

# ASWAC

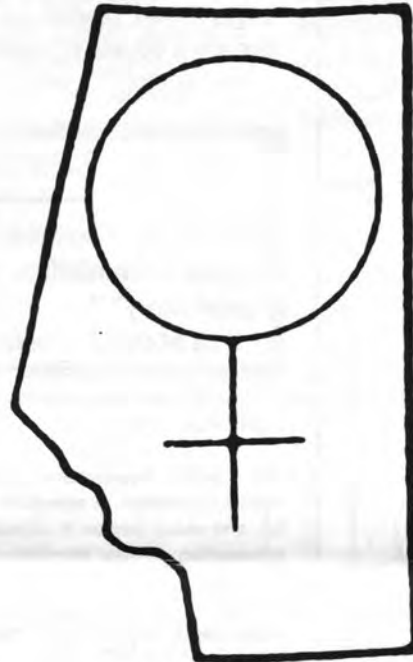
Alberta Status of Women Action Committee

February/March 1993

Volume III, Number 4

## **Making Connections '93: A Time For Change**

**Saturday, May 15, 1993  
Edmonton, Alberta**



**Featuring  
Judy Rebick**

**National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC)**

**ASWAC Annual General Meeting**

**NAC Regional Meeting**

# ASWAC

Alberta Status of Women Action Committee

## 1992-1993 Board Members

### **Barrhead**

Claire Robillard

421-0306

### **Edmonton**

Lorraine Gregoire

Tammy Horne

Jenny Kain

Moyra Lang

Christine Leonard

Cathy Meade

Sharon Reiner

Deb Stewart-Furmanski

### **Calgary**

233-0731

Anne Mcauley

Nancy Miller

### **Fort McMurray**

Nicole Balmer

## Regional Representatives

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Paula Ferneyhough

### **Fort McMurray**

Francine Wilson

### **Two Hills**

Nancy Mereska

### **Westerose**

Gerry Bailey

### **Innisfail**

Lori Crocker

### **Grimshaw**

Jocelyn Bathgate

### **Medicine Hat**

Anne Dickason

### **ASWAC Edmonton:**

Box 1573, Edmonton, AB T5J 2N7

Located at: Women's Building, #10, 9930 — 106 Street

Fax : 425-3293 Phone: 421-0306

### **ASWAC Calgary:**

#303, 223 — 12 Ave. S.W.

Calgary, AB T2R 0G9

Fax : 269-2012 Phone: 233-0731

*The Alberta Status of Women Action Committee gratefully acknowledges financial support from the Secretary of State Women's Program and the Alberta Wild Rose Foundation*

## ASWAC EVENTS

### **From the ASWAC Newsroom**

Please send your newsletter submissions to our address as noted on the bottom of our Board list. Our next deadline for submissions is April 12th, 1993, publication date is April 28th.

We have been unable to print many of your submissions because of length, we apologize and ask for your patience. Keep this in mind when submitting a long piece. We need input from areas outside Calgary and Edmonton.

### **Here's the answer** (what was the question?)

We have the answer to your overflowing t-shirt drawer dilemma. We're planning a recycled t-shirt sale and are asking women to donate any shirts which display inspiring slogans, pretty pictures and dynamic colours. Here's your chance to free those old t-shirts, reminisce about the past and help finance ASWAC projects. T-shirts can be dropped at an ASWAC office in Calgary or Edmonton. Then, look forward to buying a great "new to you" t-shirt from ASWAC. If you're a member of an organization who has their own t-shirts to sell, please approach your group and ask if they'd donate a couple of current shirts for the sale. It would be a great promo! For more information call any office.

## SEXUALLY HARASSED?

Did you ever complain to your union, personnel dept., Human Rights Commission, WCB or the police? Were the results satisfactory? We want your story for our research. Confidential.  
**Call Monica at Edmonton Working Women - 429-3370.**

### EDITORIAL POLICY

The ASWAC Newsletter is published by The Alberta Status of Women Action Committee, a non-profit organization. The newsletter is produced by, for, and about women in Alberta. The newsletter was created to share information with our members and women's organizations, as well as interested women.

The views expressed and the events publicized are not necessarily supported by ASWAC. We neither endorse nor recommend; we seek to inform.

ASWAC News is produced on a collective, consensus, volunteer basis by the newsletter collective and ASWAC staff. We welcome submissions-written or photo/graphic. All submissions may not be included; we reserve the right to edit to ensure that the content is not in opposition to our mission statement. We encourage women to tell us when we do not meet our own standards.

### ADVERTISING POLICY

The ASWAC newsletter seeks advertising that is women positive to help defer publication costs. ASWAC does not necessarily endorse products or services offered. We reserve the right to refuse ads. Rates and sizes can be requested through the Edmonton office, please call for more information.

### MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Alberta Status of Women Action Committee is to advance the status of women in Alberta by providing a forum for women's voices, raising awareness and sharing resources to effect change.

# OUR FEATURE

International Women's Day , March 8th, was chosen in remembrance of the 1857 strike when women textile workers in New York stopped work and marched in the streets to protest twelve hour work days, incredibly low salaries and child labour. At the time of the protest police reacted swiftly by brutalizing the women and trampling them with horses.

Over the years since 1857 many, demonstrations have taken place.

1900-1908: Montreal. During this period women textile workers led more than 40 strikes. In certain instances women were forced back to work under fear of retaliation by the army if they did not comply.

1908: Conditions had scarcely improved since 1857. Fifty-one years later, women textile workers still only earned \$6 for fifty-six hours of work per week. Seventy percent of the women leading the demonstration were between sixteen and twenty five years old.

1910: Copenhagen, Denmark. During the Second International Socialist Conference, Clara Zetkin (leader of the German Socialist Party), had the following motion adopted: "that March 8th be proclaimed International Women's Day." March 8th was celebrated for the first time in 1911 in remembrance of those brave women who led the 1857 strike in New York.

1934: Montreal. Women workers in the needle trade

successfully closed down one hundred and twenty five boutiques. Twelve strikers were arrested.

1935-1952: Quebec. Strikes by textile and garment industry workers occurred throughout most of Quebec. Many of these lasted for a long time and were marked by violence.

1974: Since this time, strikes have not only occurred in the textile industry but demands by women union members have spread to include such industries as pulp and paper mills, nursing, information, etc.

Since March 8th, 1979, regional celebrations and demonstrations organized by women and other organizations as well as unions have taken place in our province. Many of the activities have extended beyond the day itself and last throughout the week of March 8th.

With our current political situation in Alberta all women need to involve themselves as well as their family and friends to ensure our voices are heard by the Klein government.

Everyone is invited to attend this year's activities and we ask that you write and/or call your M.L.A. to make sure he/she is representing your concerns.

Let's not forget our sisters and their struggles, deaths and courage! We celebrate our history by learning from our history!

Source: Conseil du Statut de la Femme. November 1981.

*Check the Calendar for information on IWD events in your area!*



— café LA GARE inc. —

Tel: 433-5138

8104-103 St.

Just a few steps south of Bee Bell Bakery

SMOKE FREE • SMOKE FREE • SMOKE FREE

# Alberta Feminist Calendar

We welcome your events of interest to women. Please note our newsletter deadline and address on page one. Please keep them brief and accurate.

## CALGARY

Strength in Solidarity: Theme 1993 IWD festivities. The International Women's day collective has planned two events: 1) Rally/March to be held at the Calgary City Hall atrium from 1:00 - 2:30. Speakers will share their thoughts. 2:45 - 6:00 - program and reception at the Glenbow Museum. 2) Celebration/Dance - at the Calgary Multicultural Centre 8 pm

The Alberta Women's Health Information Network Society is sponsoring a series of workshops for women that deal with Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Relationships, self-image, power relations and coping. These will be held Feb. 11, March 1, 11, & 18; on March 29 there will be a workshop for women and men on accepting our bodies and ourselves. Fee is \$17 per person. Call Ingrid Deringer at 255-3942 to register or write to Box 527, 244 - 6100 Macleod Trail S.W., T2H 0K5.

March 21 is the International Day For The Elimination Of Racial Discrimination. This year the Race Relations and Cross Cultural Understanding Committee, coordinated by the Calgary Immigrant Women's Association is planning activities to commemorate this significant date. For information or exchange of ideas call Vilma Dawson at 263-4414, at C.I.W.A.

Women Plus offers four on-going open drop-in groups in Calgary for women who have left abusive relationships. These support groups are free. Childcare provided. For information call 228-0293.

New Friends and Neighborhood Groups Program. Groups of Immigrant women meet to share experiences, practice english, learn sewing/crafts and much more. For information call Shokoofeh at Calgary Immigrant Women's Centre, 263-4414.

Effects of Racism On Body Image And Self-Esteem Of Women Of Colour, February 27, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Alberta Vocational College, 332-6 Ave S.E. Call 262-1873 for further information.

Itah Sadu, Storyteller - Comedienne performing Friday March 5th at Garry Theatre 1229-9 Ave. S.E. 7:30 p.m. International Women's Day celebrations. Everyone welcome, admission is free. Presented by the Women of Colour Collective and the Calgary Status of Women Action Committee, contributor: Deva Resources. Child care cost reimbursements available, limited wheelchair access, and ASL. Please phone 262-1873 by March 1, 1993.

May 3 to 7, 1993, has been proclaimed Elizabeth Fry Week Theme: "Violence Against Women in Prison." The goal is to heighten awareness of the fact that the vast majority of women in prison have been victims of domestic violence. A three-day agency fair will be held at City Hall to promote community groups dealing with the issue of violence against women. May 3, 4, and 5 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For participation of your organization call Candida Tocci at 294-0730.

Alderwoman Bev Longstaff will be keynote speaker at our Annual General Meeting on May 6th. This will be a luncheon event at the Palliser Hotel. For information call Michelle Clarke at 294-0737.

Reproductive Rights and Freedoms: One day for women. Workshops, keynote and discussions such as new reproductive technologies, sexuality and midwifery. Still accepting workshop proposals. It will take place March 27, location is to be announced. Call 262-1873 for information.

Women in Trades and Technology wanted... to share work experiences, issues and aspirations toward the development of strategies for change. Call Denise Leighton YWCA Women's Employment Counselling Services, 531-9620 or 289-6770.

One World Film Festival. Includes: over 60 films, provocative guest speakers, workshops, special events March 12-14, 1993. University of Calgary, Science Theatres. For information call Andy 270-3200.

The Politics of Women's Health; Gathering for women examining effects of ableism, ageism, classism, heterosexism racism and sexism on our health and well being. February 27 & 28, Alberta Vocational College, 332-6 Ave S.E. Registration \$0-\$50 sliding scale. Call 262-1873.

We are Family: Lesbian Rights. Featuring Gwen Brodsky, Neva Ramsey and the Lesbian Mothers Support Society. March 20 at 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., at the W.R. Castell Central Library (616 Macleod Trail S.E.) meeting room. Admission is free. Co-sponsored by the Lesbian Mothers Support Society.

The Calgary Board of Health presents Interaction '93, a conference created by and for women, March 26 - 27. Seminars to help open the door to a better future. For info or to volunteer call 229-3327 local 421.

Parent Project: Sex education begins at home - March 30, / one evening workshop 7-9 p.m. For information call Bruce at 283-5580.

From Woman to Woman - You and your health- Workshop exploring women's health issues. To register contact U of C at 220-7240.

# Alberta Feminist Calendar

## CROWSNEST PASS

The Crowsnest Pass Women's Resource Centre: Open House 10 to 4, March 6th to celebrate International Women's Day. Arts and crafts display and sale featuring the works of Aboriginal women from local reserves. Films pertaining to Aboriginal women's issues will be shown throughout the day. Food and refreshments available. Resource Centre: 12849-20 Ave, Blairmore. For information call 562-8000.

## EDMONTON

The Women's Support Network, (formerly the Personal Dev't. Centre), Women who love - for women who find themselves in less than healthy relationships who wish to learn alternate interaction. March 20 & 21, 9:30-4:30 pm - \$60.  
Communicating effectively with men - March 12 & 13, Fri. 7-10, Sat. 9:30 - 4:30 - \$50.  
Women's Anger- March 6 & 7 OR Apr 24 & 25 9:30 - 4:30 pm - \$60.  
For information/registration call 444-4926.

This year's YWCA "TRIBUTE TO WOMEN" Awards Dinner recognizing the outstanding contributions and achievements of women in Edmonton, will be held on May 12th at the Westin Hotel. Call the YWCA at 423-9922. The YWCA also runs a support group for battered women. The program consists of crisis intervention, referral, and counselling services. Please call 423-9922.

A Centre for Women - self help groups:

Separated & divorced women: 7 pm on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month.

Discovery group: 7 pm on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month. A self help group for survivors of sexual abuse. For more information call Audrey at 489-8842.

Women's voice: 7 pm on the 1st and 3rd Friday of every month. "Advocacy is our aim. Media-Watch is our game."

Drop-in for women who have been abused. Thursday evenings 6:30 - 8:30 pm. Workshops and speakers are scheduled. The drop-in is run by abused women, WIN House, and Community & Family Services. Childcare provided. Health Talks for March: 4th - Speaking with our inner self: Language of the Heart. 11th - Living on a shrinking budget. 17th - Violence hurts everyone. 24th - From stress to empowerment. 25th - She is changing: How Menopause Affects the Family.

Special event: Health Fair for Women Practical ways to manage stress, Saturday, Feb. 27, 10:00 a.m. - 3 pm. Advance registration is not required. For information contact the Centre 423-9922, Ext. 7327.

March is nutrition month! This year's theme is Meeting women's nutrition needs. The focus areas are body image and weight management, nutrient needs and major diseases. For assistance with speakers, posters, or booth displays contact the Alberta Registered Dietitians Association at 489-7759.

Press Gang Publishers is calling for unpublished writing and artwork for a Canadian/New Zealand lesbian anthology. Creative submissions depicting aspects of lesbian experiences of colonialism, including colonization of indigenous cultures and of women's bodies, are sought. Aboriginal women and women of colour are particularly encouraged to submit work. Press Gang Publishers, 603 Powell St., Vancouver, B.C. V6A 1H2. Deadline: March 31. Do not send original artwork. Call or write for more info: (604) 253-2537.

International Women's Day Open House - March 8, 1993, 12 noon to 7 pm at the Edmonton Women's Collective Building, Lower Floor, 9930 - 106 Street. Bring a donation for WIN House: bedding or cribs and single beds; crafts and sewing supplies; underwear, socks, and all toiletries for babies, women and children.

International Women's Day March and Rally, Sunday March 7th at 1:30 p.m. Meet at the south side of Canada Place for the march, we will return to Canada Place. 3:00 p.m.: Keynote speaker on current issues. display tables 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. Workshops are 1) Institutions: Evolution/ Revolution and 2) Crossing the Line: Gender & Refugee Status in Canada. Feature film "TALK 16" at NFB Canada Place. For details or to book a display table call Deborah 420-6866 or Dorothy 451-0933. Childcare will be provided if pre-registered by March 3rd call 432-9417 (leave message).

"Crone-ology" - Womospace would like to use their newsletter to record the history of lesbians who lived in Edmonton during the '50s & '60s. So, if you're out there, please contact the office by writing to us at 9930-106 Street, basement, T5K 1E2.

JENNIFER BEREZAN in concert, Sunday March 7, 7 p.m. at the Centennial Library Theatre. Tickets are \$15, \$7 low income. Advance tickets are available from The Bagel Tree & Boystown. Call Nancy Poole at 483-4743.

Plans are already underway for this June's PRIDE WEEK 1993. If you would like to be a part of it, call Dave at 454-6914 & help make another Lesbian/Gay Week to remember.

The Women's Program, Faculty of Extension, U of A. Second annual Open House entitled "Trying Words," Friday, March 5th, 8:00 p.m. at 11019-90 Ave. The evening will feature readings from students in the Women's Program

# Alberta Feminist Calendar

writing courses. Everyone welcome.

On Thursday, March 11th, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., in Education North 2-115, we will be showing the feature length documentary "TALK 16." This film looks at five radically different 16 year old Canadian girls and questions them about premarital sex, school, parents, feminism, drugs, alcohol and the future. This screening is co-sponsored with the National Film Board. Free admission. (See also Canada Place March 7)

Several courses still have openings. Call 492-3093/3116/3109, for more information or to register.

Menopause Support Group meets every third Wednesday, January through May, at Women's Centre Royal Alexandra Hospital. For information call Gladys Roth 477-4829 or Jo-Ann Symonds at 939-3699.

The Community Association for Racial Harmony invites all to attend the National Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on Monday, March 22, 1993, 5:30 p.m. at Edmonton City Hall. For more information call 421-8737.

Reproductive Health Clinic is open 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Room 208, Hys Centre, 11010-101 Street or call 424-1062. The purpose of the clinic is to provide reproductive, contraceptive and sexuality counselling. This includes referral and approval process for therapeutic abortions.

The Edmonton Women's Music Collective: next dance on Friday, March 26, at 8:30 to 1:00 p.m. at the Riverdale Community Hall, 9231-100 Avenue. Admission is \$7 sliding scale. This is a smoke and alcohol free event.

Women in Scholarship, Engineering, Science and Technology, U of A, (WISEST) is holding a dinner to celebrate a decade of encouraging women into engineering and science on Tuesday, March 9, at St. Basil's Cultural Centre, 10819-71 Ave. Tickets are \$25 (\$10 for high school and undergraduate students). Call 492-7227 for tickets and details.

Homophobia/Stress Management Workshop for Lesbians by the Gay and Lesbian Centre of Edmonton (G.L.C.C.E.). Topics: internalized homophobia, physical/psychological health, positive and negative stress, relaxation techniques and body massage. Sunday, March 14, 10:00 to 4:00 p.m., lunch is potluck held at 11745 Jasper Ave., \$5.00. Please pre-register 488-3234.

Endometriosis Association, Edmonton Chapter, next meeting dates will be March 11 and April 15. Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. at Room 2J4.02, Walter C. Mackenzie Building, Health Sciences Centre, 8440-112 Street. For information call 456-6899. Everyone is welcome!

## FORT MCMURRAY

Fort McMurray Women's Resource Centre will be holding it's Annual Fundraising Dinner and silent auction April 27 at the Sawridge Hotel. Tickets \$40.00. Call 743-2121 for information.

International Women's Day celebrations will be held March 5. Women of various nationalities will explain their national costume and speak about their personal adjustment. Please call 743-2121 for details.

The Anxiety Support Group meets every Thursday from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. An evening group is being planned, if interested call 743-2121.

Brown Bag lunches are held every Tuesday from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. at the Women's Resource Centre. Your children are welcome!

## LETHBRIDGE

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY is being celebrated with an all-day event at the YWCA Gym. March 6, 10 am. Participate in a Sweetgrass Ceremony, Circle Dance, various workshops, and spend the evening with Peggy Ward.

## STONY PLAIN/SPRUCE GROVE

Beyond Sugar & Spice: Being a women in the '90's - This free evening features a panel presentation followed by a group discussion on the following topics: Education, Violence, Aging & Work. To be held Monday, March 8, at the Spruce Grove Public Library. Please pre-register at 963-8415.



**MARIE LAING, MLA**

Official Opposition Spokesperson, Womens' Issues

*"Please contact me with your concerns."*

Phone: 465-6652

THE ALBERTA STATUS OF WOMEN  
ACTION COMMITTEE  
PRESENTS:

"Making Connections '93: A Time for Change"

May 15, 1993

Location: T.B.A.

**Agenda**

- 8:30 a.m. Coffee/muffins
- 9:00 a.m. Introductions - Greeting
- 9:15 a.m. Judy Rebick  
President of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women
- 10:00 a.m. Questions from the floor
- 10:30 a.m. Break
- 11:00 a.m. 1992 ASWAC Annual General Meeting
- Minutes of last meeting - business arising
  - Presentation of Annual Report
  - Audited Financial Statement
  - Board Recommendations
  - 92-93 Board Member/Regional Rep Selection
- \*There will be a brief meeting of the New Board over lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Lunch - \$5.00 per plate
- 2:00 p.m. NAC Alberta Regional Meeting
- News from the National Front - Judy Rebick
  - Regional Brainstorming
  - NAC Annual Meeting
- 3:30 p.m. Break
- 3:45 p.m. • Resolutions  
• Plans of Action
- 5:00 p.m. Closure

Everyone planning to attend "Making Connections '93" must RSVP to ASWAC by phone or in writing by April 23, 1993.

Call: Edmonton 421-0306  
Calgary 233-0731

Write to: Box 1573  
Edmonton, AB  
T5J 2N7

**REMEMBER ASWAC IS IN SERIOUS FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY DUE TO LACK OF SECURE GOVERNMENT FUNDING AND CUTBACKS. ANY DONATIONS YOU CAN AFFORD TOWARDS EXPENSES FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED.**

**ATTENTION: EDMONTON MEMBERS  
CALL THE ASWAC OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IF YOU ARE ABLE TO  
HOST AN OUT OF TOWN GUEST.**

### Travel Subsidies

ASWAC Members in good standing are eligible to apply for subsidies in order to attend the AGM. **Subsidy applications must be in writing and received in the Edmonton Office by April 23, 1993.** When applying for a subsidy include your name, address, phone number, other members with whom you are car pooling and whether you require billeting. ASWAC will cover the following, for women who need financial assistance: Travel at .17 per km and Childcare at \$25.00/day. On-site Childcare will not be provided. If you do not require financial assistance, but do require billeting or other special needs, please notify the ASWAC Edmonton office **in writing by April 23.**

NAC Member groups in good standing are eligible to apply for subsidies in order to send one representative delegate to attend the NAC Regional Meeting. **Subsidy applications must be in writing and received in the ASWAC Edmonton Office by April 23, 1993.** NAC will cover the following, for groups who need financial assistance: Travel at .17 per km and Childcare at \$25.00/day. On-site Childcare will not be provided.

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS** *ASWAC is seeking dedicated feminists to sit on the 1993-94 Board either as full Board Members, position-share Board Members or as Regional Representatives. If you, or someone you know is an ASWAC member in good standing, has had some experience with women's issues, lobbying, volunteer groups, collective groups, or other equivalent background, and is interested in working together with other women to further the ASWAC goals, please submit a letter of interest, along with a short write up to the ASWAC Nominations Committee by April 30, c/o ASWAC Edmonton Office. The committee will look at all the nominations and make sure all nomination procedures are followed. At the Annual Meeting, the ASWAC membership will select the Board and Regional Representatives. The Membership decides the make-up of the ASWAC Board, so it is important that all ASWAC members in good standing attend the Annual Meeting to participate in the selection process.*

**PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES** *To be considered at the 1992 ASWAC Annual Meeting on May 15, 1993 in Edmonton, Alberta.*

#### ARTICLE FIVE - MANAGEMENT

##### SECTION .01

FROM: "There shall be a Board comprised of eleven to fifteen full members in good standing"

TO: "There shall be a Board comprised of a maximum of fifteen full members in good standing"

#### ARTICLE EIGHT - MEETINGS

##### SECTION .02

FROM: "A simple majority of members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at Annual General Meetings"

TO: "A simple majority of members present shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at Annual General Meetings"



# WRITE ON!



As feminists, it is important that we are politically active in whatever capacity we can be. While political activism takes on a variety of meanings for a variety of people, one method of activism in which many of us can participate is letter writing. Writing

letters to MLA's and MP's is a relatively effective way of lobbying on an individual basis.

In order to provide ASWAC's membership with information regarding issues warranting letters we have created this section for political information sharing. To this end, we encourage members to let us know of any other letter writing campaigns in which they are involved.

The Edmonton ASWAC office has a copy of MP's names and ridings, if you require this information please call the office. **Please send a copy of your letter to the Edmonton ASWAC office.**

Correspondence to federal Ministers should be addressed to the House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6, and is postage free. Please send a copy of your letter to the Edmonton ASWAC office.

Women and Minorities are on the chopping block again. Stats Canada studies have shown that social spending is not responsible for the debt. Yet, politicians have once again offered up a budget which includes substantial cuts to grants and contributions to organizations. Included are the Secretary of State Women's Program, Health & Welfare Family Violence Programs, and Anti-racism funding. Aboriginal and Multicultural funding have also taken severe cuts. Please write to Finance Minister Don Mazankowski and let him know that these cuts are not acceptable.

Rape has always been used as a weapon of war. It has been confirmed that at least 20,000 women have been confined in rape/death camps in the Bosnia area. There is evidence of rape of Somali women in refugee camps as a result of the conflict in their area. Women in Peru and elsewhere in the world have also been victims of the ongoing battles in their countries. Please write to External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall to express your sentiments about human rights abuses against women and Canada's role in supporting every woman's wish to live with dignity and have the opportunity to make a better life for their children.

Bill C-105 proposes detrimental changes to the Unemployment Insurance Act. Contact your M.P. to register your opposition to this bill, especially if you live in a Progressive Conservative riding.

The Legal Aid system in this a province is in jeopardy! Access has always been difficult as personnel is limited and delays in court appearances have always been lengthy.

Legal Aid is not free and is becoming increasingly more expensive. The ASWAC office gets calls from women daily who require immediate, affordable service from Legal Aid and are not able to access it for financial reasons or because timing would make their case moot. This is a particular problem for issues of wife assault, child custody issues and divorce. Write to the new Minister of Justice, Dick Fowler and to Premier Ralph Klein. Legal Aid is funded federally, but it administered provincially.

The Canadian Abortion Rights Action League (CARAL) works to ensure that no woman in Canada is denied access to safe, legal abortion. CARAL is encouraging the testing of the RU486 pill for use in Canada. RU486 has been the subject of dozens of clinical studies conducted in over 20 countries and has proved effective in conjunction with prostaglandin as soon as a woman knows she is pregnant and wants an abortion. It is most important to write to our Members of Parliament to ask for it to be made available for testing in Canada. Also contact Hoechst-Roussel Canada Inc., the pharmaceutical company which has not pressed for clinical trials of RU486 in Canada: (4045 Cote Vertu, Montreal, PQ, H4R 2E8.)

Women's Issues and Human Rights in Alberta are currently in jeopardy due primarily to newly appointed cabinet ministers who are uninformed and insensitive to women and minority rights. If you have not yet received your letter writing kit from ASWAC, or if you need more to pass around at meetings or gatherings, contact either the Edmonton or Calgary office. They can be requested in volumes for insertion into local mail outs if desired.

## **This just in:**

Newly appointed Minister for the Secretary of State, Monique Landry announced major cuts to the Women's Program. She said that no group will be spared and that we should be happy with what we get. The program will be renewed, she assured us, but it will be cut back and may move to another ministry. For ASWAC, this is devastating! As it is, ASWAC spends increasing amounts of time (at the expense of ongoing projects) attempting to diversify our funding base. Although we have managed the federal funding shortfall up to this point with sporadic grants and fundraising projects, these sources too are drying up. Currently ASWAC faces regular staff lay offs, office closures, and service reduction. In recent discussions with the Minister's staff, ASWAC has learned that the letters MP's have received from Alberta to date have been extremely influential to the program's continuance and if further letters were received in enough numbers, they could directly affect future funding to ASWAC. We can reverse the decision to cut women's programs, so pick up a pen and paper right now and write directly to Monique Landry, The Secretary of State of Canada, Ottawa, K1A 0M5 and state emphatically how important women's programs are to you!

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# ASWAC Takes on the System at the Ballot Box

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It has become painfully clear that past gains women have made are in jeopardy. Because elected officials are increasingly showing their support for the ultra-conservative agenda, progressive change for women is threatened and we may even lose ground. Now is the time to speak out against the backlash and exercise our power.

ASWAC has determined that our priorities should lie in pro-action. Since both the Federal and Provincial elections are looming, now is an opportune time to bring our issues to the forefront and design a new political agenda for this country based on fairness, equity and responsible government. In the past few months, the ASWAC offices have been flooded with phone calls from concerned and desperate individuals on issues ranging from proposed changes in Unemployment Insurance to general disgust about current provincial cabinet ministers. It is clear that people are angry and ready to act.

ASWAC has proudly launched a campaign designed to increase women's participation in the upcoming federal and provincial elections. This non-partisan project will encourage women to vote, educate themselves and their families on the issues, work in constituency organizations, and generally become more involved in main-stream politics. Political parties will benefit by the increase in memberships, campaign workers and votes that will result from the increased participation of women. Women will benefit because we will be able to exercise our power in numbers.

The recent election in the United States, although not entirely revolutionary, is an excellent example of what kind of change can occur through collective action. A concerted effort was made to attract women voters and as a result our neighbours to the south now have the largest percentage of elected women in the government and experienced the highest voter turn out in years. Just think of the difference we could make in Alberta alone! There are more women of voting age in Alberta than the total number of votes cast in the last provincial election.

The first priority for the Political Action Campaign will be to publish a poster for mass distribution encouraging women to vote. This publicity campaign reflects our belief that the more women know, the more they will understand the huge difference they can make in their own and in their families' lives. Two publications will also be created and distributed province-wide. The first will be a publication supplying women with basic issue information and questions to ask candidates. The second publication will include a more in-depth analysis of the issues and more questions, instructions on how to organize an all candidates forum, and an outline of party policies based on the results of party responses to a questionnaire addressing issues of particular interest to women.

The results of the questionnaire will also be made available to the media through news conferences held throughout the province. These news conferences will allow ASWAC an opportunity to again promote women's increased participation in the upcoming elections

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"There are more women of voting age in Alberta than the total number of votes cast in the last provincial election."

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In order for this campaign to become a reality, ASWAC members are encouraged to take leadership in their communities by helping to determine priority issues, by distributing the information, and most importantly, promoting the urgency of such action. A provincial committee based in Edmonton has been developing the initial work on the campaign and is drafting the publications. The committee has already been consulting with the Alberta women's community to prioritize issues, so look forward to being contacted for your input and please contact us if you have any concerns or questions.

Because of ASWAC's limited financial resources, we are soliciting donations to help defray the costs of this province-wide project. Donations will be used for the publication and distribution of the posters and resource materials. All donations will be acknowledged in the publications. We understand the financial situation in which most women and organizations find themselves, but feel that this campaign can benefit us all in the long run, so will be well worth it. Talk to your employers, your brothers, your partners, your fathers and your sons. It is an investment in their future too. Remember, part of the current political agenda is to silence women by decreasing our funding, delaying our funding and ultimately eliminating it. See the "Write On" section for immediate action.

Simply changing who holds the power is of course not the entire answer, but if our voices are loud enough, strong enough and persistent enough, we will be heard. We must give them no choice but to listen to the women of Alberta.

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AN ELECTION IS COMING. UNIVERSAL PEACE IS DECLARED AND THE FOXES HAVE A SINCERE INTEREST IN PROLONGING THE LIVES OF THE POULTRY.

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George Eliot

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# Women of the North

BY Nicole Balmer  
February 1, 1993

What do you imagine it would be like to lose your job? What goes through a person's mind when they are told that their position has been eliminated because of tough times? Thousands of people in Alberta, and hundreds in McMurray, are facing unemployment and under-employment as the lingering effects of the recession, or should we finally call it a depression, hits companies and governments across the province.

As my part-time job goes from poverty line to a 15% cut in hours, I too face the bleak job market in the hope that two part time jobs will keep creditors at bay. I am only one of eight part-time people who have had their hours cut as a result of the "powers that be," Fort McMurray City Council (who by the way, are the same dinosaurs who changed their name from councillors back to aldermen.)

How many others are there? Women make up the vast majority of people taking part time jobs with no security, no benefits, no future. No wonder when the statistics of men's versus women's pay come out, we had barely managed to crawl another few inches towards pay equity.

Why do we do it? Why do we take the jobs with twenty less hours per week? Because if we don't someone else will. As jobs get more scarce and unemployment rises, we compete with each other for the honour of working at all.

Even as I write these words, I can't help but think about women who don't have the luxury of choosing a part time job. Some women must work full time as the only wage earner in their family.

Single parents affected by the latest round of cuts must be frantic. In these tough times, under-employed women in bad relationships may be reluctant to leave the relative security of even an abusive house for the big, bad world.

Assuming that my already part-time hours will be cut even further, does anyone know of a job for a creative, energetic, friendly, (if a little outspoken) woman? Hobbies and experience include president of a women's shelter, writing column for a local weekly paper and sewing. I would prefer full time after five years in Fort McMurray, but am willing to accept, like most women, a part time position with little or no benefits.

Sound just a little personal? Sometimes issues should come from the personal side too, instead of just the "management" side.

Expanding the Healing Circle. Call for papers for the 17th annual CRIAW conference to be held November 12 to 14, 1993 at St. John's Newfoundland. For more information, contact the Conference Chair or Co-ordinator at (709) 753-7270. Please mail your proposal to: CRIAW Conference '93 c/o 131 LeMarchant Road, St. John's, NF. A1C 2H3. Proposals may also be faxed to (709) 753-2606. All proposals must be received by March 31, 1993.

## Jennifer Berezan



performing in  
concert with  
**Nina Gerber**

Opening set:  
**Dale LaDanceur**

Sunday March 7th  
Centennial Library  
Theatre  
7 p.m.

Produced by  
**SisterActs  
Productions**  
co-sponsored by  
IWD Committee  
& Edm. Learner  
Centre

### Tickets:

\$15 (A limited number of low income  
tickets will be available at \$7)

Available at: The Bagel Tree & Boystown  
(It is recommended to buy advance tickets  
as they may not be available at the door)



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Are you a woman who is interested in assisting women who are being treated unfairly at work? Do you see a need for better labour laws? Edmonton Working Women needs volunteers to assist women having problems in the workplace. This can be done by phone from the comfort of your own home. Training provides you with knowledge of legislation and procedures. Call 429-3370.

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# NEWS FROM NAC

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## Happy International Women's Day!

As a show of solidarity with our sisters in Calgary (or because we could not find a better one) the Edmonton IWD Committee has adopted Calgary's 1993 theme - "Strength in Solidarity" for Edmonton IWD. Plans are going well and we anticipate a successful event.

## Alberta Region

Judy Rebick is coming to Alberta.

As you know, we passed a resolution at last year's AGM intended to promote work in the regions. While the member groups all seem to be very active, there has not been as much NAC activity in our region as I had hoped. To rectify this I have been working with ASWAC to organize a regional meeting in conjunction with ASWAC's AGM in Edmonton. I am hoping for discussion and ideas on what we might want to do in our region. We can also take the opportunity to discuss the resolutions for the NAC AGM which will have been circulated by that time.

The rest of the agenda is wide open. If you have other issues or concerns please let me know as soon as possible. The date is May 15, it will be a one day event and there will be no charge for members of NAC and/or ASWAC to attend (lunch is \$5/person). Details still need to be worked out and your ideas are welcome.

Please mark your calendar, choose representatives and register. See information about May 15 in the insert.

## NAC AGM

The NAC Annual General Meeting is in Saskatoon. This should make it possible for many more of us to attend and I hope we can talk to each other about car pooling and sharing accommodation etc.

The AGM is planned for June 4, 5, 6 at the University of Saskatchewan. The theme is: "Taking our Place: Feminism in the '90s."

April 15 is the deadline for resolutions and amendments for proposed changes to the constitution.

The nominations committee is requesting that nominations be submitted to the national office by April 19, although the constitution requires only 14 days.

I look forward to a strong Alberta caucus at the AGM.

## Secretary of State Women's Program

On February 15, a number of women's groups met with Secretary of State Monique Landry.

She informed the women that the Women's Program would be renewed for another five years but none of the groups would be spared cuts. The program may be transferred to another ministry.

She tried to assure the women that they should be grateful for the Tory agenda and that they did not realize the gains as yet but would be sure to later on.

She suggested that groups should try partnership sharing, sensitizing their MPs and diversifying their funding. There

was no understanding that we have all being doing this for years.

The recommendations from the group are: Focus on actions. Groups across the country are asked to visit their MPs in their constituencies protesting the cuts, doing protests in front of their regional Sec. State offices and bombarding the Minister's office in Ottawa with letters of protests.

You can decide when it is most appropriate for you to do these actions. Between 1st and 15th of March, women across the country are asked to send empty purses to the prime minister to protest the cuts. On 8th of March there will be a press conference in Ottawa with reps from five National Groups NAC, FNFCF, DAWN, NOIVMW and FFQ to protest the cuts to Women's Programs.

In our regions were are urged to do some form of protest in our area on this day.

I will be speaking at the Edmonton IWD event on this topic and will be promoting the empty purses campaign.

I would be willing to try some actions if there is support for that. Please call me 451-0933

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## Hug these women

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The ASWAC Newsletter collective consists of women who volunteer their time and energy. We take this opportunity to thank these women for their work. Angele Courchaine, Christine Leonard, Dorothy Mandy, Moyra Lang, Harriet Huestis, Marion Phillips.

Congratulations to Jenny Kain, who is now someone's mother. Welcome Erin.

Big hugs to Noreen Bell, Helen Greaves, Jane Templeman, Sheila Smith, Joyce Green, Carmen Clow, Lorraine Gregoire, Jenny Kain, Claire Robillard, Janet Campbell, and Sheryl McInnes. All of these women are helping with our WAP update project.

Thanks and hugs to Cafe La Gare and The Koop for selling our mugs for us. Everyone go and have a coffee!

Hugs and kisses to Dallas Diamond, Laurie Anderson, Cathy Schissel, Pam Krause, Diane Altwasser, Merrill Cooper, Kerry Clarke, and Anne McGrath, for all your support and wonderful contributions!

More hugs and kisses to Cathy Bray, Jane Wiley and Dorothy Mandy, you are all wonderful for helping us with the AGM.

Thanks to the many women who have renewed their memberships and/or phoned or dropped in to give us support and wonderful ideas. Without all the support we 9 couldn't possibly be as wonderful as we are!

# DIVIDED WE STAND

By Pauline Caskanette

As a feminist, I am concerned with the rights of ALL womyn. As a result of this commitment, I have fought for womyn's rights that do not serve me personally. For example, the right to safe and easy access to contraception and abortion, making a career out of homemaking and childrearing, living free of racism, fully participating in the military, and becoming a Catholic priest/ess. These issues are not personally my issues because I am a white, Pagan, lesbian who chooses not to have children; however, they are collectively my issues because they affect my sisters.

Barriers have no place between us as feminist womyn and we must be dedicated to removing them. "But we are trying," you think to yourself. And I ask myself "why?"-why when I look around in the lesbian community do I only see a handful of heterosexual womyn fighting with us? Just as womyn of color are challenging us to examine our own racism, it is time to examine our own heterosexism.

We are all womyn; all oppressed. We must work together if we are going to make real changes. We need each other. I am asking ALL of my feminist sisters to join me and my lesbian sisters in our shared collective struggle for equality and human rights for ALL womyn.

What can you do? Phone and write to the Alberta Human Rights Commission congratulating them for accepting complaints of discrimination based on sexual orientation. Phone and write Ralph Klein and Dianne Mirosh and tell them that lesbians and gays should be included in the Individual Rights Protection Act immediately. Make people who support the Alberta Report aware of the lies that they tell about feminists, lesbians and gays. Phone the Homosexuals' Defense League to help them defend us against the Alberta Report. Write a letter to your MP, MLA and the Editor of your local paper and tell them that in 1993 it is NOT Okay to discriminate against a human being because of their sexual orientation. And last but not least come to the gay pride march in June - hold your head high and walk at my side.

Homosexuals' Defense League 426-2432

Dianne Mirosh  
Minister of Community Development  
Office 423  
10800-97th Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta  
T5K 2B6 Phone:427-4928



Ralph Klein  
Office of the Premier  
Office 307  
10800-97th Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6  
Phone: 427-2251



Turning Points is a family based supported Independent living program operated by the Boys' & Girls' Club of Edmonton. The program provides room and board to youth aged 15 - 18, who require emotional support and supervision while they are acquiring skills necessary for independent living. They are currently seeking additional homes to provide this service.

If you have a desire to work with our youth and can provide a nurturing home environment please contact Boys' & Girls' Club of Edmonton, 422-6038. (Financial compensation for room and board and support services).  
•Turning Points also services pregnant and parenting teens. Inquiries from individuals willing to explore this option of service are welcome.

Bill C-79, An Act to Amend the DIVORCE ACT and the FAMILY ORDERS AND MAINTENANCE ACT is currently being studied by a parliamentary committee. The bill seeks to make it easier to get child support from a non-custodial parent who lives in another province. The clerk of the Committee is Charles Bellemare, who can be reached at Committees Directorate, 6th floor Wellington Bldg., House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6.  
•Update - Bill C-79 has been passed by the House of Commons and now goes before the Senate for approval.

**BREAST CANCER** is the leading cause of death for women aged 35 to 54. The government has committed to \$20 million over 5 years for a **BREAST CANCER RESEARCH CHALLENGE FUND**, and the management committee of the fund is to include breast cancer survivors. \$4 million per year is an improvement over the \$894,000 allocated last year to a disease which claims the life of 5,000 women a year, to a disease in which responsible risk factors have yet to be identified. Breast Cancer Action designed the symbol of a pink ribbon with black lining to represent the thousands of women diagnosed each year and the memory of the thousands who die each year. For more information, contact Breast Cancer Action at P.O. Box 4332, Station E., Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5B3.

If your relationship ended in divorce or separation after January 1, 1987, you may be entitled to divide Canada Pension Plan (CPP) credits equally with your legal or common-law spouse. If you would like to know more about credit splitting, contact the Income Security Programs office nearest you. They will be pleased to provide you with individual counselling. The telephone number is located in the government pages under Health & Welfare.

## THEY'VE MOVED!

AIDS Network of Edmonton is now located at: #201, 11465 Jasper Avenue also the offices of ELPLWHIV & Feather of Hope. Information Line 488-5816.

# DIRECT DEPOSIT DONATIONS TO ASWAC

Dear ASWAC Supporter,

Thank you for considering to make regular contributions to ASWAC through direct deposit from your bank account to ours. If you wish to do so, please fill in the form below, detach and send it to your bank with the requested information. This way, you can make convenient regular contributions and support a very worthwhile cause - Women working together to help women. Thank you for your support. It is greatly appreciated.

-your ASWAC sisters

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## Direct Deposit Donation Request Form

Attention: (my bank) \_\_\_\_\_  
Please withdraw \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
from my account # \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
on the \_\_\_\_\_ of each month and deposit it to:

The Wildrose Credit Union  
10747 - 100 Ave  
Edmonton, Alberta  
Branch: #11718 Bank: #889  
Account Name: ASWAC General Account  
Account: # 013140589

Attached is a voided personal cheque of the account from which I would like the money withdrawn.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby authorize you to withdraw the above specified funds from the above designated account and deposit it to the specified account belonging to the Alberta Status of Women Action Committee.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

For more information contact the Alberta Status of Women Action Committee in Edmonton at 421-0306.

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## Yes. I Support ASWAC!

Enclosed is my membership\* ( )  
Enclosed is my renewal\* ( )  
Enclosed is my donation ( )

Please distribute my donation  
to the following project areas:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

\*\$20.00 is the suggested membership fee, but we will accept what you can afford. Make Cheques payable to ASWAC: Box 1573, Edm. T5J 2N7.

Please send membership information to my friend: \_\_\_\_\_

- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the Political Action Campaign
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to reprint *Women Against Poverty*
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to office resources
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to send volunteers to conferences
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to ASWAC workshops
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to ASWAC Newsletter production
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to child care expenses
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to Making Connections 1993
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to Regional Representation
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to ASWAC fundraising events
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to lobbying efforts
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to print new ASWAC brochures
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to ASWAC Public Relations