
ALBERTA STATUS OF WOMEN ACTION COMMITTEE

September/October 1994

Volume IV, Number 6

Colourful! Eye-catching! Exclusively yours!

HOW TO BE A FABULOUS FEMINIST

FIGHT SEXISM. DO IT NOW SAY YES TO FEMALE-
TO JUSTICE- TO FREEDOM- LOVE YOURSELF, love other
WOMEN. SAY NO! GET ANGRY, GET ACTIVE. DON'T AGONIZE-
ORGANIZE. FIGHT RACISM- CLASSISM- AGEISM- HOMOPHOBIA-
SIZISM AND ABLEISM. LOWER PAIN AND ISOLATION.
RAISE CONSCIOUSNESS, RAISE SELF ESTEEM. THINK
GLOBALLY- ACT LOCALLY. AVOID BURNOUT. BE WOMAN
IDENTIFIED. CREATE SAFETY. TAKE RISKS. TAKE YOUR
POWER BACK. DO IT NOW. LIVE EQUALITY. THANK YOURSELF.
CELEBRATE WOMEN SURVIVORS. INVENT NEW HERSTORY.
SHATTER MYTHS. PIONEER, TRAILBLAZE. DISCOVER SHE-
HER- WE- I- WOMAN. HONOR LESBIANS. SAY YES TO POWER.
LOVE YOUR BODY. DECORATE YOURSELF ANYWAY YOU
LIKE. HAVE HAPPY SEX. VISUALIZE PERFECT BIRTH
CONTROL. KEEP ABORTION SAFE, LEGAL AND ACCESSIBLE.
HELP A MOTHER TODAY. MAKE EVERY CHILD A FUNDED
CHILD. PRAISE REBEL SPINSTERS. DO IT NOW. BE A
WOMAN'S MOVEMENT. VOTE, MARCH, GIRL COTT, LOBBY.
WRITE LETTERS. ELECT PROGRESSIVE WOMEN. WIN THE ERA.
STOP THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN. DEMAND ECONOMIC
JUSTICE FOR ALL. SAY YES TO MORE MONEY. FUN-RAISE,
RAISE HELL. DO IT NOW. CHERISH YOUR MOTHER
EARTH. BE ANTI-WAR. LIBERATE OPPRESSION. THINK
HUMANARCHY. MAKE PEACE WITH MEN. BE A MOVER
AND A SHAKER. SUPPORT BAD GIRLS. JOIN A FEMINIST
POLITICAL ORGANIZATION. VOLUNTEER, GIVE LOVE, GIVE
MONEY. GET POWERFUL, GET RESPECT. HEAL YOURSELF,
HEAL THE WORLD. COLLECT FABULOUS MEMORIES.
DO IT TO WIN!!!

SA 187 Copyright ©1992 Helen Grieco. By two best women friends! Words by Helen Grieco, title & art by SARK. Published by Celestial Arts.
PO Box 7327 Berkeley California 94707. Printed in the USA. World rights reserved. 1-800-841-2665.

Make a statement at home, office or school with ASWAC's new
fundraising poster.

\$15 - print \$25 - drymounted \$45 in an attractive frame of your
choice.

**The Alberta Status of Women Action
Committee
(ASWAC)**

1994-95 Board Members

Calgary 233-0731
Laurie Anderson
Nancy Miller
Corrine Younie
Cochrane
Pip Farrar
Edmonton 421-0306
Margot Beamish
Sheila Dunphy
Sherry Gettis
Aine Humble
Moyra Lang
Del Marlow
Bev Palibroda
Sharon Reiner
Malinda Smith
Fort McMurray
Francine Wilson
Ponoka
Liz Wetheral

Regional Representatives

Fort McMurray
Leah Spelliscy
Innisfail
Ruth Bergeron
Westrose
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. SW
T2R 0G9
Fax: 269-2012
Phone: 233-0731

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

From the Newsroom

Our newsletter is an ideal way to advertise your events, resources or services to the women of Alberta as well as supporting ASWAC.

The next deadline for submissions is **November 10** publication date is **November 24**, 1994.

We welcome your thoughts, ideas, concerns, submissions and advertisements. Please send to ASWAC Edmonton, Attention Newsletter.

...In passing, also, I would like to say that the first time Adam had a chance he laid blame on a woman.

Nancy Astor.

Support ASWAC, save money, buy an entertainment book. Call 421-0306 to order yours today! This is a fundraising event for ongoing ASWAC projects. Buy today! Buy often!

\$40.66 includes GST. Hundreds of coupons, lots of new places!

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

EDMONTON

By Lenore LeMay

Every September, all over North America and usually on the same night, women march in the streets. We march to Take Back The Night, because we know that violence occurs in the home, in the workplace, at school and on the streets and it can occur at any time of the day or night.

We've been marching in Take Back The Night (TBTN) marches for 20 years. Is it doing any good? Has anything changed? Sometimes it doesn't feel like it. I get so weary and angry when I see and feel the damage done to me and other women I know or work with. I am weary of the burden of fear that we all carry. It saps our spirit. It forces us to focus only on survival. I am enraged that our precious women energy must be diverted in this way. However, things are changing, slowly. Women continue to bravely leave abusive partners, courageously uncover memories of incest and/or emotional and physical abuse, and break the silence and reach out to grow and heal. The consciousness of individuals, the mental health profession, and judicial system have been profoundly changed by the work of feminists. The response and support for abused women and children is improving. Denial is strong and the backlash is alive and (un)well. We must continue to fight and raise awareness about violence in all of its forms.

I march in Take Back The Night because it is one constructive way that I deal with my outrage, my exhaustion and my terror at the incessant violence against women and children. The violence that is perpetuated by those in positions of trust as well as complete strangers; violence that includes emotional, physical and sexual abuse, sexual harassment, stalking, and the threat of violence. The numbers of women who march grows each year. It is our opportunity to celebrate our strength and courage, to channel our rage and frustration, to commit to continue to work towards change and to collectively shatter the silence and demand: **NO MORE VIOLENCE!**

Come and march. Bring your friends and children. Join us on Friday, **September 16** at 8:00 pm at the Gazebo Park, 83 Avenue and 104 Street for a rally and then the march.

We have TBTN T-shirts available for sale now and at the march.

All proceeds go to the TBTN Rally and March. For more information call Lenore or Debbie at 488-4949. See you there!



INVESTORS GROUP FINANCIAL SERVICES INC.

Susan M. Young, B.P.H.E., M.B.A.

Representative

#302, 5010 - 43rd St.

Red Deer, Alberta T4N 6H2

Telephone: Bus: (403) 343-7030 or 1-800-465-5212

Fax: 341-5450

CALGARY

Calgary's 1994 march begins with a rally at 7:00 pm, Saturday, **September 17**, at Memorial Park. A dance will be held after the march at Bridgeland-Riverside Community Association.

The "Take Back The Night" slogan was first used as a theme for a national protest march on San Francisco's pornography strip. The march took place at night, in the spirit of many similar events taking place all over the world.

Since the early 1970s women around the world have taken to the streets at night to protest violence against women. Calgary women have been marching since 1981.

Men are asked not to participate in the march itself because women are marching to make a statement about women's right to be safe at night without men's protection. However, men are invited to attend the opening rally, line the march route to show solidarity and support, volunteer child care so women can march, and to join in the celebrations afterward.

General Facts About Violence Against Women

In Canada, an average of just over 60% of homicides against women are committed by men they are acquainted with, or are involved with in a domestic situation.

Over 23% of all violent acts against women involve a spouse.

Half of Canadian women, before the age of 16, have experienced at least one incident of violence.

Half of the reported violence against women is by men they know while 25% is committed by a stranger.

A quarter of all women have experienced violence at the hands of a current or previous marital partner.

General Facts About Sexual Assault Against Women

Sexual assault is forced and unwanted sexual contact ranging from fondling to sexual intercourse. This is a crime of violence and an abuse of power.

One in four girls will be sexually assaulted by the age of seventeen.

Sexual assault is committed more frequently and reported less than any other violent crime in Canada.

A Demonstration Organized by Women for Women

To stand together as women, refusing to be silent about violence done to us by men;

to state our refusal to take responsibility for sexual harassment, sexual assault, battering and incest;

to celebrate the steps we are taking to support each other and to create change;

to remind each other that as individuals we have strength and together we are even stronger, and

to shout out our desire to live freely without the threat of violence!

JOIN US IN SOLIDARITY!

Feature Continued

PERSONS DAY - OCTOBER 18

Emily Murphy was the leader of the "Famous Five" Alberta women who championed the cause of Canadian women in the lengthy legal and political battle known as the Persons Case. The case culminated in the decision rendered on October 18, 1929, which legally recognized women as persons, declaring them eligible for appointment to the Senate of Canada.

Emily was born in Ontario in 1868, was married at age 19 and moved out west to Alberta in 1903. At the turn of the century, women could not yet vote; neither could they buy a homestead of their own. Prior to the Alberta Dower Act of 1911, a woman might bear a large family and labour from dawn to dusk in the development of her husband's property, only to be disinherited upon death or desertion. Indeed, overwork and loneliness faced many women at that time.

The women of the Canadian West, however, were beginning to congregate and organize, both for companionship and to improve their lives. The strength and confidence they gained from the Women's Institutes, the Grain Grower's Guilds, the United Farm Workers and other group meetings was an important step towards future events.

In 1916, Emily Murphy was appointed the first magistrate of the Women's Court in Edmonton. On her first day in court, Judge Emily Murphy's authority was challenged on the grounds that she was not a person. The defence lawyer, who challenged her, based his case on English common law which states that: "Women are persons in matters of pains and penalties, but are not persons in matters of rights and privileges." The lawyer went on to say that: "...since the office of magistrate is a privilege, the present incumbent is here illegally. No decision of her court can be binding."

This oppressive taunt was overruled by the Supreme Court of Alberta on the grounds of "reason and good sense". This was a small victory for Canadian women, but a bigger battle was on the horizon.

In 1918, full federal franchise was extended to women, and 1921 saw the election of Agnes Macphail as Canada's first woman Member of Parliament. Nevertheless, repeat requests by individuals and women's groups for the appointment of a woman to the senate had been turned down or ignored.

Section 24 of the British North America (BNA) Act stated that "the Governor General shall... summon qualified persons to the Senate." Women were being excluded from appointments to that Chamber on the grounds that they were not "persons."

In 1927, Emily Murphy decided to exercise a little known right which permitted any five Canadians to ask Supreme Court of Canada for a legal reinterpretation. In this case, they would ask that the word "persons" in the BNA include women.

Four women joined Emily Murphy in the petition. They were all from Alberta, all were well known and respected throughout Canada for their work in national organizations and political life. They were Nellie McClung, Louise McKinney, Irene Parlby and Henrietta Muir Edwards. In August 1927, these five would-be persons gathered on Emily Murphy's veranda in Edmonton. That afternoon the historic petition was signed and dispatched.

But nine months later, in April 1928, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled against the "Famous Five", shattering their hopes. Although dismayed and indignant, they were determined. The five met again and resolved to take their case to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London, England, which was, at that time, the final court of appeal for Canadians.

"Women are persons in matters of pains and penalties, but are not persons in matters of rights and privileges."

On October 18, 1929, after four days of deliberations, the Privy Council declared Canadian women to be persons. The BNA Act was changed. A year later, in 1930, Cairine Wilson was appointed the first woman to sit in the Senate of Canada. The efforts of the "Famous Five" were recognized in 1938 with the placement of a memorial plaque in the foyer of the Senate Chamber in Ottawa. In 1979, on the 50th anniversary of the Privy Council's historic decision, the Government of Canada instituted the Governor General's Award in Commemoration of the Persons Case to recognize outstanding contributions towards promoting the equality of women in Canada.

ASWAC's own Gerry Bailey won the Persons Award in 1990. As women we still struggle to improve our status. A simple way to ensure these efforts are continued is to support your local feminist organizations and remember the struggles our mothers and their mothers faced so that today we can move forward. Let's celebrate October 18th, 1994, by honouring all those women before us and their struggles and ensure we move ahead not backwards, as many of the current political agendas have us heading.

CORPORATE
IMAGE CONSULTANTS

- CUSTOM FRAMING
- PHOTOGRAPHY

BEV PALIBRODA
4 3 8 - 8 0 4 9

IMAGE

Alberta Feminist Calendar

CANMORE

Bow Valley Women's Resource Center in Canmore has arranged charter transportation of the Take Back The Night march in Calgary - September 17. The bus leaves BVWRC at 6:00 pm. Children are welcome. For more details phone 678-4071.

CALGARY

Every month Celebrating Women is an evening of presentations by women artists and performers, usually one of the last two Mondays of the month at 8:00 pm at the Republik, 219 - 17 Avenue SW For exact date, if you want to perform, or for other information, call Kerry at 244-7732.

The Outreach Program for the Native Women's Shelter accepts referrals from all local agencies. Our two weekly healing circles, Monday evening and Wednesday afternoon are open to anyone who is interested. For more information call 531-1970.

September 12 to December 5 : Beyond Survival: "Discovering Pathways to Healing" a therapy group for university women who experienced sexual abuse as children and/or teenagers. Participants must be registered U of C students. For information or a pre-screening interview call 220-5893. Cost is \$10 to cover materials.

Wednesday, September 14 - Common Front Coalition to Fight Government Cutbacks 7:00 pm sharp at 400, 540 - 12 Avenue SW Phone 265-2672.

Thursday, September 15: The 6th Annual herland: a feminist film and video festival celebration is accepting submissions. Deadline for film and video submissions (or a statement of intent to submit) is September 15. Contact the Calgary Status of Women Action Committee at 262-1873 for more information.

Saturday, September 17: Calgary's 13th Annual Take Back The Night March. Rally begins at 7:00 pm at Memorial Park, 4 Street and 12 Avenue SW. A dance will be held after the march (about 9:00 pm) at Bridgeland-Riverside Community Association. The dance is wheelchair accessible. Marchers are encouraged to wear bright, comfortable clothing or costumes, and to bring noisemakers and pots and pans. Information brochures available at Arusha and A Woman's Place Books. For further information call Geri at 270-8350.

Tuesday, September 20: The Calgary Status of Women and the NFB present "When Women Kill" a video about battered women who, after years of abuse, kill their abusers. 7:30 pm at the WR Castell Library Theatre. Director Barbara Doran will be in attendance. Free admission, refreshments will be served. For more information call 262-1873.

Wednesday, September 21 - Calgary Women's Network breakfast meeting, at 7:00 am at the Delta Bow Valley Hotel. Speaker Gerri Manyfingers - Native Issues. For information and registration, call 283-5994.

Thursday, September 29: Maureen McTeer will be the keynote speaker at the Calgary Association of Women and the Law Annual General Meeting and Dinner at Sorrenti's Restaurant, at 6:00 pm. All are welcome. Ms McTeer will be speaking on New Reproductive Technologies. Ticket prices are \$20 for students/under employed and \$25 for all others. Call Michelle at 294-0737 for details and tickets.

Sunday, October 2 - Calgary Birth Control Association Annual Brunch, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm at the Triwood Community Association. The topic is Sexuality and Disability. Tickets \$12 available from staff, volunteers or the office at 283-5580.

Friday, October 21 and 22 - Planet Birth, a childbirth conference for professionals and public, that explores using our natural resources wisely. Sponsored by CAPSAC (Calgary Association of Parents and Professionals for Safe Alternatives in Childbirth). For more information call Sandra Botting at 275-3397.

The second Wednesday of each month the Calgary Poverty Focus Group meets at 7:00 pm at the John Howard Society office, 2nd floor, 1010-1 Street SW For more information, call Marilyn at 235-1339. Also anyone interested in working on regular radio programming for the Poverty Focus Group call Marilyn.

Lesbian Mothers' Support Society regular meeting every Tuesday at 7:00 pm in room 200A of the Old Y Building, 223-12 Ave SW. For more information, call Penni at 278-2927.

The third Wednesday of each month Action Canada Network meets at 7:00 pm at #307, 315-10 Ave SE. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call Amy at 286-1058 or Yvonne at 240-0311.

Sunday, November 4 - 6: The National Organization of Immigrant and Visible Minority Women (NOIVMWC) will be holding their biennial general meeting in Calgary. For more information, or to get involved, Call Kamal at 262-8040.

The Women of Colour Collective is a feminist organization of Canadian women of colour who come together to share and affirm pride in our colour. If you are a woman of colour looking for community, please contact us at 232-8458.

The Gettis Group

- harassment awareness
- policy development
- group training
- train-the-trainer

Sherry L. Gettis
Workplace Consultant and Educator

Tel/Fax: 444-0635
Cellular: 990-7866

10735 - 154 Street
Edmonton, AB
T5P 2J4

Calendar

EDMONTON

Friday, September 16 - 8:00 pm Take Back The Night at Gazebo Park, 83 Ave and 104 Street. Women Unite. Join in Taking Back The Night. Come and march. Bring candles, placards and noisemakers.

Saturday, September 17: Orchestrate lusty, steamy, sexy nights for hundreds of women...become a dance co-ordinator! If interested, leave your name and number on the answering machine at 425-0511. The next dance Womospace is Sept. 17.

Saturday, September 24 - Rural Feminist Brunch at 11:00 am. Come out, enjoy pleasant conversation, good food and a good time! Exact location to be decided. Call Gerry Bailey at 586-2983 in Wetaskiwin for more information.

Sunday, October 2: Another Blockbuster Event The 1994 AIDS WALK FOR LIFE! Please plan to participate! Your help is still needed....every step of the way. Watch your mailbox for details or call the AIDS Network at 488-5742. Ask for the AIDS Walk office.

Sunday, October 23: Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation. Do something for someone you love. Run for it. Butterdome, University of Alberta, 5 km run/walk, 1 km walk, team challenge or run information hotline 988-3511.

Friday, November 4-5: Edmonton Women's Shelter together with the Alberta Ballet, is commemorating its 25th year as a sheltering agency with a major fund-raising event. It will include dinner, silent auction and ballet all in the Jubilee Auditorium. "Angel with a Lariat" will be performed by the Ballet. It has yet to be decided on which night our fund-raiser will occur. We will keep you posted. For more information please call 471-6709.

January 27-28, 1995 : You are invited to interact with Farm Women at the Fifth Biennial Conference of Alberta Farm Women, organized by the Alberta Farm Women's Network. Conference theme is "Common Ground," and will be held on January 27 and 28, 1995 at the Royal West Inn, Edmonton. Informal interaction Friday morning, display and space and presentation time by invitation and request. Organizations and other networks welcome. Formal conference format Friday afternoon, and on Friday evening a banquet and introduction of farm women selected by their communities as extraordinary people. Banquet address, Nanci Langford, historical sociologist and author of the soon to be published book, *Politics, Pitchforks and Pickle Jars—a history of organized Farm Women in Alberta*. Saturday - Industrialized Agriculture from economic, ecological and ethical perspectives. Then a luncheon and award of Alberta Farm Women of the Year. For further information please contact Janet Walter, Red Deer, 347-0660 or Christine Mitzner, Strathmore, 934-3196.

Breaking Barriers

"BREAKING THE BARRIERS: INCREASING ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION FOR WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES" - PHASE I

Since the beginning of the year, several ASWAC board members have been heavily involved in Women Looking Forward (WLF) "Breaking the Barriers", a project aimed at assessing and improving the accessibility and safety of Calgary Transportation systems used by women with disabilities.

WLF is an umbrella association for groups and individuals promoting women's equality. ASWAC is a member and has representation on WLF's Board.

It is well documented that women with disabilities are at much higher risk than their non-disabled peers for experiencing assault. So it was not entirely surprising that WLF's Board of Directors were approached by a group of women with disabilities and asked to study accessibility and safety issues for women with disabilities using transportation in Calgary. Each woman reported that she had experienced at least one incident of abuse, sexual harassment, physical or sexual assault, or threat of assault within the past year while using the transportation system. These experiences appeared to be alarmingly common and, as there are no alternative forms of transportation, the women were afraid to speak out.

WLF took on the task and obtained funding from Health and Welfare with Secretary of State. The study has two parts. Part 1 includes interviews with women with disabilities, front line workers and agencies serving people with disabilities to determine their experiences with the various transportation systems, and safety audits of public locations. These tasks are nearly complete. Once the data is entered the final report will be written. Part 2 will implement measures to increase access and participation.

Throughout the study, women with disabilities have been critically involved as collaborators, interviewers and auditors as well as "subjects". ASWAC's Calgary board members have played an important role on the advisory committee for this study but have gained far more from the opportunity to listen and work with our sisters who have a disability.

ASWAC thanks Corrine Younie, who has served as an ongoing project advisor as well as Advisory Committee member, and Pip Farrar and Laurie Anderson, who have served as both the Project Team and as Advisory Committee members, for their intensive work on this project.

Sister Support

THE WORTH CENTRE

By Marie Laing

The WORTH (Women's Recovery Treatment and Healing) Centre, a branch society of the Jellinek Society, opened its doors to addicted and abused women and their children in October 1993. The programming was founded on research which indicated that 75% of alcohol and/or drug addicted women had suffered physical and/or sexual abuse and that many of these women had children who had needs of their own.

The WORTH Centre is a feminist agency with a commitment to feminist principles in both analysis and practice. We were staffed by a multidisciplinary (nurse, social worker, children and youth counsellor, women's counsellor, and psychologist) self-managed team. We entered into partnership with the women who came to us in order to facilitate their healing in ways that met their individual needs, enhanced their self-esteem and autonomy and promoted consciousness of the social and political underpinning of violence against women and children.

Our program included one to one and group counselling around abuse and addictions, skill building workshops, a parenting group, and a street survivors' group. It was unique in Canada, and perhaps in North America, inasmuch as we included counselling for children in their own right and worked with mothers on parenting issues.

We challenged the traditional medical model of addiction as we integrated healing from abuse and recovering from addictions in a holistic approach. We conceptualized addictions as a survival strategy that later threatened survival — and recovery requiring healing from the abuse.

We saw funding withdrawn after nine months of what was to be a two year pilot project. Results from the evaluation indicate it was a much needed program that provided safety and an opportunity for healing not available anywhere else. In the words of one of our clients: "closure of the Centre is devastating and tragic."

COMMON FRONT

A vital and energetic new coalition, Common Front, has formed in a cooperative effort to fight the cutbacks in Alberta and to develop an alternative budget. An information clearinghouse has been established at 200, 540-12 Avenue S.W., Calgary, T2R 0H4. Phone 265-2672 (1-800-332-1280 outside Calgary), fax 266-6190. Please forward any and all information on government cutbacks and alternatives to Common Front at the above address.

Update:

Join Alberta's Common Front and stop the "De-Klein" of our province. Concerned people and organizations that were taking on the fight by themselves have decided to work together and support each other. Community Action Teams are being formed throughout the province with a special emphasis on rural communities. If you would like to be included on the mailing list and organize events in your area call the community action team in your area or Sheryl McInnes at the Common Front Provincial Office at 425-1025. Community Action Team Contact List:

Athabasca-Wabasca - Ed Mardell 930-3300 or 1-800-232-7284

Barrhead-Westlock - Judy Hove 674-3197 (h) 674-2221 (w)

Bow Valley - Cindy McCallum 762-4782 (h) 762-2586 (w) or

Susan Ruffo 483-3021 (w)

Calgary - Rebekah Seidel 283-2871 (w)

Edmonton - Del Marlow 462-4850 (h) or Phyllis Matousek 488-4954 (h)

Grande Prairie - Tim Guest 538-0914 (h) 538-7150 (w)

Lac La Biche-St. Paul - Ed Mardell 930-3300 1-800-232-7284

Lesser Slave Lake - Ed Mardell 930-3300 or 1-800-232-7284

Lethbridge - Ronnie Leah 329-0922 (h) 329-2522 (w)

Medicine Hat - Dave Condon 526-1168 (h) 527-2424 (w) Susan Ruffo 483-3021 (w)

Peace River - Ed Mardell 930-3300 or 1-800-232-7284

Pincher Creek-Macleod - Janet Frith 627-5921 (h) 627-3333 (w)

Red Deer - Dianne Wyntjes 343-3353 (w) or Susan Ruffo 483-3021 (w)

Vegreville-Viking - Trudy Richardson 425-1025 (w)

Vermilion-Lloydminster - Jeanette Campbell 853-5305 (w)

West Yellowhead - Susan Ruffo 483-3021 (w)

HAVE YOU BEEN ABUSED AT WORK?

I am collecting stories of women who have been psychologically abused at work. The women I interview define psychological abuse for themselves. The interview is very informal and takes, on average, about an hour and a half. Although the interview session is taped, complete confidentiality is assured. I will make sure that no person or workplace is identifiable in anything I write or publish.

To participate in this project, please contact me sometime in October or November, 1994.

Catherine Bray 431-0616

I am a coordinator of Women's Studies at Athabasca University. My research is both theoretical and action-oriented. I think that people who want social change need to describe abusive situations at work, and publicize our descriptions and analysis, so that we can eventually eliminate this kind of abuse.

ASWAC Events

by Sharon Reiner

National Action Committee on the Status of Women - Annual Meeting Conference

I was pleased to represent Celebration of Women in the Arts as a voting delegate at the 1994 NAC AGM and conference in Ottawa, June 10-13. This year's theme was "International Perspectives: Women and Global Solidarity" and was the largest gathering of NAC delegates at a conference to date.

The conference was exciting, exhausting and incredibly productive. The encouraging representation of women from across Canada, women of colour, aboriginal women, lesbians, young women and women with disabilities made for interesting and well rounded debates on emotional issues which affect us all.

By cooperating with various development agencies and international women's groups, nine international guests joined the conference from India, the USA, Bangladesh, Uganda, Mexico, Peru and Zimbabwe. Throughout the weekend, the guests spoke about the situations from their countries and helped to facilitate workshops. Their words were moving and informative as women from across the globe shared ideas, realized common goals and honoured our different experience. The workshops on New Reproductive Technologies, Global Violence Against Women, A Feminist Approach to Environmental Justice, The Politics of Women's Sexuality, Women's Health, Aboriginal Women, Global Economic Restructuring, and Religious Fundamentalism all focused on the global impact these issues have on women.

The gathering was also an opportunity to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Studio "D". A dance and birthday party was held in their honour on the Saturday evening of the conference, and everyone, especially the international guests appreciated being able to screen "When Women Kill" and "Too Long Dismissed, Women's Rights are Human Rights", two excellent films with powerful messages.

Regional caucuses and constituency groups met throughout the weekend to discuss the over fifty resolutions which came to the floor at the Annual Meeting. The accepted resolutions included NAC adopting a priority campaign on the Social Policy Review, which will have the same magnitude as NAC's work on the Constitutional Referendum and the 1993 Federal Election campaign. Also accepted on the floor was 99 Federal Steps as a working paper which will be developed as NAC policy on violence against women. The Alberta caucus brought two motions to the floor, one condemning the Alberta Government for its repressive attitudes towards gays and lesbians, and one asking that NAC lobby the federal government for increased funding to women's groups through the Women's Program.

About 25 women attended the conference from Alberta NAC groups so a strong Alberta presence was evident, especially in discussing provincial actions on deficit reduction. The NAC Alberta Region recently elected Pam Krause from Calgary as our representative on the NAC executive. Pam will be working with a provincial steering committee to bring Alberta concerns to the

NAC table. She welcomes input from all NAC groups, and encourages members to keep in touch. An idea arising from the Alberta region was to host the 1995 NAC AGM in Calgary so all support for it should be submitted to NAC as soon as possible. NAC adopted policy two years ago to alternate their national conference between Ottawa and other areas of Canada every second year. Unfortunately the conference in Saskatoon in 1993 left NAC with a sizable deficit, but the concept of regional outreach is still supported by the majority and hosting the conference in Alberta next year could bring some perspective to the Alberta people on the policies currently being implemented by this government.

The four day event culminated in NAC's annual Lobby of Parliament Hill. In the past the Progressive Conservative government has refused to meet with NAC, so the group has been forced to meet only with opposition parties. This year, over 20 Liberal government members met with NAC to answer questions and hear concerns. The Official Opposition Bloc Quebecois was also represented, but the Reform Party refused to attend the session. One NAC delegate who resides in Reform Party Leader Preston Manning's riding attempted to meet with her elected representative, but was refused even that, so the group protested Reform Party policies publicly to the media and interested onlookers.

By Moyra Lang

On June 1, 2 and 3 I was given the opportunity to attend a national consultation organized by the Justice Department. Sixty women from across the country gathered to discuss Liberal policy and legislation pertaining to violence against women. This consultation was fashioned after the C-49 consultation that took place in 1992 after the rape shield law was struck down. We used a document called *99 Federal Steps Toward an end to violence against women*, prepared by Lee Lakeman and distributed through NAC. *99 Steps* was used as our bottom line in these discussions. We met as a large group the first morning with the Justice Minister, Allan Rock as well as the Health Minister Diane Marleau and Sheila Finestone. After the Ministers left we discussed process and decided to break into six groups, each group would cover an area of concern. I was in the Law and Order group and we discussed everything from the Young Offenders Act to Sex Trade Workers to the Victims' movement. The majority of women were front line workers who truly are the experts in the field of violence against women. Using *99 Steps* we addressed areas of particular concern. Overall the meeting was a success and we felt heard by the Justice Minister, and hopeful that our concerns would be shared in the Liberal caucus. The Justice Minister has invited us to be consulted on further issues pertaining to women, that date has yet to be announced. To purchase a copy of *99 Steps* (\$4.95) call NAC at 1-800-665-5124.

News from NAC will appear in our next issue.

Write On

Hug These Women



The recent announcement by Human Resources Development Minister Lloyd Axworthy of a Comprehensive Social Policy Review makes this a critical time for social programs. Women must participate fully in creating these future programs to ensure that the needs and concerns of women are identified, recognized and incorporated into the forthcoming programs. To ensure your participation write Lloyd Axworthy at House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6. (No postage required)

Keep the Pressure on Government! You can reach provincial Ministers at the Legislature Building, 10800-97 Avenue, Edmonton T5K 2B6. (Postage required)

Hon. Mike Cardinal, Minister of Family and Social Services, Room 104, phone 427-2606, fax 427-0954

Hon. Shirley McClellan, Minister of Health, Room 127, phone 427-3665, fax 429-5954

Hon. Halvar Johnson, Minister of Education, Room 324, phone 427-2025, fax 427-5582

Hon. Gary Mar, Minister of Community Development (women's and seniors programs, human rights), Room 227, phone 427-4928, fax 427-0188.

•The Human Rights Commission Review panel has released its final report. *Equal in dignity and rights - A Review of Human Rights in Alberta* is the result of public consultations and public hearings which took place throughout Alberta in the last year. The full report is available through the Alberta Human Rights Commission and contains all the recommendations of the panel both to improve the Human Rights Commission and to change the Individual Rights Protection Act. Now, the pressure must be put on the government to implement the changes and accept the document as government policy in order to strengthen and ensure human rights for everyone in Alberta. Overall the recommendations are positive, but without government support the commission is still in jeopardy and human rights are not guaranteed for all Albertans. For a copy of the Human Rights Commission Review Report are available for free by calling 427-7661.

Write or call your local MLA, the Premier, or Gary Mar Minister responsible for the Human Rights Commission with your comments and views on the report.

•Alberta Committee of Citizens with Disabilities have been talking with government officials so they can understand how important it is that they have input into any changes and decisions they make that can affect our daily lives. Some of the issues include health care, AISH and other support programs for people with disabilities. If you would like some help writing a letter or discussing the issues, please call us on 1-800-387-2514, local Edmonton number 488-9088 or TTY 488-9090. If you don't feel comfortable writing your MLA, you can call them or schedule a meeting and see them in person. Your personal effort makes a difference no matter what you choose to do.

The following list are women who have given their time and energy to ASWAC and ASWAC projects. Without continual input from these women and many volunteers ASWAC would not exist. Many thanks.

Hugs and kisses to Suzanne Trudel.

Big hugs to Rosemary Putman . Good luck at school!

Hugs to Jayne Nicol. Congratualtions Jayne on your new home!

A big welcome to our newest member Julie Celine Faye Pepin, born August 15, mom Christine Leonard is wonderful.

Hugs to Karen Howell, Martha Dobbin, Heather Mackay.

Special hugs to Bess Rasmussen.

Big kisses to Pam Krause.

Special thanks to the U of A Women's Program.

Thanks and kisses to Marilyn Assheton-Smith.

Hugs to Yvonne Stanford for all of her work.

Thanks to Rose Lee for all her support.

The following women helped with the Fringe table:

Leslie McLean	Renee Cochard
Rosa Scarpelli	Jo-ann Wilson-Symonds
Maureen Hill	Martha Dobbin
Dorothy Mandy	Deb Schimmens
Del Marlow	Karen Connelly
Karen Howell	Dawn Bucharski
Jayne Nicol	Rosemary Putman
Sandra Copeland	Ferdi Neuman
Shirley Wilfrong-Pritchard	Janet Blond
Valerie Jensen-Brown	Kimberly Armstrong
Colleen Glenn	Peni Christopher
Jenny Kain	Ione Challborn
Margot Beamish	Aine Humble
Angie Staley	Jaya Chauhan
Laurie Blakeman	Debbie Bryson
Sheila Dunphy	Lenore Lemay
Sherry Gettis	Ritu Khullar
Agathe Gaulin	Bev Palibroda

We thank the groups who shared the table with us: ASAC, Black Women's Association, Edmonton Working Women, Options for Women, A Centre for Women, Edmonton Women's Shelter, Woman to Woman Books, LEAF, U of A Women's Law Forum. The Fringe table was organized by Rosemary Putman, with help from the Fundraising Committee.

Big hugs to this year's TBTN artist's: Calgary - Celina Ritter, Edmonton - Roxane Chicoine.

CANTEL

Michael A. Garska

Canada's Communications Stores™

Novacom Communications Limited
15826 - 111 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5M 2R8
Tel: (403) 488-CELL (2355)
Fax: (403) 482-CELL (2355)
Cellular: (403) 445-0020

Motorola Flip-phones \$9.95/mnth
with 3 year pkg. OAC.

Sources & Resources

The Alberta Coalition Against Pornography (ACAP) is offering a workshop called *How to Talk With Your Children About Pornography: A Media Literacy Kit for Parents and Educators*. The main objective is to increase awareness and open up constructive discussion about media influences on our children. This workshop seeks to address the destructive effect of pornographic and sexually-biased images on young people and identifies effective ways to encourage communication between parents and children about sexuality. The session can easily be tailored according to your group's needs. Call ACAP to arrange a workshop in your community at 264-6778, # 304, 233 - 12 Ave.S.W. Calgary, Alberta T2R 0G9. Tuesday and Friday 9:30 am - 4:30 pm, and Thursday 9:30 am - 12:30 pm.

Student Legal Services - a non-profit organization providing free legal information and assistance in landlord and tenant, criminal, family and other matters. We also provide seminars. Call 492-2226.

Women With Disabilities Invited to Participate! Women with disabilities are required for a research study on transportation use. Private, no-cost transportation will be available for the interviews; location to be arranged according to your convenience. Interviews will be conducted by women with disabilities. Interpreters will be arranged as required. Interviews will be completely confidential. This study is sponsored by Women Looking Forward with assistance from Health & Welfare Canada and the Secretary of State. For more information call Brenda in Calgary at 234-9266 Thursdays and Fridays.

Legal Status of Lesbians produced by the Victoria Status of Women Action Group. The booklet has been revised to reflect the new protection provided by recent court decisions and changes in legislation. \$2. Contact: Distribution Clerk, Publishing Division, Legal Service Society of BC, Box 3, Suite 300, 1140 W Pender St., Vancouver, BC V6E 4G1 Fax: (604)660-9578.

Literacy and Poverty: A View From Inside. This report presents the findings of a recent study by the National Anti-Poverty Organization (NAPO). The study explores connections between poverty, social inequality, and literacy. \$10. Contact: NAPO, 316-256 King Edward Ave., Ottawa, Ont. K1N 7M1.

Media Watch: #204 - 517 Wellington Street West, Toronto, Ontario M5V 1G1 Phone (416)408-2065, fax (416)408-2069.

Milk, Diabetes, Mellitus and Children is the title and subject of the Spring 1994 issue of *Fast Facts*, a free quarterly newsletter produced by the Dairy Nutrition Council of Alberta. To receive a copy of this issue and/or to have your name added to mailing list for *Fast Facts*, call the Dairy Nutrition Council of Alberta in Calgary at 276-5884, Edmonton at 453-5942, Grande Prairie at 538-9350, or toll-free at 1-800-252-7530.

"Words That Count Women In" can be obtained from The Ontario Women's Directorate, 12th Floor, 2 Carlton Street, Toronto, Ontario M5B 2M9 or phone (416)314-0292 or fax (416)314-0254. This publication has been produced as a result of the requests for gender-inclusive language. This is the second edition and contains feedback from the first edition, and is free of charge.

Breast implant recipients must be aware of certain key 1994 dates: September 16 - Deadline for Current Disease Compensation claims and December 1 - Registration deadline to remain eligible to make claims under Designated Funds or under Ongoing Disease Compensation Program or by calling 1-800-887-6828 (in the U.S. and Canada).



THE NEXT GENERATION

Listen to us now . . . we're

GYNOMITE!

CJSR
FM
88

Thursdays

5 to 6 p.m.

More Sources & Resources

Boys & Girls Clubs of Edmonton Turning Points Program requires support homes for teens, male and female, who require emotional support while they acquire skills necessary for successful independent living. Adults who can teach social/living skills, can provide a nurturing home environment, have the ability to communicate openly and effectively and can provide pre/post natal support (not in all circumstances). For more information please call: 422-6038 or write: 9425 - 109 A Ave., Edmonton, Alberta T5H 1G1.

John Howard Society - Volunteer as a Court Support Worker. Applications now being accepted. Provide information, support to victims/witnesses of crime going through criminal court. Require mature, reliable, stable individuals. Must be available weekdays. Training provided, call Ann 428-7590.

IMPACT is published by the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees and the offices are:

Edmonton - 10451 - 170 Street Phone 930-3300 Toll free 1-800-232-7284, fax 930-3392

Calgary - 2120 Kensington Road N.W. Phone 531-8600

Camrose - #103, 5015 - 50 Avenue Phone 672-8877

Grande Prairie - 7th Fl., 9909 - 102 Street Phone 538-2626

Lethbridge - 1312 Mayor Magrath Drive S. Phone 329-1210

Peace River - 2nd Fl., 10011 - 102 Avenue Phone 624-2424

Red Deer - 4921 - 47 Street Phone 343-2100

St. Paul - 5002 - 49 Avenue Phone 645-6556

Women in Business network directory for Northern & Southern Alberta is available through ASWAC Edmonton for \$5.95.

The 3rd International Conference on Sexual Exploitation by Health Professionals, Psychotherapists and Clergy is October 13, 14 and 15, 1994 at Ramada Inn, 89 Chestnut Street, Toronto, Ontario. Phone 416-977-0707 or fax 416-585-3157. Some featured speakers are Laura Brown, Sandra Butler, Clarissa Chandler, Michael Harris and more. Cost for pre-conference is \$145 and student rate is \$115. Conference only is \$338 and student rate is \$270. Final date for registration is September 23.

Spare Change is published to provide a voice and employment for people who have no spare change.

Spare Change welcomes your contribution. Letters sent to the editor are assumed to be for publication, unless otherwise indicated. *Spare Change* welcomes written submissions, particularly those submitted on IBM compatible computer disk, cartoons, photographs or artwork. *Spare Change* cannot accept responsibility for any submission. Offices: Edmonton: The Bissell Centre 10527 - 96 Street, Edmonton T5H 2H6 Phone 423-2285, Ext. 47, Fax 429-7908 Calgary: Calgary Urban Project Society (CUPS) 117 - 7th Ave. S.W. Calgary T2P 0W5 Phone 221-8781, Fax 221-8791.

Calgary's New Sexual Assault Centre!

By Debbie Bruckner - Chair of CASA Board

Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse (CASA) is gearing up to offer the services of a new sexual assault centre. We have already secured funding from the United Way and Family and Community Services. A working board is extremely active in planning service delivery. CASA is working in partnership with the Calgary Birth Control Association (CBCA). By the end of September we hope to have established space and a phone line. Hiring is also underway. CBCA will be hosting a shower to gather all the "little things" necessary for a functioning office. Some larger companies are already committing themselves to donating furniture. CASA is fully committed to working with all Calgary communities to establish services to meet all needs. We welcome your support and input through our postal outlet: CASA, P.O. Box 61044, Kensington Post Office, Calgary, T2N 4S6.

ASWAC congratulates and offers our full support to former ASWAC Board member Danielle Aubrey on her appointment as Agency Coordinator of Calgary's new Sexual Assault Centre.

Need to meet some new womyn on womyn owned land??

Come & relax on a

WOMYN'S COUNTRY GETAWAY

at

Labyrinth Lake Lodge

70 Km SE of Edmonton

FACILITIES INCLUDE:

1200 sq. ft. modern, equipped, smoke free cabin on waterfront with panoramic view, wood & furnace heat, running water!! & shower, bikes, skis, canoes, snowshoes, toboggans, outdoor fire pits for group sing-a-longs, 12 beds & 1 pull out couch, trampoline & ping pong table, electric keyboard & tapedeck, raft for brave swimmers, hammocks & picnic areas, croquet & other games.

Cost: \$45. Includes accommodation & food (meal prep by group)

Date: October 21-23

To register send a cheque to : Labyrinth Lake Lodge, RR 1, Site 2, Box 3, Millet, T0C 1Z0, along with name & contact #, info. re. food allergies & preferences. Call 878-3301 (toll free from Edmonton) for more info.

ASWAC Women

By Francine Wilson
Board Member - Fort McMurray

I do not know that the women of Fort McMurray are unique per say as "Women of the North". Rather, I think it is within women as a group where one may find uniqueness. Fort McMurray as a boomtown has brought together women with incredibly diverse backgrounds from all over the world. Our differences have become gifts that are contributed to make up a unique group living and surviving together and the bond is the common experience of doing this in our "Northern City."

Fort McMurray has a rich history dating back many centuries with presence of the Cree and Chipweyan tribes and the arrival of the fur traders in the 17th century through to the continuing development of industry in salt mines and eventually the oilsands. Carried with that history were the women as wives of the fur traders and the Native women of the Cree and Chipweyan heritage. Their presence is held strong in Fort McMurray and the outlying communities by their decedents still living here today and their spirits live within the women who have since made Fort McMurray their home.

My experience of Fort McMurray began fourteen years ago at a time when the town was making its transition into the Jubilee City it is today. In the previous decade there had been a sudden influx of people as a result of the development of the oilsands projects. The town was populated by mostly men and had an average age of 26. By 1980 families were slowly starting to settle but, with intentions of leaving soon after the boom. With this, there was a growing number of women for the first time in many years. Single women and mothers, women of colour and aboriginal decent, professional women, lesbians and women with disabilities began living together and working together. This growing presence of women brought with it the development of a new sense of community not yet felt since the boom. Since then people have stayed and made Fort McMurray their home. As a young woman of Fort McMurray today part of my identity is built on having been part these transitions and growth of Fort McMurray.

I have had many opportunities to speak to women and hear how they see themselves as women of Northern Alberta. They do not escape the effects of the patriarchal society in which they live in any regard. Many women are battered, victims of violence and abuse, and live lives in oppression. There is however, a spirit kept alive within us that feeds our perseverance and survival, as though learned from the Mother Earth who survives the harshness of the North and maintains Her beauty. I have found that as "McMurrayities", the women of Fort McMurray have strength, dignity and respect for who they are as women. They see themselves as independent, caring, real, and are proud of the uniqueness that has become a part of their identity as women of Fort McMurray.

Look upon the Northern Lights. You will see our spirits flying.

Gerry Bailey (and what she's been up to)
Regional Representative, Westeros.

The road to Beijing is an opportunity for all Canadian women to dialogue and express their collective concerns to the Canadian Government. This chance may not come again for 10 years. It is time to review the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies (FLS) and see where we have fallen behind instead of moving ahead. For example one FLS paragraph states "governmental support should be given to women's organizations" etc.

The United Nations' Platform For Action is being prepared for the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing, September, 1995 with the themes of Equality, Development and Peace. The Canadian government has asked for input from Canadian women's groups for its Platform for Action. The Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women (CACSW) has a mandate to advise the federal government and inform the public on issues important to women. The CACSW has recently published a paper *Building the Platform For Action* listing ten priority issues, critical areas of concern, which make excellent topics for discussion.

The conference titled "Women and Sustainable Development", May 27 to 31, was a good introduction to the 10 priorities. Four hundred women attended, fifty from the South (a pleasant change from the designation Third World). Each day dealt with a theme; Women and a) Community, b) Creativity, c) Economics, d) Decision-making. Up to thirty workshops were available each day and the days concluded with policy circles for discussions and recommendations to the morning plenary sessions.

I chaired one workshop and presented at another — guess the topic, AIDS Awareness. I attended a workshop that introduced the Asian Women Human Rights Council who has the energy and initiative to organise a roundtable at the Population Conference, in Cairo, September 1994. Their position holds that they are not overproducing — the North is overconsuming. Since I have been teaching contraception (when asked) in Asia for over ten years I would have liked to be in Cairo next week.

The Winnipeg Conference August 18 to 21 was organised by the Canadian Beijing Facilitating Committee. Its sixteen members are from across Canada representing a great variety of NGOs. It demystified many questions for us about the UN conference and the Forum 95 which takes place at about the same time. The Forum '95 is for NGOs and delegates will have to handle their own expenses. More information should be available when regional meetings in Alberta are held.

One hundred and forty women attended from NGOs across Canada. Ten workshops were arranged, following the priorities list mentioned above. I facilitated the one on Health and all thirty women voiced their concerns. The discussion was limited by the four hour time frame. We did come up with a summary under four headings that is to be presented to the feds along with the nine other papers.

I visited the All China Women's Federation in Beijing in April and May 1994. They greeted me warmly in English....

For more information call Gerry Bailey at 586-2983.

hair
ZULA GLOBE

phone 439-2094 • #200, 10507-81 Avenue

our family

café **LA GARE**

Old Strathcona
10308A-81 Ave.
Edmonton, AB
T6E 1X2
Tel: 439-2969

Old Strathcona
8104-103 St.
Edmonton, AB
T6E 1X2
Tel: 433-5138

Rice Howard Way
10058-101A Ave.
Edmonton, AB
T5J 0T6
Tel: 423-0391



ASWAC!

I SUPPORT WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN ALBERTA

- Enclosed is my membership - \$20 (1 year)
- Enclosed is my membership - \$40 (2 year)
- Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____
- I am unable to pay the entire fee at this time,
enclosed is \$ _____

Name:

Address:

City/town:

Postal Code:

Ph (day/eve/fax):

Membership fees are an important source of ASWAC revenue, but more importantly, your membership means a vote in support of promoting 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. Currently ASWAC does not operate for the full year due to continuing cutbacks in federal funds. If we can double or triple our membership, we could operate 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.

Send in your membership to ASWAC, Box 1573, Edmonton, T5J 2N7