



Ottawa Childcare Forum

Gord Wilson, OFL president; Julie Griffin, OFL executive vice-president; Sue Colley, OCBDC co-ordinator.

Campaign Child Care

Child Care is in a state of crisis. A statement we heard over and over again on the OFL 13-city tour of Ontario.

Be it space, cost, accessibility, working conditions or wages of caregivers, we heard of the continued problems faced by parents, children and child care workers.

Despite promises made by the Liberal Government, it is clear that their childcare policy is Tory policy in Liberal clothing.

We must keep the pressure on this government to put action behind the promises. We're asking you to help win the kind of child care system that will meet the needs of families in this province. In the upcoming provincial election, ensure that questions are asked of all the candidates. Will they

promote a responsible and strategic approach to child care which would be affordable, accessible, quality and non-profit?

Countdown for Child Care

The Federal Special Committee on Child Care tabled its report at the end of March. The Committee's recommendations will do nothing to create a system of quality, accessible, affordable non profit child care system.

We need urgent action on childcare. NAC, CDCAA and the CLC have launched a petition campaign. Copies of the petition can be obtained from the OFL, CLC or the OCBDC.

Pay Equity

Bill 154 has completed the Justice Committee stage and has been introduced into the house for a third reading.

The Liberal and Tory Committee members joined together to defeat the substantial amendments that the NDP had brought forward. By defeating these amendments, the Liberals and Tories ignored the recommendations of women's groups and labour groups across Ontario.

There were, however, some minor amendments passed:

For the public sector the Bill may mean half a loaf. For the private sector, it will not be more than a slice. But as we have in the past, we will go to the bargaining table to negotiate improvements and back to lobbying to improve the legislation. This is an election year. Before you vote, make sure your candidate's party supported equality.

FREE TRADE

At the Forums on Free Trade sponsored by the OFL, I have become increasingly aware of how a bi-lateral free trade agreement with the United States will affect women.

Even free trade supporters agree that we stand to lose a significant number of jobs in the manufacturing sector in Ontario — perhaps as many as 500,000.

Many women will be among those who lose jobs and the loss of those jobs means a significant loss in the tax base.

Governments at municipal, provincial and federal levels will find it increasingly difficult to continue even the limited social service programs we now have. This includes subsidized post-secondary education, subsidized child care spaces, welfare and other forms of social assistance, medicare, services to the elderly and so on. No matter how inadequate those services or safety nets are now, with a bi-lateral

free trade agreement we could face major cutbacks or elimination entirely.

The loss of those services would also mean another loss of jobs, and women get it again! Women are dependent on these social services both as users and providers. In other words, women get hit three times — loss of jobs in manufacturing, loss of social service programs and more loss of jobs in the social service sector. This is before we look at the programs that fall under the scope of non-tariff barriers, such as unemployment insurance, paid maternity leave, OHIP and so on.

We need to make our voices heard and be very clear. We do not want the U.S. model whether it is deregulation, privatization or free trade. In Canada, we've created a much more caring and civilized society and want it to stay that way.

— Julie Griffin

Update Visa Workers

VISA workers have won a second contract. After only six days of negotiations, the Union of Bank Employees, Local 2104, signed a one-year agreement with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. (CIBC). The quick settlement was a sharp contrast with the long, six-month struggle in 1985-86 for a first contract. If you

would like details of the settlement, contact:

Union of Bank Employees, Local 2104
15 Gervais Drive
Don Mills, Ontario
M3C 1Y8

Telephone: (416) 441-3710

Steelworkers announce Sexual Harassment Policy

The Steelworkers in Ontario have announced a proposed sexual harassment policy they say is the most advanced in Canada.

The proposed policy, which will be brought to the union's National Policy Conference in May, was announced by Steelworkers Ontario Director, Leo Gerard at the hearings into the Bonita Clark sexual harassment case.

Clark has filed a complaint with the Ontario Labour Relations Board alleging she was sexually harassed while working at Stelco in Hamilton. The case is noteworthy because it is attempting to prove that sexual harassment constitutes a health and safety hazard.

Gerard also announced that the union is setting up a fund to help defray Clark's legal expenses, and all OFL affiliates will be asked to con-

tribute if they can.

The new policy is to deal with the question of worker/worker harassment as well as supervisor/worker harassment. Each union member's rights would be protected under the new policy, said Gerard.

It sets out a definition of sexual harassment and calls for the appointment of a sexual harassment complaints counsellor from outside the local union involved. The counsellor would try to deal with allegations without the intervention of the employer, the government or the courts.

As well, under the collective bargaining process, a neutral Sexual Harassment Investigator would be provided to investigate complaints if the sexual harassment continues despite attempts at mediation.

Women in Trades

We are Women in Trades Association, Toronto. We're a support and advocacy group for women working in non-traditional blue collar jobs.

Our goal is to ensure that women are not restricted to limited occupational fields, but that they have access to all types of jobs. We are working for improved training and apprenticeship opportunities for women, the establishment of effective employment equity programs and safer and more humane working conditions for women on the job sites.

We want to exchange information with agencies interested in women in non-traditional blue collar jobs. In particular, we want to link with women working in these jobs.

Write c/o Times Change,
22 Davisville Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M4S 1E8
or Telephone:
(416) 653-2213

Update Bonnie Robichaud

May 6, 1987 was set by the Supreme Court of Canada for hearing the appeal by Bonnie against the Department of National Defence. The question of "Employer Liability" for acts of discrimination and sexual harassment, is the issue to be argued in court.

This ruling will affect cases of harassment on all grounds of discrimination under the Canadian Human Rights Act.

Set Back at Eaton's

Workers in five Eaton's stores voted to decertify the Retail Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU). Union supporters said, "this is only round one. Nothing is lost yet."

RWDSU continues to represent Eaton's workers in two locations. The union also represents workers at five Simpson's Ltd. and four Hudson's Bay Co. stores in southern Ontario.

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