
ASWAC

Alberta Status of Women Action Committee

Nov/Dec/Jan 1993/94

Volume IV, Number 2

The Legend..

A woman recently told me about a dream her friend had...A dream she wanted to see become a reality. Her friend from Montreal dreamt that women all across this country made feminine icons in anticipation of a very special day. These icons took the shape of feminine or feminist symbols, Goddess images, little witches, or whatever a woman decided to create. They were made of clay, paper, cookie dough, twigs, feathers, wax or anything else a woman could create with. Then on December 6th, women took their icons out into the world and left them in public spaces for all to see. Some women left them on store window sills, park benches, street corners. Others left them in buses to travel the city, or in elevators to go up and down all day. Wherever a woman left her icon, she left a part of herself and her hope for a peaceful society based on gender and racial equality. This dream was passed on to some women who made and shared their icons these last three years. Again we share this dream with women across Alberta and hope that all of you pass it on to someone else. Can you imagine if on December 6th, you saw thousands of women's icons everywhere you went. Wouldn't it be nice if we did live in a peaceful society based on gender and racial equality? This year, become a part of the dream...make an icon, and continue to work for women's social, economic and political equality.

ASWAC

Alberta Status of Women Action Committee

1993-1994 Board Members

Calgary

Laurie Anderson
Dallas Diamond 233-0731
Nancy Miller
Corrine Younie

Edmonton

Janet Blond
Debbie Bryson
Kathy Ewald
Moyra Lang 421-0306
Christine Leonard
Cathy Meade
Bev Palibroda
Sharon Reiner
Deb Schimmens

Fort McMurray

Nicole Balmer

Regional Representatives

Edmonton

Aine Humble

Fort McMurray

Patti Lepoidevin
Francine Wilson

Innisfail

Ruth Bergeron

Jasper

Sharlene Lundquist

Ponoka

Liz Wetheral

Westerose

Gerry Bailey

ASWAC Edmonton:
Box 1573, T5J 2N7
Located: #10, 9930-106 St.
Fax: 425-3293
Phone: 421-0306

ASWAC Calgary:
#303, 223-12 Ave. S.W.
T2R 0G9
Fax: 269-2012
Phone: 233-0731

ASWAC receives a portion of its funding from the Secretary of State Women's Program and gratefully acknowledges the financial support from its members.

ASWAC Events

From the ASWAC Newsroom

Well it's time to set deadlines for the upcoming year. Our next newsletter **deadline** is **February 11th 1994**, publication date is February 25th. We welcome your thoughts, ideas, concerns and/or submissions and ads. Currently our circulation is over 1000 and growing. Our newsletter is an ideal way to advertise your events to the women of Alberta as well as to support ASWAC projects.

T-Shirt Event!

We are still accepting t-shirts with inspiring slogans to be sold in a recycled t-shirt sale with funds raised to be used on ASWAC events. Drop off your t-shirts at ASWAC.

\$\$\$\$\$\$/??????

"We've been cut!" A common phrase heard through out our fair province. We are in need of funds to continue our much needed work. We are searching for fundraising ideas and women with fundraising skills to sit on our fundraising committee. Please write or call either office.

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

The Deadly Silence

(a comment and confession by Sharon Reiner)

December 6 approaches again. We will attend official memorials. We will read articles about violence, gun control, and mass murders. We will all bow our heads in sadness and grief for the 14 women gunned down in Montreal four years ago. We will remember how we felt that day as we mourn the lives lost. But will we remember that we are still in the middle of a war? Because the misogyny war rages on and the silence about feminist action against it is deafening.

We claim victory for finally convincing the public that the Montreal Massacre was not an isolated act of a madman, but rather another act of violence against women perpetrated by men every six minutes or so in this country. What everyone has not yet noticed, however is that violence against women is part of everyday society and part of a much larger picture. December 6 has ironically given people a way to isolate violence (and really violent violence at that) as the issue, and not misogyny. Since 1989, violence against women has become the issue of the day for governments and they now no longer treat it as "just a feminist issue" and proudly proclaim a "zero tolerance" policy, yet almost every aspect of popular culture implicitly encourages it.

The backlash against feminism and the rise of the neo-conservative agenda has forced this country into a deep silence around the real solutions to stopping violence against women. The cries of feminists are being drowned out by the loud opposition to violence against women as an isolated sick act unconnected to inequality, oppression and misogyny. It's a clever political ploy on their part, because feminists are compelled to support increased awareness about violence, but on the other hand addressing the issue of violence without attention to the root cause will never eliminate it. By never eliminating it, women will continue to live in fear forever.



A man once suggested to me that December 6 should have the same international recognition as November 11 in honour of those killed. It made sense to me at the time, but somehow it didn't feel right because on December 6 I don't mourn soldiers and celebrate peace. I mourn past, present and future innocent victims, of a war which is still in full swing, and one which most victims do not even realize is happening. This, to me demonstrates how dangerous the silence really is, and how all women are potentially victims whether they are in an engineering class, or at home, or in a car on a date.

None of this is, of course, new to anyone and I don't mean to insult anyone's intelligence, minimize the efforts of feminists who have been making these points forever, nor to minimize the lives of the women who were killed on December 6, but I know for myself, having been tempted (because it seemed safer), to downplay feminism in my life, that that is the most dangerous thing I could ever do.

The following is by Nicole Lacelle from "The Political is Personal" found in *The Montreal Massacre*, a collection of letters and articles written shortly after December 6, 1989:

"The first thing I felt upon hearing the news about the massacre was that this was a case of mistaken identity. Why them and not me? Why not us, those of us who've been feminists for twenty years? We were fully conscious of the hatred our actions provoked and the dangers which often threatened us. Why take it out on young women who would never have imagined there could be negative implications of what they were doing? They innocently inherited the career openings we feminists created for women. Why take it out on them, on those "civilians," and not us "militants"? Simply because they followed in our footsteps? They were so far behind that they'd lost sight of us. For them it was all very simple, they wanted to become engineers, that's all. It was there for them, available as long as they came up with the academic record normally required. For us it was different, we were on enemy territory, shells exploding around us from all directions; it didn't take much to figure out there was a war going on. These young women ended up standing in No Man's Land; it was only too easy to ignore that the peace treaty had never been signed."

Alberta Feminist Calendar

Calgary

World AIDS Day 1993 December 1st.

First Mourn Then Work For Change. A national day of remembrance and action on violence against women. December 6th, 5:30 pm at the Chinese Cultural Association, 197-1 Street SW (5 blocks north of the Bay). All are welcome.

Coffee House at Don't Tell Grandma's, 2005B-4 Street SW, featuring Calgarian women artists. December 3rd, 8:00 pm, door donations of \$3-\$5 appreciated. Funds go towards the Feminist Film and Video Festival.

Exploring / Developing / Sustaining Alliance. These meetings are part of a process of preparation for a continuing dialogue between women of colour, First Nations women and white women on this theme. Come to one or more meetings on December 2 and/or December 13, both at 7:30 to 9:30 pm at the Old Y Centre, 223-12 Ave SW. Organized by the Calgary Status of Women Action Committee. For more information, call Chris at 262-1873.

December 10th is Human Rights Day co-sponsored by The Alberta Human Rights Commission, the Committee on Race Relations and Cross Cultural Understanding, and the Calgary Aboriginal Awareness Society. For more information contact Vilma at 263-4414.

December 27th the Women of Colour Collective support meeting at 7:30 pm at #301, 1220 Kensington Road, NW. Topic "Humour as an anti-racist strategy."

January 17th, Trauma: A New Theory and Practice. A full day intensive workshop for mental health professionals with Sandra Butler and Ellyn Kaschak. For more information or to register call Karen Lodi at 262-5340 or Mutriba at 283-3724.

Abortion Support Group, Calgary Birth Control Association is offering a support group for women who experienced an abortion and would like to share feelings and discuss with others concerns about how abortion affects our lives. For more information call 283-5580.

Women's round table on the Alberta Human Rights Commission (AHRC), January 18th, 4:00 to 6:00 pm at the Old Y Building. Groups are invited to come and deliver their recommendations to representatives from the AHRC.

The Elizabeth Fry Society of Calgary invites you to their annual year end open house. Please bring a non-perishable food item and help support their clients this holiday season. December 9th from 4:00 to 8:00 pm at #204, 1009-7 Ave, SW.

1994 Take Back The Night committee will be meeting the 4th Tuesday of each month beginning January 24th, at 7:00 pm at the Old Y Building, 223-12 Ave SW. All women welcome. For more information, call Peggy at 283-7650.

Every month Celebrating Women at the Republik, 219-17 Ave SW, 8:00 pm. Featuring women performers. Next date is November 29th. For more dates and other information call Kerry at 244-7732.

Lesbian Women's Support Group - A new information, education support group is being formed. For more information call 277-6247 or 277-4735.

Women's Support Group for Women who are HIV+. Are you interested in attending a weekly women's group or individual counseling? Call AIDS Calgary and ask for Heather at 228-0155.

Sexual Assault Committee for Persons with Disabilities meets the second Tuesday of each month. For more information, call Lorna at 228-5809 or Sherry at 262-8515.

Women's Health Information Network office and resource centre is NOW OPEN! 202, 735-12 Ave SW, Monday and Friday mornings 9:30 to 11:45 am. Information available on women's health issues and health practitioner evaluation inventory. Call 259-6883.

A concert and reception of the release of Peggy Ward's second album, November 26th, 8:00 pm at W.R. Castell Central Library Theatre 2nd floor, 616 MacLeod Trail SE. Food and refreshments will be served. Tickets are \$7.50 waged, \$3 under/unwaged, please reserve your tickets by calling 283-7650. This event is wheelchair accessible. Cassettes/CDs will be on sale at a reduced price, for this event only.

Congratulations to the Federal Tories! The first federal party to obtain gender parity.

Alberta Feminist Calendar

Edmonton

World AIDS Day 1993: "Time to Act" December 1st.

"Silence is Deadly" is this years theme for December 6th Memorial to be held at Canada Place at noon on Monday, December 6th. There will be a ceremony, songs and community speakers. Buttons will be available for a minimum of \$1.00 donation. Everyone is welcome.

December 6th from noon to 1:00 pm there will be a vigil in front of the Administrative Building on Campus, U of A. For more information, call Dr. Lois Stanford at 492-5682.

"I'm with you" A candlelight vigil at the Legislature on Saturday, December 11 at 6:00 pm. These are times of uncertainty and despair for many. For more information call Suzanne at 424-7652.

The Edmonton Women's Music Collective's next dance is December 10 at 8:30 to 1:00 am at the Riverdale Community Hall, 9231-100 Ave. Admission is \$7 (sliding scale). This is a smoke and alcohol free event.

Alberta Federation of Labour 1993 AFL Human Rights Conference, December 9, 10, 11, 1993 at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza. Registration is \$150.00. On-site child care will be provided, you must pre-register by December 3rd to ensure a space. For more information contact the AFL at 483-3021.

Working Towards Change: An Introductory Lobbying workshop for women (6300). February 26, from 9:00 to noon am. For more information call 492-3093.

The Woman's Program, Faculty of Extension, U of A, 492-3093. Lots of courses of interest to women. Call to receive their brochure.

Menopause Support group meets the third Wednesday of the month at the Royal Alexandra Hospital - Women's Centre at 7:30 pm. For additional information call Gladys Roth at 477-4818 or Joanne Wilson-Symonds at 939-3699.

U of A Pro-choice is hosting a workshop "Intimate Encounters" on December 6th from 5:00 to 7:00 pm at the Heritage Lounge in Athabasca Hall. For more information leave a message at Box 78 Students Union Building 2nd Floor. Everyone welcome.

Celebration of Women in the Arts, CWA, is planning a conference for June 3 to 5, 1994 at the Inn on 7th, 10001-107 Street. Submissions for workshops are welcome, please send prior to February 1st, 1994. Send submissions to CWA at #905, 10136-100 Street, Edmonton, T5J 0P1. For more information, call 424-0287.

The Endometriosis Association, Edmonton Chapter, meets at 7:30 pm in Room 2J4.02, Classroom F, Walter C Mackenzie Building, Health Sciences Centre, 8440-112 Street. The meeting dates for 1994 are January 13, February 17, March 17, April 14, May 19, no meeting in December. For more information call Maureen at 458-9431.

Fort McMurray

Fort McMurray Women's Resource Society and North-East ASWAC invite people in the Fort McMurray area to mark December 6th Remembrance Day at the Penthouse of Keyano College Residence at 7:00 to 8:00 pm. In remembrance of the fourteen women murdered in Montreal four years ago and the women murdered every year in Canada at the hands of their partners. The evening will include music, slides of women and an opportunity for participants to make female icons to help spread the dream of safety for women.

Please call the Women's Resource Centre at 743-2121 or ASWAC Board Member, Nicole Balmer, at 791-9210 for further information. Donations to the Food Bank are welcome at this event.

Lethbridge

December 6th Memorial Service will be held on December 6th at the U of L Atrium at 7:00 pm. Before the service a video on campus safety issues will be presented in the dining room near the Atrium at 6:00 pm. Following the service there will be a gathering which will be time for discussion and reflection. For more information call 329-8338.

Peace River

December 6th Memorial is being held the evening of December 6th with a workshop followed by a candlelight vigil. Discussion and hot chocolate will follow. Location and time are available by calling Jocelyn at 624-6256. Everyone is welcome.

Women's Health

The Women and AIDS Project is co-sponsored by the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters, Edmonton Women's Shelters and the Edmonton Board of Health. The project is based in Edmonton, housed at the Board of Health and works with women province wide - particularly through the sheltering movement.

The threat of HIV infection is of particular concern for women. Women, and young women in particular, are the fastest growing group worldwide that are becoming infected with this virus. The prevailing notion that HIV/AIDS is still seen as a gay man's disease is a hard fact. Most educational prevention strategies are based on the fact that women have sufficient power in their intimate sexual relations to negotiate safer sex practices. This assumption is not rooted in the reality of many women's experiences. In addition to this, the educational strategies aimed at the general public always portray female sexuality in a heterosexual context. Women who have sex with women are a group which is construed to have no risk of contracting HIV through their lovemaking. This myth continues because of a continued habit of looking at "risk groups" instead of "risk behaviors". Women who have sex with women may have or have had unprotected sex with men and may have shared needles during injection drug use. No group of people is without risk if risk behaviors are engaged in. The traditional prevention strategies are not seen as practical by many women, and therefore these women are left without any information about prevention strategies that will work for them in their social context.

A goal of the Women and AIDS Project is to bring current and relevant information about the medical and social issues for women and HIV/AIDS to other women in Alberta. For more information about the Project and its resources, call Ione Challborn, Project Facilitator, at 482-9844.

Sister Support

Female consumer of medicine, 40's wishes to make contact with other females 35 - 60, who, like myself have suffered serious consequences to their health, physically and/or emotionally as a result of improper medical care, misdiagnose, abuse at the hands of a physician. The purpose is to try and establish a support network in this area. If you are interested please leave your name and number at ASWAC Edmonton, 421-0306.

Concerned About Health Care Cuts?

So are we, the Alberta Association of Registered Nurses. We have submitted our proposal for health care reform - Increasing Direct Access to Nursing Services. We believe that the health care consumer - the taxpayer has a right to access the health care professional of their choice rather than always having to go to the doctor, or emergency room for care. Registered Nurses are competent professional care givers and we can provide NURSING services cost effectively to reduce cost to the system, and the taxpayer. Unfortunately, the government isn't listening and the waste continues, while front line care givers are being laid off. We believe that health care reform is necessary, however we wish the government had a plan, rather than blinding cutting. We believe Direct Access to Nursing Services is such a plan. If you would like more information about this proposal, a presentation or clinic for a group of members, or would like to know what you can do, contact Marshall, RN., B.S.N., at 963-7997 or Marilyn Wacko, at 454-1964.



Thursdays 5:00 P.M.

CJSR
FM
88

Write On !

As feminists, it is important that we are politically active in whatever capacity we can. 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 M.L.A.s and M.P.s is an extremely effective way of lobbying on an individual basis. Letters from individuals carry more weight than letters signed on behalf of a group. 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 letter writing campaigns in which they are involved. **Please send a copy of your letter to the Edmonton ASWAC office.**

The mailing address for all Members of the Legislative Assembly (M.L.A.s) is 204, 9718 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 1E4. Postage is required. If you can not afford postage please contact the Edmonton ASWAC office and we will provide you with postage.

•Cuts, cuts, cuts. This time it's education, 365 million, which translates into 565 million over 3 years taking into account inflation and increase in student numbers. Please write to Jim Dinning, Provincial Treasurer and Halvar Jonson, Minister of Education and Ralph "he cares he listens" Klein. We demand that this government respond. Write demanding no cuts are made to education and debunk some myths that have been presented; myth 1- spending on education is out of control. Fact 1-Alberta's education spending is the lowest in Canada. Myth 2- Alberta has always spent more per capita on education than any other province. Fact 2-In 1991, Alberta ranked fifth in spending per capita on education. Myth 3- Albertans spend a high proportion of their income on education. Fact 3-Albertans, along with Nova Scotians, spend the lowest percentage of their personal income on education in Canada. Myth 4-Teachers' salaries constitute between 75 and 80 percent of school jurisdictions' budgets. Fact 4-The average cost of certificated teachers' salaries and insurance benefits to school jurisdictions is 53.5 percent. These figures are taken from material compiled by the Edmonton teachers' locals. If you would like copies call Edmonton Public Teachers at 455-2164. Update- -most recently teachers salaries are now being criticized. The Alberta Tax Payers Association claims teachers are paid too much. Again our society undervalues the work that is most important to our future, our kids. Cuts of any kind are unacceptable. Money can be saved by trimming down a top heavy government and all the excess they enjoy. Our politicians can set examples for the rest of

the province and take a pay cut and benefits cuts today. Write today, write often!

•There is a great deal of pressure on the provincial government to do away with the Alberta Advisory Council on Women's Issues (AACWI), the Alberta Secretariat, and the Human Rights Commission. The government says it is not hearing any support for these departments. The continued existence of these bodies is **VITAL** to women's and human rights in our province. Please visit your M.L.A., write Premier Klein and Community Development Minister Gary Mar to voice support.

Saving the Human Rights Commission - Can it be done?

Public opinion is being sought as part of the review of the Alberta Human Rights Commission. You are encouraged, either as an individual or as a group to submit something in writing to the review panel on how you think the commission can be strengthened and why you think a Human Rights Commission is necessary in this province. Rumors have abounded in the past few months about dismantling the commission and apparently numerous submissions have already been made to the government which echo this view. Submissions, letters, and opinions are being received until the end of January, so if you feel that the Human Rights Commission is necessary and that the Individual Rights Protection Act (the provincial legislation which governs the commission) should be expanded and maintained, please send in your comments today!

Some of the issues you may want to address....

- 1) expanding the IRPA to include sexual orientation and source of income as a prohibited grounds of discrimination
 - 2) making the commission an autonomous body which reports directly to the government instead of to a Minister
 - 3) making the commission take on a stronger role in human rights advocacy and education
 - 4) changing the IRPA to include systemic discrimination
 - 5) ensuring that the commission and its process are accessible to all Albertans
 - 6) or simply voicing that its existence is important to you
- Send your submission to:
Public Review
Alberta Human Rights Commission
801, 10011-109 Street
Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 3S8
and please copy it to an ASWAC office near you.
For more information, or a copy of the Individual Rights Protection Act (IRPA), please contact ASWAC.

Hug These Women

The following women have helped in many ways and without the continuing efforts of these women, we would cease to be. Thank you for your wonderful energy and your valuable time.

A big hug to these women who stuffed and mailed out all your newsletters, Del Marlow, Kim Campbell, Aine Humble, Dorothy Mandy, Christine Leonard, Karen Howell.

Hugs and kisses to Maureen Hill, who has been representing ASWAC at a past health conference and several other meetings.

Many hugs and thanks to all the sponsors for the PAC brochures. See "One Step Forward, Two Steps Back" for a complete listing of sponsors.

Hug these Calgary Take Back The Night volunteers. Patty Nowlin, Carolyn Lewis, Evonne Ell, Diane Altwasser, Laurie Anderson, Linda Saurette, Kari Welsh, Mary Johnson, Chris Ceci, Nancy Miller, and all others who helped throughout the year and on September 17th to make the march a big success.

These women volunteered their time to organize the Edmonton Take Back The Night March/Rally, Christine Leonard, Jackie Yurko, Miriam Reid, Debbie Bryson, Lenore Lemay, Aine Humble, Moyra Lang, Susan Grinder, Karen Matthews, Valerie Torgerson. Thanks to all who attended and made this years event so wonderful. Without community support we would go the way of the Tories (they used to be a political party in Canada).

Hugs and kisses to Sharon Wilson, Tanya Stewart, Cara Schlenker, Donna Macki who provided ASWAC with support around the PAC project.

These names often appear in this section. These women have provided so much support to ASWAC we don't know how to thank them enough, so we just keep writing them in this column. Big thanks to Del Marlow, Christine Leonard, Jenny Kain, Maureen Hill, Aine Humble, Dorothy Mandy, Kim Campbell (not from Vancouver), Faye Wheeler, Pam Krause, Jane Pawson, Sharon Reiner, Nancy Miller, Debbie Bryson.

Kisses and hugs to these women who have been working hard to ensure Calgary has a new feminist Sexual Assault Centre soon. Merrill Cooper, Terry Keelan, Patricia Okahashi, Joy Tidalgo, Kim Shook, Anne McGrath, Catherine Wong Chow, Nancy Miller, Diane Altwasser, Deborah Roth John, Fran Smith, Rita Wong, Melanie McLachlin, Michelle Clarke, Michele Butot, Susan Gardiner, Gerri Lynne Benoit.

A special hug for Jean Munn, Merrill Cooper and Michelle Sharp.

ASWAC would like to appreciate all the women who ran in the provincial and federal elections, especially the ASWAC members, we thank you!

A special thanks to Sharon Reiner and Nancy Miller who have been keeping the ship afloat during the last two months. They are too wonderful.

Hugs, kisses and farewell to Marian Lariviere who has left the Board. We wish you well in all your endeavors. Stay in touch!

Hugs to Cafe La Gare who continue to sell our mugs and support our projects! Thanks Vicky and all staff.

ASWAC Members Information Page

Employment Opportunity (ies)

Edmonton Working Women (EWW) has recently applied for an annual grant. Should it be approved, we expect to be able to contract for a start date of (approximately) mid January. This year's application consists of two projects, each lasting approximately four months. Project 2 would follow the completion of project 1. We will consider potential applicants for one or both projects. Please specify the project you're interested in, expected pay, references and any other details you consider relevant. As we are currently operating without staff, resumes, details and inquires will be accepted by mail only. No calls please! We may not be able to acknowledge receipt of application packages. Thank you for your interest.

Job Duties

Ability to work independently and with others
Computer Experience (IBM Compatible, preferred) essential
Experience with volunteer coordination, women's groups and collective functioning definite assets for both projects.

Project 1 Organizational Development Coordinator

As a member of the collective and under its direction, you will be responsible for clerical, administrative, organizational, outreach and coordinating duties aimed primarily at addressing excessive demands, limitations and internal functioning of EWW collective.

Project 2 Sexual Harassment Researcher

As a member of the collective and under its direction, you will be responsible for clerical, administrative, analytical, organizational writing, liaison and coordinating duties aimed at completion of a Feminist Sexual Harassment Research Report. Desk top publishing and knowledge of subject definite assets.

Apply in writing to:
Hiring Committee
Edmonton Working Women
#30, 9930-106 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 1C7

The Christmas Bureau of Edmonton is requesting help in reaching people in need, who may be experiencing financial difficulties this Christmas. Due to some organizational changes, the Bureau will be taking direct referrals of families, two adults sharing accommodation and single adults. We ask that you first check with the people to ensure they would like to be referred to the Christmas Bureau. We are accepting referrals immediately. Deadline for referrals is December 9th, 1993. Please call Diane, Chris or Shawne at 424-4055.

The Central Alberta Women's Outreach Society is located at 109-4818 Gaetz Ave, Red Deer, T4N 4A3. Mission statement: A Central Alberta Women's Outreach Society promotes involvement of women in activities aimed at understanding and improving the social, political, and economic position of women living in both rural and urban Central Alberta.

DEMONSTRATE YOUR SUPPORT



Subscribe Now to

HERIZONS
WOMEN'S NEWS & FEMINIST VIEWS

and we'll donate \$5 of your
subscription to ASWAC!

You'll get a year's subscription to
HERIZONS - a national magazine full of
women's news and feminist views from
across the country - feature articles, regular
columns, reviews, satire and more! And
ASWAC will get money too!



Sign up today and support 2 feminist organizations!

Subscription Order Form

Yes! I've enclosed \$22.50 for each subscription.
Please send a \$5 donation to ASWAC.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____

Postal Code: _____



MAIL TO: HERIZONS Box 128, Winnipeg, MB R3C 2G1

News From NAC

With excerpts from ACTION NOW!

"NAC's Election campaign was a huge effort made possible by thousands of volunteer hours and a substantial portion of NAC's annual budget."

In Alberta, I attempted to distribute NAC information, as widely as possible. I attended 5 planning meetings, 12 forums, supplied literature for an additional 8 forums as well as to a number of organizations and individuals. I traveled 223 kms, spent approximately 50 hours and managed to distribute about 1500 pieces of NAC literature. I didn't feel it was enough and when I saw the election results I felt that perhaps it hadn't been the right kind of information.

"Of serious concern... is the election of candidates from the Reform Party in Alberta and B.C. Having run on an openly racist and sexist platform, Reform candidates will undoubtedly try to shift political priorities further to the right."

"Continue to make anti-racist work an integral part of your organization's work. Work with other women's groups to counter the influence of the Reform Party. Monitor Reform Party events in your area and continue to expose its sexism and racism."

In my travels and efforts, I also distributed the ASWAC Political Action leaflets and sold *NAC Voters' Guides*. I worked with other Albertans to plan two protest rallies against our provincial government.

"We now need to rest, take stock - and set out with renewed energy and resources to insure that the issues of women's health, women's work, childcare and violence are understood and addressed by our new government."

"The election of a Liberal majority has stemmed the right-wing agenda of the Conservatives for the immediate future. But while the Liberal Party has shown more willingness than the Tories to address women's issues, NAC and other equality seeking organizations will have a key role to play in ensuring equality rights are not put on the back burner."

"Set up a meeting with your local Liberal MP in collaboration with other NAC member groups to discuss immediate fulfillment of election promises. Make sure they know what women in your area are

concerned about!"

NAC Voters' Guides are still available from ASWAC, or me, and are a good source of NAC policy.

"Your support is needed more than ever. NAC has launched an emergency campaign to insure that we have sufficient, secure funds to continue with this work. Join the Action Fund and be one of those V.I.Ps (Very Interested Person) who give a small monthly gift of \$10, \$15 or \$20 to NAC. It's easy - your donation is automatically deducted from your chequing or charge account. ACT NOW!"

Action Fund forms are enclosed with this Newsletter. Please use the form and encourage other women to support NAC and join the Action Fund.

Dorothy Mandy NAC Regional Rep. 451-0933.

We've received a number of phone calls asking us about this year's logo, and requests to use the logo in other publications we regret that we did not mention the artist. The artist that designed this year's Take Back The Night logo is Leslie Drisdale from Calgary. We apologize for not including Leslie in our last issue. We thank you very much for this year's beautiful logo.

The advisory body to the federal government on women's issues released its latest publication entitled *Expanding Our Horizons: The Work of the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women and Its Context*, written by feminist activist and writer Anne Molgat. This book was commissioned by CACSW in honour of its 20th anniversary this year. For more information, contact Ellen Adelberg at 613-995-2781.

A new poster documenting a woman-positive literacy project co-ordinated by the Canadian Congress for Learning Opportunities for Women, (CLOW), is being distributed to interested groups. The poster - *Discovering the Strength of our Voices* - highlights woman-positive activities organized by 12 literacy programs from across the country. Further documentation of the project, including a book outlining preliminary research, detailed descriptions of the programs and activities, and written materials produced by the women participants are also available. Contact CLOW at 47 Main Street, Toronto, M4E 2V6. Telephone: 416-699-1909. Fax: 416-699-2145.

Political Action Campaign

One Step Forward, Two Steps Back

ASWAC's Political Action Campaign (both provincially and federally) was strongly embraced by many volunteers and active ASWAC members across the province from the first annual provincial lobby day to the poster/brochure campaign for the federal election. Despite the limited resources available and the setbacks encountered, the campaign was a success in that ASWAC's membership increased and awareness was raised.

Unfortunately women's issues and social issues did not draw much public attention in either election, but it was not for lack of trying. Now that the federal election is over, and the provincial government is clear about where they stand on women's issues, let's keep up the pace and not let the government forget about half the population. The election material produced both by ASWAC and by NAC are still available through the provincial offices, and even though they were primarily designed to coincide with the elections, the material is still very relevant and timely. Members are encouraged to use the NAC Voter's Guide and the Political Action material as discussion and lobbying tools. As individual ASWAC members and as an organization, our work is clearly cut out for us.

The Political Action Campaign drained much of ASWAC's financial resources and now future projects are in serious jeopardy. Donations of any amount are encouraged in order to fund the ongoing struggle of promoting the status of women in Alberta.

ASWAC would like to thank the following Political Action Campaign financial supporters thus far... (it's not too late to donate!)

The Edmonton Business and Professional Women who sponsored a brochure by donating the costs to print it. Thanks so much.

The Alberta New Democrat Women's Caucus who also sponsored a brochure by donating funds to cover printing costs.

The Alberta Union of Provincial Employees (A.U.P.E.) for printing all our brochures. Special thanks to the women in the mail room and Carol Ann Dean.

The Canadian Union of Educational Workers Local 11 - Athabasca University. Thanks for your donation and support.

Thanks to everyone who purchased a *NAC Voter's Guide*. It's not too late to get one.

With out the continuing support our projects would not be realized. Again thanks to everyone and the individual members who gave money, time and energy to this project.

Have you had a moving experience? If your name or the name of someone you know appears here, then yes a moving experience has taken place and we can't find you. Annette Ruitenbeck, Jane Rowat, Leslie McLean, Nancy Cullen, Lorena Hodges, Pam Harper, Deborah Hollins, Suzanne Sleight, Zunquia Nilankantha, Barbara Beckham. Where are you?

Victims' Assistance Program

Information and support for victims' and witnesses of crime who are going through the court process. A free service offered by the Edmonton John Howard Society. Call a Court Support Worker at 944-9388.

Visit Woman To Woman Books

We will be selling books at the following venues in Edmonton:

Boystown Cafe, every Thursday 8:00 to 10:00 pm, now through to December 16th. Buy books, talk about books, drink fine coffee and listen to great women's music. We'll be at the Riverdale women's dance on December 10th. See you all there!

The Women's Law Forum is selling T-Shirts for \$15, black with shocking pink lettering: Viva the "F Word" on the front. "Celebrate Feminism" on the back. Also available, Herstory: The Canadian Women's Calendar, on sale for \$10. This is a fundraising project for the Women's Law Forum.

The Women's Law Forum/National Association of Women and the Law can be reached c/o Faculty of Law 4th Floor, Law Centre, University of Alberta, Edmonton, T6G 2H5 or leave a note in Room 108B, Law Centre, or call 492-2500.

The United Nurses Association (UNA) has set up a toll free **Health Hotline** and wants to hear from you if you have been affected by the recent cuts to health care. Call them at **1-800-667-1379**.

The NAC Voters' Guide

Available from ASWAC for only \$4.95
Call Today! 421-0306 (Edmonton) 233-0731(Calgary)

The National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC) has produced this concise summary of the key issues affecting women in Canada today.

NOW, MORE THAN EVER...GET INFORMED!!!



**50% savings.
100% fun.**

Save 50% on almost everything. Dining, movies, sports, theatre, travel, hotels, and more.

entertainment.
SINCE 1962

**SUPPORT ASWAC
AND SAVE!**
CALL 421-0306 (EDMONTON)

ONLY \$40.66



I SUPPORT WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN ALBERTA

- I want to renew my membership to ASWAC
- Enclosed is my one-year membership fee of \$20.00
- I can't afford the \$20.00 membership fee at this time
Enclosed is \$ _____
- I have enclosed \$5.00+2.00 (s/h) for my own copy of the *NAC Voter's Guide*

Enclosed is my donation.
Please distribute as follows:

- \$ _____ to the Political Action Campaign
- \$ _____ to reprint *Women Against Poverty*
- \$ _____ to daily referrals/operations/research
- \$ _____ to ASWAC Newsletter production
- \$ _____ to travel and child care expenses
- \$ _____ to lobbying efforts

Name
Address
City/town
Postal Code
Phone (day)
Phone (eve)

I'd like to buy "gift" memberships for the following people:

Name	Name
Address	Address
City/town	City/town
Postal Code	Postal Code
Phone (day)	Phone (day)
Phone (eve)	Phone (eve)

Membership fees are an important source of ASWAC revenue, but more importantly, your membership means a vote in support of increasing the status of women in Alberta. Whether or not you can afford our suggested fee of \$20.00, it is important to keep your membership up to date (check your address label for renewal month). Renew early. Don't wait for the membership renewal invoice to send in your fee. All mail, and now our business reply mail, costs ASWAC one dollar which can be put towards programming, lobbying and advocacy work. As it is now, ASWAC is looking at only operating 9 months out of the year, due to continued cutbacks in federal funds. If we can double or triple our membership, we can keep operating all year. Please sign up new members, buy memberships for your friends, and make donations if you can. **ASWAC's membership base is our most important resource.**

Make cheques payable to ASWAC, Box 1573, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 2N7 (421-0306 in Edmonton or 233-0731 in Calgary)



PASSP

PUBLIC AWARENESS OF SEXUAL STEREOTYPING & PORNOGRAPHY (PASSP)

PASSP's new INFORMATION KITS are now ready!

Our PORNOGRAPHY HURTS! KIT contains sections entitled: DEFINITIONS, CHILDREN & YOUTHS, FACTS, LINKS / OTHER CULTURES, STUDIES / GENERAL INFO, CENSORSHIP?!, ACTIONS / CHANGES, WHAT CAN YOU DO?.

Our SEXUAL STEREOTYPING KIT contains sections entitled: DEFINITIONS, CHILDREN & YOUTHS, FACTS, OTHER CULTURES, CHALLENGES, SEX-ROLE PORTRAYAL CODE, ACTIONS / CHANGES, WHAT CAN YOU DO?.

To order your copies write to:

PASSP

#209 9246 - 34 A AVENUE

EDMONTON, ALBERTA

T6E 5P4

or call: (403) 450-4777

INFORMATION KITS are \$10.00 each (enclose \$2 each for mailing & handling).
