th STREET  
*(the old train station)*  
VERNON, BRITISH COLUMBIA

— OFFICE HOURS —

MONDAY-FRIDAY: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

TELEPHONE

**542-3322**

— AFTER HOURS EMERGENCIES —

TELEPHONE

**542-1122**



# Stop the Trade Deal. Don't Vote Tory

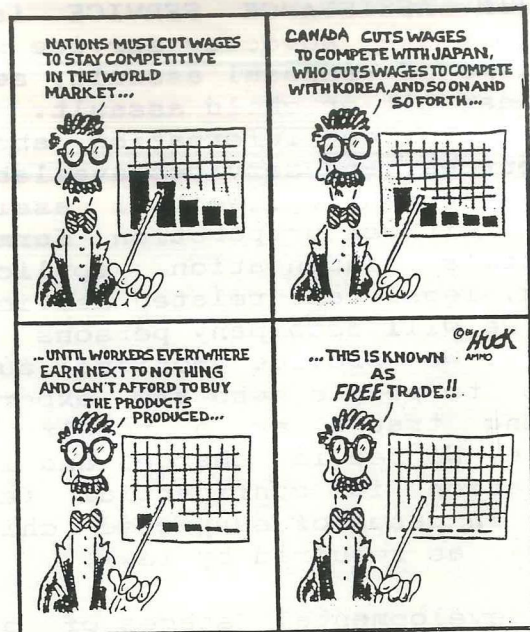
The most important issue women have to face in the polling booth this November is free trade.

Free trade is a little bit like peace as an issue. If we have a nuclear war, all of our battles for daycare, and equal pay will seem pretty useless. If the trade deal goes into effect, all of the things women have worked for the last two decades will be 100 times harder to get. These include decent wages, childcare, fair taxation, good jobs, affordable housing, decent pensions, affordable and good quality health care and social programs.

Here are some of the ways that the trade deal will make it harder for women to improve our situation.

**JOB:** The trade deal means that hundreds of thousands of jobs -- many of them held by women -- will end. These include jobs in food processing, small electrical products manufacturing, and services. Even the government estimates that 500,000 jobs would be lost because of the deal. According to the B.C. Federation of Labour, 60,000 of them will be in B.C. The worst area of job loss for B.C. is in agriculture. The B.C. Fed predicts, using industry figures, that jobs in vegetables, grapes, wine production, and soft fruit will disappear altogether and the dairy industry will decrease by up to 75%. They predict that 30,350 farm and food processing jobs will be lost in B.C.

Jobs will be lost because the deal removes tariffs and gives U.S. producers a competitive advantage; because the deal allows U.S. corporations to buy up



smaller Canadian ones. Statistics show that for every billion dollars in profits, U.S. corporations create a mere 17 jobs while Canadian companies create over 5000.

**NEGOTIATION PERIOD:** Women will also be hurt by the trade deal because it sets up a five to seven year period in which the two countries will negotiate the definition of "trade subsidy". We already know that the U.S. thinks that many Canadian programs like Unemployment Insurance and regional economic benefits are "unfair subsidies." We also know that the Tories do not especially like these programs either. Remember how they tried to cut back on UI and actually succeeded in reducing it for people who get severance pay and pensions? As the definition of "trade subsidy" is expanded, politicians will make decisions, not based on what Canadians and in particular Canadian women need, but on what will prevent our products from having a tariff slapped on them by the U.S.



LEVELLING THE PLAYING FIELD: (alias "harmonization") The trade deal will also hurt women because it will unleash market forces within Canada to undermine wages, working conditions, and social programs. The Tories call this "harmonization". Right now in Canada we have a more civilized safety net and labour laws than they do in the U.S.

In B.C., for example, the lowest welfare rate is \$430.00 per month. In Washington state, it is \$81.00 in food stamps. Period. In the U.S. you can get UI for only six months. Here it is a year or more. Here farm-workers and fisherpeople are covered, but not in the U.S. Here we have family allowance and child tax credit. Not in the U.S. Of course we have medicare. In the U.S. 30% of the people have no coverage whatsoever. Here we have about 40% of workers unionized. In the U.S. it is less than 20%. And 40% of the jobs created in the U.S. since 1976 have been at or below the minimum wage.

What about the minimum wage. Here it is \$4.50 per hour. In Texas it is \$1.40. In Kansas it

is \$1.60. In Alabama, Arizona, Iowa, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina and Tennessee, they do not have any minimum wage.

With this deal, Canadian firms, facing stiffer competition from U.S. firms will be demanding cuts in anything that increases their cost of doing business. Some Canadian employer organizations have already asked for cuts in wages, "harmonization" of Canadian labour and wage laws with U.S. laws and programs, and cuts in medicare and family allowance.

MARKET POWER WILL REPLACE PEOPLE POWER: The most important way that the trade deal will hurt women is this; It will strip elected government now and in the future of the ability to manage our economy in the interests of people who live here.

With this deal, our government won't be able to create jobs by selling our energy cheaply to encourage secondary industry. The deal says we have to sell energy to the U.S. at the same price that we sell it to ourselves.

"Right-to-Work" States	Minimum Wage 1987	**Unionization Rate - 1982
Alabama	none	18.2%
Arizona	none	12.8%
Arkansas	\$3.05-\$3.35*	13.2%
Florida	none	9.6%
Georgia	\$3.25	12.7%
Iowa	none	20.5%
Kansas	\$1.60	12.0%
Louisiana	none	13.8%
Mississippi	none	9.3%
Nebraska	\$1.60	16.3%

\* Range depending on industry \*\* Because of budget cuts, the U.S. Department of Labour has not compiled state unionization rates since 1982. In 1982, the national rate was 21.9% of non-

"Right-to-Work" States	Minimum Wage 1987	**Unionization Rate - 1982
Nevada	\$3.35	22.1%
North Carolina	\$3.35	8.9%
North Dakota	\$2.80-\$3.10	14.2%
South Carolina	none	5.8%
South Dakota	\$2.80	10.3%
Tennessee	none	17.3%
Texas	\$1.40	12.5%
Utah	\$2.50-\$2.75	16.8%
Virginia	\$2.65	10.9%
Wyoming	\$1.60	15.6%

agricultural workers. In 1986 the national level was 17.8%. (Source: The Facts on Free Trade, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Spring 1988)



With this deal our elected government will not be able to keep corporate profits in Canada to be reinvested here to create jobs. The deal says this is a no no.

With this deal our government will not be able to preserve food processing jobs in the Okanagan .

Our government will not be able to enact a national childcare program with national standards if the U.S. profitcare firms think it will eat into their potential profits.

They will have a hard time bringing in equal pay for work of equal value because U.S. products made with \$1.40 an hour labour will be our competition.

With this deal it will be difficult for our elected government to keep profitized U.S. service corporations out of our medicare and education system. The deal lists numerous profit making health services that will have the right to come to Canada and set up shop. These include management of hospitals, ambulance services, and public health clinics. It includes all aspects of other services like medical labs and blood bank labs. (See Tapestry Summer '88 - Health Services on the Table - for a complete list)

Just about everything women need to improve our lives requires intervening in the market system. We try to build pressure to get governments to legislate equal pay, or universal childcare, or affordable housing. The changes we need are not often provided by the market system, based on profit. Yet with this deal most of the rights that our elected government now has --

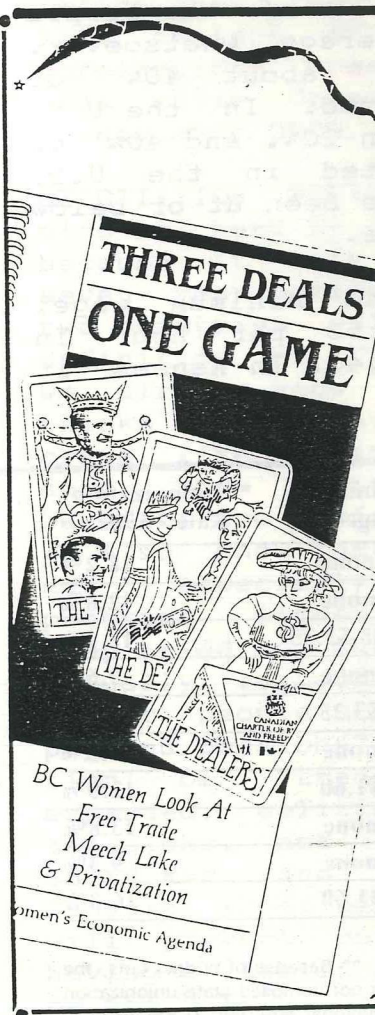
rights we are always trying to get them to use on our behalf -- will be handed over to U.S. corporations, accountable to shareholders. The market system, not the people, will decide whether or not jobs are created, whose jobs are lost, whether women get equal pay, which services people get and whether or not we can afford them.

That is why we have to stop the trade deal. That is why, when we go into that polling booth this fall, we cannot put an "X" for anyone who is in favour of the trade deal or for anyone who is a Tory.

By Jean Swanson

## Three Deals. One Game.

But who gets  
to play?



The latest publication by the Women's Economic Agenda, subtitled *BC Women Look At Free Trade, Meech Lake & Privatization*, examines the three big items on today's Canadian economic agenda, and draws some interesting conclusions.

*Three Deals, One Game* examines the implications of the three strategies, with special emphasis on how social services and women's job sectors will be affected. From the international—free trade—to the regional—privatization in BC—this book shows how the three "deals" can be used to pave the way for each other.

For example, clauses in the Meech Lake Accord will enable provinces to opt out of national social programs: free trade with the US may demand that government reduce its role in making economic and social policy; and both these national strategies fit into the BC government's program of dismantling social services and encouraging foreign investment and trade.

Where do women, their jobs, and their social needs fit in? And how can they make their questions and demands heard? This 88-page soft-cover book, complete with resource listings, provides women with a solid overview of the issues, and calls for greater public input and education.

In order to ensure wide distribution, we want to make *Three Deals, One Game* available at the lowest possible cost. At the same time, we are operating on a limited budget. Therefore, we suggest the following price scale.

- Individuals: Mailing costs of \$3 per copy.
- Non-profit organizations: Mailing costs plus \$2 donation: \$5
- Government offices: Mailing costs plus \$5 donation: \$8.

However, if you can not afford mailing costs, just indicate that on your order form, and we will send you a copy free of charge.

Send cheque or purchase order to: Women's Economic Agenda, c/o BC PIRG, TC 304, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6. Tel: (604) 291-4360 or 253-3395.



# Hope for the Mentally Handicapped

In the spring of this year, the Vernon & District Association for the Mentally Handicapped began a new Supported Work program. This program involves pairing a Support Trainer with a mentally handicapped worker to work one to one in a normal job situation. The training period may, and can last up to eighteen months if necessary. The Trainers teach the actual job task, and act as liaison between the employer and the worker. In addition, the job skills may include, punctuality, safety consciousness, appropriate dress and appearance and encourage development of good working relationships with non-handicapped employees, as well as handling personal problems that may arise. This will help to ensure a smooth transition into the work force for the worker.

Currently there are one female and three male successful applicants registered in the program. There are many mentally handicapped women who could benefit from the program, but as of yet, they do not appear to know about the advantages we could provide with on the job training. Possibly you know of someone, a daughter, sister, a cousin, or a friend of a friend that we could help. These women are sometimes over protected by loving parents or relatives. Too many times though, when the "protectors" support is withdrawn due to illness or death, these women are thrust into a foreign world of group homes and sheltered workshops. This can be a very frightening experience. We hope to enlighten them and the general public as to their potential and provide them with the opportunity for a more independent life style.

There are many subsidy programs available, some of which may support up to 50% of the workers wages for as long as twelve months. The Ministry of Social Services and Housing provides a "safety net" during the workers training period, up to \$100.00 for clothing etc. as the worker learns on the job.

For further information about this program and others that are in place around the country, contact your local Association for the Mentally Handicapped or the Ministry of Social Services and Housing in your area.

Pam J. Durham  
Support Trainer  
Vernon and District  
Association for the  
Mentally Handicapped

V  
D  
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H

*Vernon and District Association  
for the Mentally Handicapped*

P.O. BOX 1300, VERNON, B.C. V1T 6N6 • (604) 549-2744

PAM DURHAM (PJ)  
SUPPORTED WORK

## HOLIDAYER'S HOUSE CARE

CAROLYN BOWERING  
549-4207

BONDABLE

INSURED



## There are No Stars in Tokyo

As I write this we are facing another election in Canada -- a big one-- a critical one. One that I sincerely believe will show us how much, if any, progress the feminist movement has made.

Twenty years ago the feminists were brave with hope and energy; with fire and brimstone. Nothing was going to stop us. We were going to WIN THE WORLD FOR WOMEN. After all, our time had arrived. It was nearly within our grasp. We would make it if we pulled together.

Today it is quite a different world, the feminist one. Realism has extinguished the fires of righteousness. Take it easy, I am told, you might hurt someone's feelings. We won't get anywhere by stepping on toes. After all, we have to exist in the world of today.

Well I'm here to tell you I don't want to exist in the world of today. This dirty, polluted, stinking, dying world, filled with poverty and prejudice and paternalism sharp like a knife in our guts.

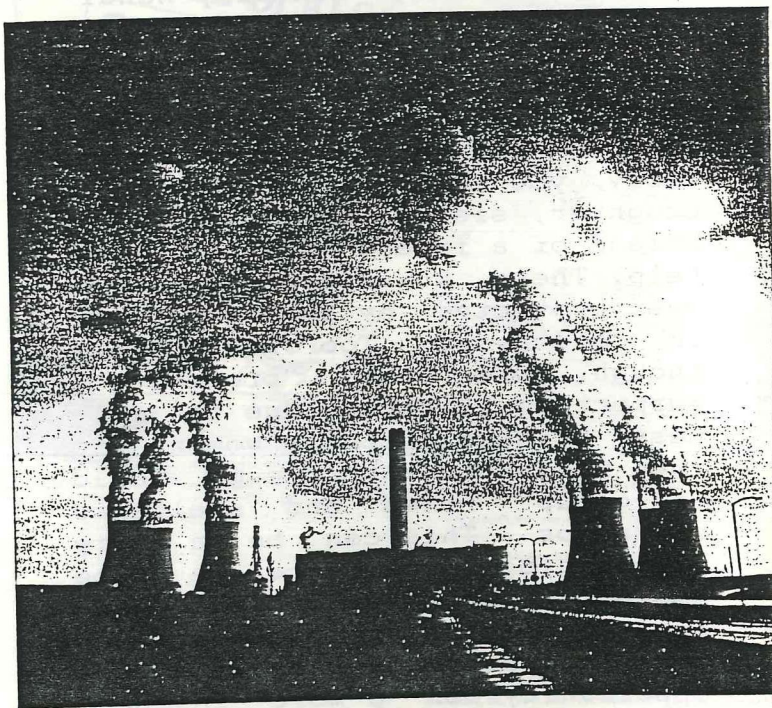
With a great roar they have ignited the religious fanatics, made feminists the villains because we dared to demand free choice in the functioning of our bodies. Portrayed us as monsters for even considering abortion as a right. Tightened the economic reins that plunged women even further into poverty.

Do I sound like an angry woman? Damned right I'm angry! Angry and desperate and grieving. What am I mad at? Apathy, perhaps and stone walls.

Just look around you, women of today. Look at the single parent, look at poverty, look closely at the environment and then look into the future.

What has happened to our world today? It still looks very beautiful. The sky is blue here in our valley. But last month I talked to a young Japanese exchange student who had never before been out of Tokyo. He stared at the sky at Sugar Lake. He stayed up all night to wonder at the Milky Way. He had never, in his 17 years, seen blue skies or even one single star. But we had to tell him to boil the water he drank. Pollution had finally reached us, there in the Monashee mountains.

It has been my understanding that it is not the responsibility of the feminist, individually or collectively, to join in the battle to save our world.





Our struggle has been for equality. But what is the price of equality without a world to practice it in? Where are we going to raise our children? Our grandchildren, my first great-grandchild whose birth I so proudly look forward to in February?

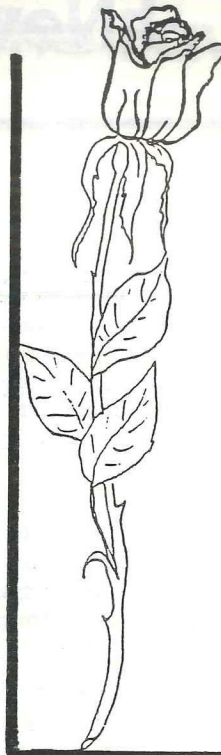
So the question arises: Are we looking at the right issues here? Feminists must join the environmentalists and become a strong voice for the world too!

Who has caused this mess that surrounds us, that threatens our very existence? There is only one answer -- loud and clear. Politicians, that's who. Politicians, the great majority of them male, who look the other way for whatever reasons they may have, while industries burn fossil fuels. Another ten years, they assure us, and they will forbid the pollution. They need time to change over, that's all. We have to give them time. Fifty thousand dollars worth of time, a million dollars worth of time?

And now, suddenly, there is no time left. In Tokyo, in Hong Kong, in London and in New York, there are no stars. At Sugar Lake we cannot drink the water. Our hospitals are filled with patients dying from lung diseases or cancers caused by ingredients added to our foods to prolong their shelf life.

How long will it take us as feminists, to get a lot -- a whole lot -- of women into the political arena? Strong women who will stand up and refuse to be bribed; enough women to outvote the politicians of the present. Ten thousand women to clean up the world, to bring back the stars, to lead the world to freedom. How long? Too long? Think about it.

Muriel Hurry



## DREAMWORK/LIFEWORK

a discovery workshop

with:  
Livina Hiacinth  
&  
Vicki Allen

DATE: November 18 (7:00 to 10 p.m.)  
19 & 20 (9 to noon and 1 to 4 p.m.)

LOCATION: Women's Center  
3000-30<sup>th</sup> Street.

*A journey toward wholeness using:*

- \*gestalt dream & communication processes
- \*emotional clearing
- \*belief re-structuring
- \*forgiveness

Livina Hiacinth and Vicki Allen will be conducting "a journey toward wholeness" using gestalt dream and communication processes.

Vicki says "Gestalt is experiential; a way to get in touch with feelings even from the long buried past, and learning how to clear and complete them. One of the main things that gestalt brought to my life was learning how to express my feeling clearly and honestly...learning what my rights are and what rights other people have too, with their feelings."

"I must say gestalt has facilitated a lot of light in my life as I've learned how to unload so much past pain and grief."

"Lavina and I will bring our bags of exercises/processes. We want each person to know that their own safety is honoured and that no one does anything they don't want to. And I like to finish by remembering what Bethel Faye used to say "Every group comes together for its own unique purpose." So in that light, I am looking forward to being in Vernon."



# I Never Knew

by Céline Williams

Every day, in a small shack in a suburb of Rio de Janeiro, a little girl plays mother to her brothers and sisters. It is no game of pretence, however, for eight-year-old Maria. Someone must stay at home so her older brothers can go to school and her mother can work to support the family. Poor little Maria, it means there can be no time for school now or ever. She will never be given the opportunity to learn to read and write. Maria is destined to be illiterate all her life, coping with life in a large city where thousands of signs will be totally incomprehensible to her.

I never knew there were an estimated five hundred million women in the world who will also never learn to read or write. That number exceeds the total of illiterate men.

It is clear that children also suffer. In a village in Ghana, a mother can be seen sitting in the sun bathing her baby. It should be a pleasant enough picture, except the mother is unaware that the water she is using to wash her baby comes from a pond polluted by garbage. It isn't her fault that her knowledge in health care practices is limited, but that won't prevent her child from dying. Millions of other children will also die each year from such deadly water.

Or consider another woman's story: with a family to support but no money, Farida came to Gazipur in Bangladesh. She was determined to survive. Farida has no special qualifications but she is skilled with her hands and would like to make and sell baskets. In order to do that, she must have at least 5,000 taka--about ten dollars--to start up a business. But no one will lend money to an uneducated woman without collateral.

Farida's story is similar to that of millions of other women who are struggling to find a way to start up a small business. Like most women, Farida has no possessions of her own. She will never have the credit she needs to finance a business.

I never knew that women own one per cent of the world's possessions. They certainly work hard enough to warrant more.

A woman named Aisatou has a double working day in Cameroon. First she must spend her days transplanting and harvesting rice. Then, she returns home to grow sorghum on her own small patch of ground. She has no choice in the matter of her long working days. If her family is to eat, she must have her garden. And like most women in Africa, she must also work in the fields. More than half of the agricultural work in Africa is done by women, as much as 80 per cent in some countries.

Now I know about these injustices to women and I am outraged.

I am also saddened by the waste of potential. I imagine what could be accomplished in the Third World if only such energy and determination, such love of family, such will-

ingness to learn and be productive could be harnessed and directed. After all, women represent half the population of the Third World — 1.8 billion. Development efforts can no longer afford to exclude so many women from training programs, credit facilities or other opportunities which could improve the quality of their lives.

Fortunately, I now know a new beginning is being offered to women of the Third World. Canada is in the forefront of a worldwide movement working to give women their rightful role and place in development programs.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the government department that administers foreign aid, has created a special development agenda to address the problems of women living in the Third World. Through its special Women in Development (WID) program, CIDA ensures that women are considered in the planning and execution of all projects funded by the Canadian government.

In addition, institutions, associations, churches, cooperatives, and governments around the world are all devoting time and effort to help stop women from being victims of life.





# The Courage of the Faveladas

by Céline Williams

In Brazil they live in Nova Brasilia or Catacumba on the outskirts of Rio. In Colombia they live in Bogota's Buena Vista. And in Peru they find homes in Villa El Salvador outside Lima. Whether they are known as "faveladas" or "invasiones", they represent a particular type of urban dweller - the ones authorities want to evict from the areas they "capture" and occupy illegally.

They live with their husbands or *compañeros* or alone with their children. They live in shelters made of corrugated iron, cardboard or plastic.

Usually, they come to the slums from the rural areas. Cecilia, for example, arrived in Nova Brasilia initially seeking medical care for her son. She walked for two days and then travelled three more days by train. Once in Nova Brasilia, she never left.

Juliana, a maid working in the upper-class district of Copacabana, was forced to seek refuge in Catacumba when she was dismissed by her employers after they discovered she was pregnant.

Isabel and her husband were driven from the countryside by poverty and eventually set themselves up on the hills above Bogota. One day when she was only 22, her husband took off and left her alone with their four children.

Tomasa, another resident of squatter settlements, comes from a fishing village on the Peruvian coast.

These women are all up and about each morning before dawn. Juliana must begin her long day as a laundress at five o'clock every morning. She steps cautiously out of the hut to avoid falling into the open sewer that runs in front of her door.

Tomasa, too, is up at this hour and has already skirted the huge mountains of sand that dot the outlying areas of Lima. She and her children must travel far to buy the vegetables they will then spend the day reselling in the city's streets.

At the same time, without even casting a glance at the beautiful scenery below, Isabel, in Bogota, hurries to take her place in the line forming in front of the water tap which serves 300 families.

These women live the lives of the uprooted and destitute - lives confined to the slums spreading like cancers around the cities of South America. Slum-dwellers have but one dream - escape. But Cecilia, Juliana, Isabel and Tomasa are trapped by the twin phenomena of

urban migration and the disintegration of the family unit. They know that their temporary homes have, in fact, become permanent residences which they will have to make liveable.

This is why Juliana belongs to one of the many mothers' clubs that are so active on the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro. As for Tomasa, she spends every Monday working in her district's family kitchen which frees her from the worry of preparing her family's meals the other six days of the week. There are 400 people's kitchens in Lima. Along with the other residents of Buena Vista, Isabel has helped set up a school. Cecilia has some education so she writes letter after letter to the municipal administration, making every effort to obtain urban services and title deeds for inhabitants of Nova Brasilia.

Day after day, in hundreds of thousands of slums around the world, millions of women live lives of optimism and courage. Yet, to most of the world, such acts of quiet heroism remain relatively unknown.





# A Heavy Load at Half the Price: Office Workers Speak Out on Their Working Conditions

If you stand on the corner of Burrard and Pender in Vancouver on a weekday morning, you can observe the office workers walking briskly to work; the majority of men to managerial jobs and the majority of women to support staff positions. These support staff jobs involve numerous skills, large workloads and low pay. Most women office workers are without union protection.

A group of clerical workers has formed a research group to investigate their conditions. They distributed a survey to 1000 office workers in Vancouver. Of the respondents, 83% are not in unions and 77% work for a private sector employer.

Most are women who work full-time. Most have five or more clerical skills and have learned these skills on the job. About half have performed supervisory duties and generally enjoyed them. A majority also report performing supervisory duties without the job title or pay.

More than one third of all working women are clerical workers. Women in the work force earn about sixty cents for every man's dollar. Yet their labour is essential to the functioning of banks, insurance companies, law firms, doctor's offices, schools, and many other organizations in our communities. Their skills require training, accuracy and energy.

Most people report annual wage increases. Generally these were tied in with performance reviews. Small but significant, are the 8% who receive no wage

increase and the 26% who receive increases "sometimes" at the discretion of the employer.

In union offices, wages are known. Each person has a copy of the union contract which has a wage grid. But in non-union offices, employers sometimes encourage that wages be kept a secret. This strategy is used to hide the lack of fairness in the wage system.

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A MAJORITY ALSO REPORT  
PERFORMING SUPERVISORY  
DUTIES WITHOUT THE JOB  
TITLE OR PAY.

\*\*\*\*\*

The major cause of stress is workload. There is too much of it with too few hands. The nature of the work requires an accuracy for details, adherence to deadlines, decisions regarding priorities of work and an ability to do two tasks (or more) at the same time. Then the phone rings.

The jury is still out as to whether computers make clerical jobs more efficient. But most people do find this tool makes the job more interesting and enjoyable. Interaction with co-workers hasn't changed significantly since the introduction of computers in the office. Most respondents average 2 to 4 hours a day on the computer but have not formed the habit of regular breaks. (According to health specialists, computer users should take 10 minute breaks every hour.)





Jeanette Nelson/Jewels Graphics

Office workers will cope more effectively with our work--and our life--if we become more aware of and gain control over these various issues. We need recognition for the skills we have, we need to control our workloads and to have input into the new technologies. With recognition and control, we can make economic gains. If our work is valued, our wages will reflect this.

Awareness of our conditions is an important first step. In B.C., Women's Skills, an educational group funded by the government, has provided a wealth of information on issues affecting clerical workers. Various women's groups and trade union groups have been educating and organizing women--but women are still on the outside looking in.

In order to achieve recognition, women could look to forming or joining organizations, specifically trade unions. Individually we have proven that we can cope with our conditions, but as a group we can change our conditions to our advantage.

These survey results provide office workers with evidence that the problems of our working conditions are not individual but the outgrowth of a system which will only continue to work against our interests unless we organize to defend ourselves. We have the strength and capabilities to cope with difficult conditions. We carry heavy workloads at half the price... and we deserve much more.

Jan Nicol



A formal dress code is not unknown in "women's work" and in 38% of offices a dress code is in place. Management has been known to post "do not wear the following" lists which women must abide by.

As Dolly Parton sang in the movie "9 to 5": "You would think that I deserve a fair promotion. Want to move ahead, but the boss don't seem to want it. It's enough to make you crazy if you let it!" The majority of women report that promotional opportunities are non-existent or limited. Less than 25% of management is female.







## The Dawn of a Horrifying Age

Because of the ever growing threat from nuclear insanity, I found myself living with a feeling of despair and powerlessness. As a woman, my voice was not only NOT heard, but not represented at all in the nuclear industry. Women are the majority of the voices who speak out for peace. But there are few, if any women who work on the inside in any decision making capacity. I found that scary and decided that I could regain a measure of control by learning all I could and trying to educate people about it. I recalled my optimism and began to work towards a new goal; to live for a safer, healthier life on earth.

I went to the library and took out all the books I could find on the nuclear age. Then I read, and the more I read the scarier the facts were that unfolded before me and the more serious my goal became. I will start here with a brief history of the making of the bomb.

The scientists of the first three decades of this century were probing and discovering the nature of the atom. With Einstein's famous equation,  $E=mc^2$  (energy equals mass multiplied by the square of the speed of light) the hope for a new source of energy for human use was born. In 1905, Einstein predicted "the energy release from a fragment of metal could be great enough to devastate a city, that the energy of an ounce of matter could turn a million tons of water to steam."

In 1919, the Nobel prize winner for chemistry said "A mere pound of uranium might liberate the same energy as burning 100 mil-

lion pounds of coal. Scientists are trying hard to find a way to release this energy at will."and with wisdom he added, "Personally I hope they do not succeed until man has learned how to live with his neighbours in peace."

In 1932, James Chadwick discovered the neutron. He then started to bombard the atom with this new particle and his results were amazing. It changed one chemical into another one and later when he experimented with uranium, the atom simply disappeared. Nobody could explain or find out what happened for several years.

Then in 1939, Austrian physicist, Lise Meitner provided the suggestion that the atom had split in two, a process she called fission. For this discovery, she was rewarded with the Nobel prize.

The fission reaction occurs every 50 billionths of a second, so a lot of energy is released very rapidly. The release of fresh neutrons opens up the prospect of a chain reaction. When people split the nucleus of the atom, they unleashed into terrestrial nature, the basic energy of the cosmos, the energy latent in mass, which had never been active in any major way on Earth.

Now radioactive poisoning of the atmosphere and annihilation of Earth's life is a very real possibility. In general, the energy of radioactive emissions greatly overmatches the strength of the chemical bonds that hold living things together and the vulnerability of genetic material is well known.



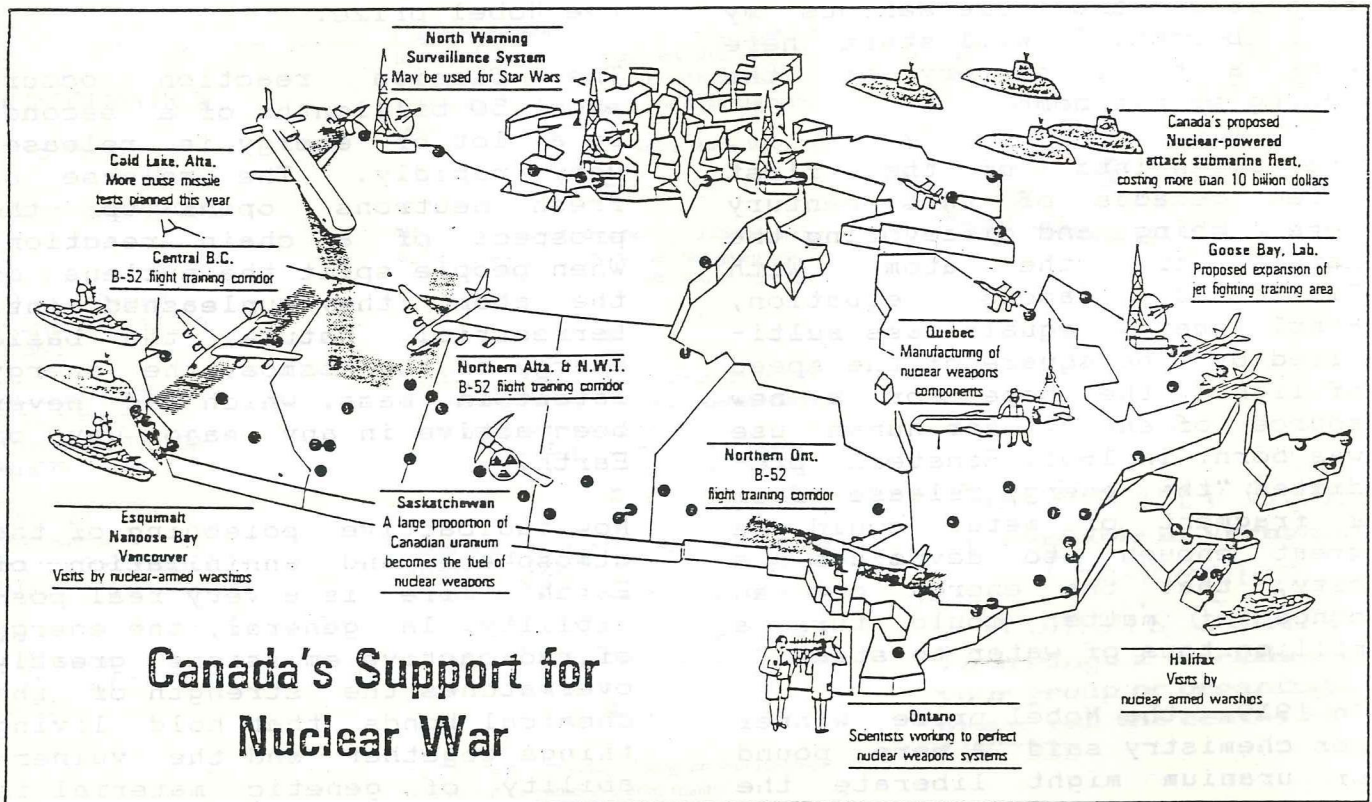
At the dawn of WW2, scientists realized they had the means to create a Big Bang. In 1941, U.S. President Roosevelt, afraid of the rise of Hitler, gave the go ahead for the formation of the Manhattan Project to build nuclear weapons. The French, the British, the Canadians and the U.S. scientists teamed up to make the first bomb. They reached their first goal in December 1942. A clumsy uranium reactor was built. It worked on the first try and it marked the Planet Earth's entry into the Atomic Age.

While burning uranium, nuclear reactors produce plutonium and scientists found that this substance was better than uranium for making bombs, but the price we must pay is that it is the deadliest substance ever created by humans.

In 1945, they were ready for the test of the bomb. Some scientists were having doubts about the morality of a nuclear fission bomb, but they were outnumbered and it was too late.

The test in Alamogordo, New Mexico was a shattering success and terrified some of the creators.

On August 6th 1945 the Manhattan Mob proved that they had increased the capacity of the human race to destroy itself. The first uranium bomb, called "Little Boy" was dropped on Hiroshima. Three days later a plutonium bomb named "Fat Man" was dropped on Nagasaki. 200,000 people died immediately, another 100,000 from the after effects and today there are still 2000 people dying each year. →



Every dot on this map represents a test facility, production plant or transport area for nuclear weapons systems.



This was the birth of the Nuclear Age. It took 40 years from the discovery of the atom to the first explosion of the nuclear bomb. WW 2 came abruptly to an end... but the development of nuclear weapons did not. Today the facts and new discoveries are more than alarming.

People are still at war, our earth ship is badly treated and our neighbours from the animal kingdom completely disregarded and forgotten.

Upon reflection, I began to wonder if the discovery of these

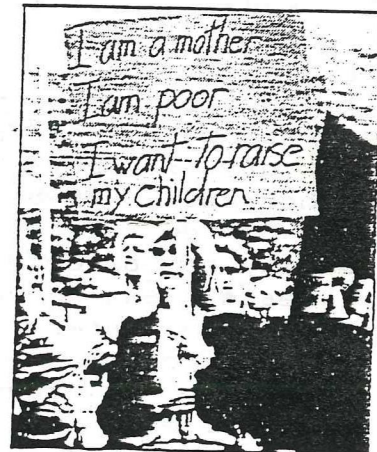
suicidal weapons was not a blessing after all. Maybe the purpose of this insanity is much deeper than the threat of annihilation of life on earth. It might be that all of us must get together to raise our level of consciousness, to voice our opinion about those horrifying decisions taken by a handful of people and reclaim our power as global citizens.

In any case, it has troubled me a lot and I can't keep sleeping without doing something about it. How about you?

## Facts on Poverty

- 1 There are almost four million Canadians living under the poverty line today. There are about one million children growing up in poverty.
- 2 Living under the poverty line means not having enough money for good nourishing food, decent housing, and the basic necessities of life, according to official government statistics. This is particularly serious for children, whose ability to learn may be impaired by poor nutrition.
- 3 About one half of impoverished households have at least one member in the workforce. Half of these, or one quarter of impoverished households, have at least one full-time worker. These people are the "working poor."
- 4 The 1988 poverty line is \$11,600 for a single person in a city like Toronto, or \$8,600 in a rural setting. For a couple with one child, it is \$20,400 (Toronto) and \$15,000 (rural).
- 5 A person working full-time and earning a minimum wage of \$4.50 an hour will earn \$9,400 a year. This is barely enough to support a single person, and totally inadequate for a family.
- 6 A single person, earning minimum wage, paid about \$731 in income tax in 1984. By 1991, their wage will increase to around \$10,000, but their taxes will be \$1093, according to current proposals.
- 7 Few new jobs are being created in the resource, manufacturing and construction industries, which are largely unionized and pay good salaries. Most new job creation is in the service sector. These jobs are often transient, non-unionized, and low-paying, with few benefits. They include, for example, store clerks, fast food takeout workers, travel agents, and some office workers. People who are "working poor" are often concentrated in these jobs.
- 8 Many people who are working poor, have low educational levels. Two-thirds have ten years or less of formal education. (grade school or high school dropout). Many employers now require high school graduation as a minimum for better-paying jobs.
- 9 Often people who are working poor move back and forth between low-paying jobs and social assistance. If they work, they lose many subsidized benefits, such as housing, dental and medical care. They can also be "penalized" for working, since the full value of wages is deducted from their benefits. In addition, they may have to pay income taxes and child care expenses out of their earnings.

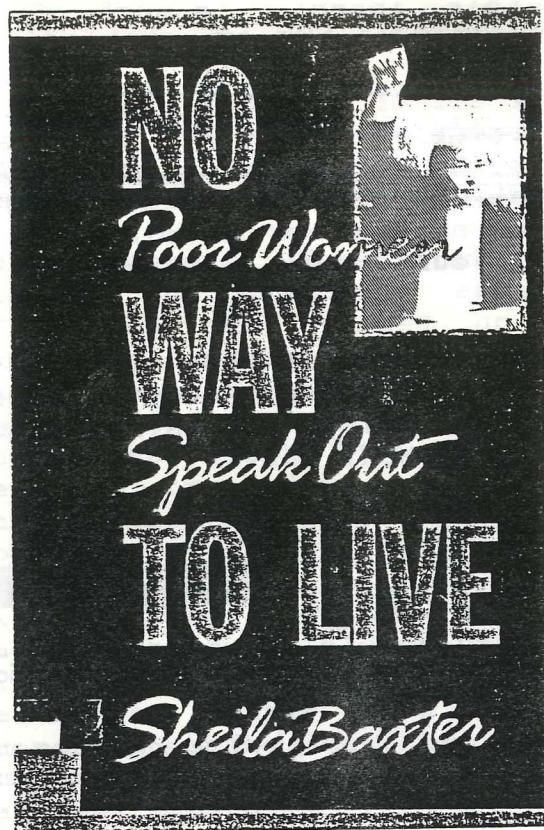
Canadian Council on Social Development  
55 Parkdale, Ottawa, Ontario, K1Y 4G1





# BOOKS

BOOKS



NO WAY TO LIVE: POOR WOMEN SPEAK OUT.

Baxter, Sheila

Vancouver; New Star Books, 1988.

In 1986, welfare advocate Sheila Baxter spent two months researching poor women in Vancouver. But unlike the many researchers who have spent millions of dollars compiling poverty data for academic studies, church groups, government agencies and various commissions; research that usually confirms societies tacit agreement to think about the preferred version of poverty; Baxter wanted her study to be different. She wanted it to describe the reality of poverty that is rarely heard and more rarely published. She interviewed and listened to more than 50 B.C. women who live in poverty, to get their stories.

NO WAY TO LIVE is Baxter's vigilant effort to preserve the cumulative history of poor women in B.C., as told from their perspective. It is not an easy book to read because it so thoroughly explodes much of the deeply rooted social and cultural mythology surrounding our chosen version of poverty.

Here there are no stories of chauffeur driven limousines waiting at the curb of welfare offices while fraudulent claimants pick up cheques. There are no lazy, alcohol reeking rounders living it up on welfare. There are no irresponsible teen-aged mothers pregnant again in hopes of increased welfare payments.

Instead, there are only desperate, tired, hungry women, struggling to support themselves and their children and to improve their quality of life.

What makes NO WAY TO LIVE so unrelenting is that some of the interviewees are extremely articulate, university and college educated women. Others are former middle class housewives. Many are ordinary, dependable mothers. But all are either underemployed, unemployed, sick disabled or old. These women's stories tell how they have lost control over their lives.

Some describe with shocking repetition, the humiliation and anguish at never having money for essentials like clothes, shoes, busfare, food and dental care. Others describe in agonizing detail, their experiences waiting for welfare cheques, waiting in food bank line-ups, waiting in social services offices. Others speak very little since no-one has ever wanted to listen to them. Some have lost hope, all are angry, particularly with a society which



still chooses to believe the poor are simply not trying hard enough, that they deserve to be poor.

NO WAY TO LIVE is an important book, not just because it lays the blame for poverty where it belongs, on an irresponsible, brutal and uninformed provincial government; but because in Baxter's sensitive treatment of her subject, she has shown how poverty studies ought to be done. Amidst her impeccable research, Baxter's interviewees emerge as true superwomen. Treated with dignity and respect, she shows them as they are; strong women whose great capacity for misery and suffering enables them to get by in a society which offers them nothing.

reviewed by Teresa Murphy



National Office  
Film Board national du film  
of Canada du Canada

#### NOW AVAILABLE

WOMEN BREAKING THROUGH, a guide to National Film Board audio-visual resources for women's studies across the secondary school curriculum, was prepared in response to the 1986 NFB Educators' Forum on Women's Studies in Secondary School.

Educators who participated in this event stressed their need for strong audio visual resources that depict women in positive roles. They also emphasized that if attitudes towards women and equality are to change, young men must also be engaged in discussion about roles, rights and values in an evolving society.

The resources in this collection encompass a wide range of topics: women's historical struggles and victories; political feminism today; the arts; human rights; peace; the environment; science; comparative social studies; contemporary issues; health and sexuality; careers; self-image; and changing family patterns.

Copies of WOMEN BREAKING THROUGH can be obtained by contacting JoAnn Harrison, Education Coordinator, The National Film Board, D-5, P.O. Box 6100 Montreal, P.Q. H3C 3H5



The  
Women's  
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### Lesbian writers!

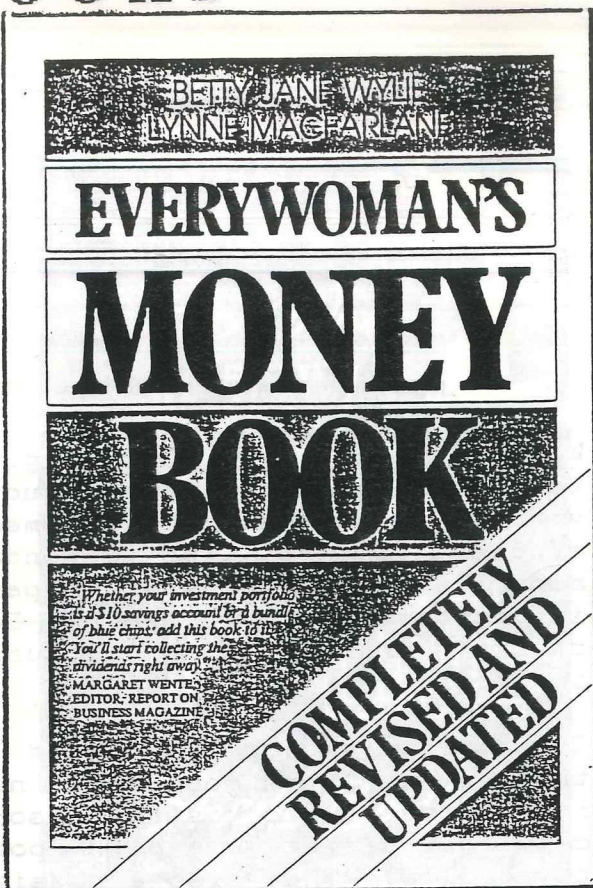
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**BOOKS**



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Lynne Macfarlane

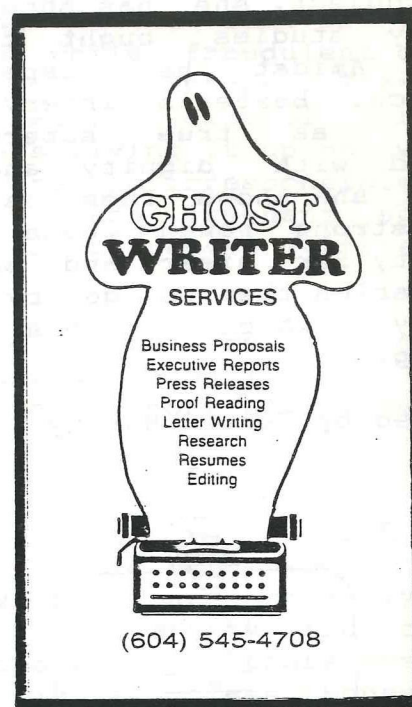
Toronto: Key Porter Books  
1987


If you think that Prince Charming will someday ride into Vernon and take care of you for the rest of your life, think again. The National Council on Poverty and Statistics Canada provide ample evidence that even if this myth occasionally happens, it rarely lasts. Poverty in Canada is overwhelmingly associated with women: single mothers, widows, divorcees. And according to Betty Jane Wylie and Lynne Macfarlane, since we have so little, we better know how to manage it.

EVERYWOMAN'S MONEY BOOK is for woman who know a little about money (if you pay bills and write or cash cheques you qualify) and are eager to know more. This practical, simply written

book describes how to make money work for you, instead of working so hard for money only to see it immediately disappear. Most important the authors show step by step, how even if your portfolio is a \$10.00 savings account, it is possible to take control of your finances and begin to learn about money management.

reviewed by Teresa Murphy





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Bonnie Burstow and Don Weitz, editors

Time and Tide Wait for No Man

by Dale Spender

the story of a feminist political weekly in the 1920's

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There's Always Been a Women's Movement in this Century

by Dale Spender

Conversations with five indomitable women.

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Intruders on the Rights of Men

Women's unpublished heritage by Lynne Spender. She reveals the fortunes of past and present women writers, uncovering the part that publishers yesterday and today have played in selecting what shall and shall not be published.

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The Courage to Heal

A guide for women survivors of child sexual abuse.

by Ellen Bass and Laura Davis

Too Few to Count

Canadian Women in Conflict with the Law. Intended to provoke debate and discussion about the treatment of women by the courts and prisons, this book provides a starting point for the development of feminist analysis on these issues.

Womansleuth Anthology

contemporary mystery stories by women.

Starshine- is a ten year old girl with an unusual hobby, collecting spiders. Learn how she uses her hobby to finance a trip to summer camp.

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A romantic, sensuously detailed story of lesbian love. Styled after those mainstream romance books - you know the ones.

We know have a travel section in our library.

Places of Interest to Women

in Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada, Caribbean, Mexico - covers accommodation, restaurants, tours, women's groups and services, bookstores and bars. In addition to the usual guidebook symbols it denotes women welcome, men welcome and gay friendly places.

Gaia's Guide International 1988

the guidebook for gay women. Canada, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, USA.

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A book  
given thoughtfully by Lillian

ageless descriptions  
of who we are  
the goddesses within us

models of  
autonomy  
sexual  
intellectual  
political  
spiritual  
bonds holding women  
and some men  
together

who is Lillian  
what is left

the virgin goddess,  
the pure essence  
untarnished, uncontaminated  
unrevealing  
kept sacred, inviolate

belonging to no man  
following inner values

not Artemis, goddess of the hunt  
living without men, or women  
alone

nor Athena, goddess of wisdom  
competing with men  
joining  
in the race for power

more like Hestia,  
goddess of the hearth,

withdrawing inward  
living quietly  
finding meanings in daily  
tasks

and like Hera, Demeter, and  
Persephone,  
the vulnerable goddesses,

personifying the traditional  
essence of women  
wife, mother, daughter  
attentive  
receptive to others  
drawn toward relationships  
love  
life  
home  
hearth  
warmth

and sometimes victimized

I know the wife  
I see the mother  
the daughter long ago  
but not forgotten

and Aphrodite, goddess of love  
and beauty  
souls connecting  
friendships deep  
understanding  
regenerating  
love

from helen






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