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# ALBERTA STATUS OF WOMEN ACTION COMMITTEE

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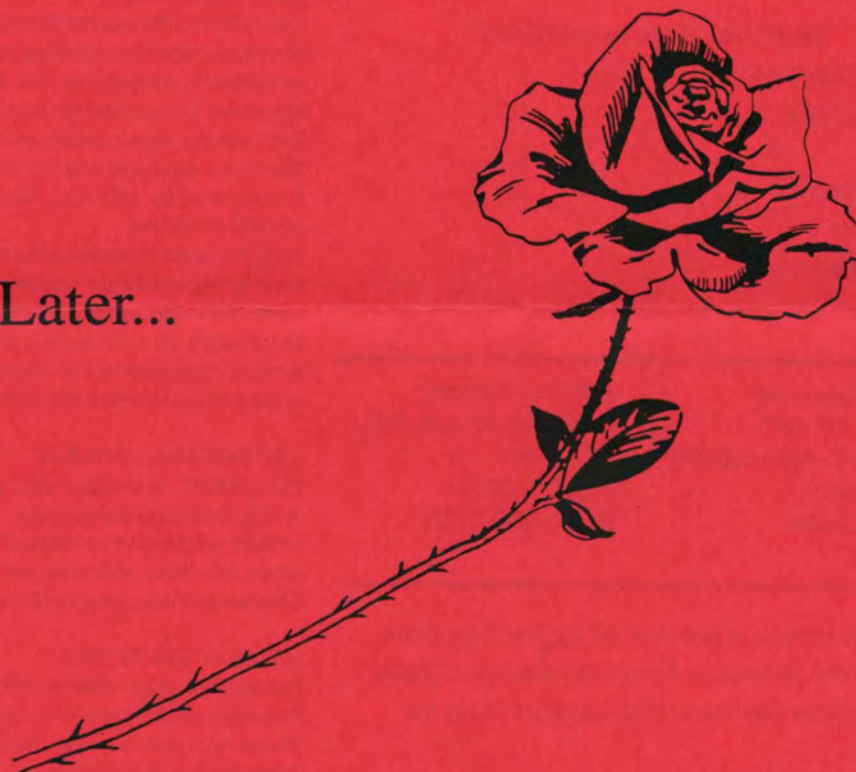
November/December 1994  
January 1995

Volume V, Number 1

14 women died in Montreal  
December 6, 1989.

100 women a year die in domestic  
violence in Canada.

5 Years Later...





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

**1994-95 Board Members**

<b>Calgary</b>	233-0731
Laurie Anderson	
Nancy Miller	
Corrine Younie	
<b>Cochrane</b>	
Pip Farrar	
<b>Edmonton</b>	421-0306
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Sherry Gettis	
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Moyra Lang	
Del Marlow	
Bev Palibroda	
Sharon Reiner	
Malinda Smith	
<b>Fort McMurray</b>	
Francine Wilson	
<b>Ponoka</b>	
Liz Wetheral	

**Regional Representatives**

<b>Fort McMurray</b>
Leah Spelliscy
<b>Innisfail</b>
Ruth Bergeron
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Gerry Bailey

ASWAC Edmonton:	ASWAC Calgary:
Box 1573, T5J 2N7	#303, 223-12 Ave. SW
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*ASWAC receives a portion of its funding from  
The Federal Women's Program and gratefully  
acknowledges the financial support from its  
members.*

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## From the Newsroom

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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 **February 10**  
publication date is February 24, 1995.

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

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I myself have never been able to find out pre-  
cisely what feminism is: I only know that people  
call me a feminist whenever I express sentiments  
that differentiate me from a doormat...

Rebecca West 1913

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**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!

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**'How To Be A Fabulous Feminist'**

Posters are still available - but they're going  
fast, order yours today! They make a great gift!

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### 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 necessar-  
ily 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.

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### 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.

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### 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.



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# Our Feature

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*December 6th, 1994. Five years after the Montreal Massacre.*

by Moyra Lang

As I attend many planning meetings to organize the memorial in Edmonton this year, I can't help but remember a speaker from last year's event, Cathy Bray. Cathy spoke of women's rage and how that word and feeling is all part of women's courage. I felt moved and yet convinced; we must feel the rage, not anger but rage. This is the fuel to action!

Violence against women is projected even in the news of the world transmitted by our media. Misogyny is common place and not only accepted but expected from our politicians and business leaders. Misogyny is defined by Webster's as hatred or hating women. The message is clear and widely accepted. When women are angered or even enraged by such societal attitudes we are told we're out of line, not acting lady-like, not going to be heard through our anger. Several feminists believe we must be presentable to the public and reach wide and far to represent all. I can no longer represent women who aren't angry! I can't talk to the media about the recent case of 'Drunkness as a defense' without being enraged; can't you see the injustice in this? I can't be polite when my MP, David Kilgour, tells me that the Canadian deficit is caused by social programs! I am full of RAGE and I will take action. I will actively write to politicians and meet with the powers that be; I will take part in campaigns designed to improve the status of women-all women!

**December 6th** is a call to action - to all - especially those who have the privilege of not being touched by poverty, racism, sexism, classism, able-bodiedness or homophobia. Those of us who haven't been affected have to find a voice to speak up for those who have. The groups or individuals that are most affected by the wrong doings of our world are the people (women) who don't have these privileges and, as we see time and time again, it is so easy to marginalize those most affected - unprivileged people.

**December 6th** is a time to remember those women who died; we must not forget our history/herstory. To forget is to commit the same crimes as our politicians. They forget about wars and easily throw threats and issue large budgets in the name of defense. They forget that they need only look back to plan the future. And so we must, always remember and honour all that have gone before. For without these women we would not be here today, legally accepted as persons, able to enter universities (for those who have the financial means), able to do so many things even our mothers could not. Let's remember the 14 women in Montreal and feel the rage, move towards healing, always remembering and working for change.

**December 6th** is a time to remember that as we move towards the future, we leave behind the past, a past for our children to

resolve or build on. As mothers of sons we have a responsibility to teach our sons to respect women and differences and be aware of their privilege as males. To our daughters we must teach leadership, self care, activism, respect, power with and couRAGE! Those of us without children can challenge the beliefs and judgments we have of others and of ourselves. We must not stop the fight until all women have as much privilege as all men. This is not to say that all men are abusers or to blame; this is about taking a look at ourselves and others without judgment and realizing we all have a part in changing attitudes, especially our own!

I meet every Thursday with a group of feminists who are friends and have been for a very long time. I love these women and we share a lot. I recently asked them if they were capable of committing violence? All nine answered "Yes." When I asked my male friends the same question all have answered "No." There is a problem in these answers; as mothers we have all had to walk away from a screaming child, knowing that if we stayed we might lose it and so we walk away. We know we can cross the line, we have been there, done that, got the t-shirt, as one of my co-workers would say. Have our brothers not had these experiences? Are our brothers not familiar with this line? I see men cross this line every day in the news. Who is responsible for this ignorance? Are women responsible to teach men the value of awareness in the events of violence? I have some answers; we all might not agree, but we need to discuss and get clear. We, as women, have rage, and we want action, we want things to change, today!

Further to this is the power dynamic imposed upon us as women and men. The White Ribbon Campaign is a campaign that was started by pro-feminist men in Ontario. I fully support men organizing men, and wish them all the success possible. In 1989, women in Ontario started a Purple Ribbon Campaign to honour the 14 women from Montreal. After five years the purple ribbons are known to women who are front line, and not so well known to the general public. After two years the White Ribbon Campaign has raised over 2 million and is recognized nation wide. Every year I receive phone calls from news producers or individual men asking "Do you girls have any white ribbons?" I usually respond in my polite yet kurt way "Nope." The White Ribbon Campaign is a campaign for men, organized by men. The difference in recognition between the two campaigns is a clear cut example of men's power in our world and the lack of power women have. Now I can almost hear some say "There she goes off in some victim rant." I am NOT a victim; I am a survivor, a survivor of violence at the hands of men, a survivor of the imbalance of power. I am fighter; I am enraged, most victims aren't angry, not yet. How can we point out the imbalance without these pictures and comparisons? I know of no other way; if you do, let me know. So when you attend this year's events in your community or silently hold your own, remember those have fought, and those who are fighting and know there's room for you to fight too.

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# Alberta Feminist Calendar

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## Calgary

December 6th, Tuesday, a National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. A commemorative service will be held at noon, in the South Atrium near the food court at MacEwan Student Centre, U of C. For more information, call 269-1144. Everyone welcome!

December 8 is Ten Days for World Development, Gender and Global Justice, noon-hour presentation: Women and Reproductive Technology - A Global Perspective; Dr. Bruce Hatfield.

The 3rd Wednesday of each month Action Canada Network regular meetings are held at 7pm at #307-315-10 Ave. SE. Everyone welcome! For information, call Amy Anderson at 286-1058 or Yvonne Schmitz at 240-0311.

December 7 - The Quest for Sexual Potential, a full day workshop for anyone whose work involves discussing sexuality. For information, call 1-800-561-5789.

December 5 to 9 the city of Calgary Equity Week '94 - watch for events reflecting the true diversity of Calgary. Every day from 9 am to 3:30 pm in the Municipal Building Atrium, Cafeteria, Banquet Rooms and Field Offices.

December 13 - A Web Is Not A Ladder, a video about unemployment from the videos 4 Social Change series. Free admission and refreshments. From 7 to 8:30 pm at the Forest Lawn Library, 4807-8 Ave. SE.

The 2nd Wednesday of each month the regular meeting of the Calgary Poverty Focus Group is held at 7 pm at the John Howard Society office, 2nd floor, 1010-1 St. SW. For more information, call Marilyn at 235-1339.

The Calgary International Women's Day (IWD) Collective is holding their first organizing meeting on November 30th at 5:30 pm at the Arusha Centre, 233-10 Street NW. This is an invitation to all women interested in helping with the upcoming year's celebration. Please call Carolyn for more information or if you would like to be involved but cannot attend this meeting, at 270-3200.

Every Tuesday - Pandora's Studio (CJSW 90.9 FM) radio by and about women for everyone from 8 to 9 pm. Women on the Verge follows Pandora and features women's music from a range of genres from 9 to 10 pm. Listen in!

Action for Breast Cancer Calgary holds regular meetings the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Glenbow Museum (main entrance). For more information, contact Elizabeth at 686-4521.

The Old Y Centre for Community Organizations is selling a special fundraising t-shirt. If you purchase an Old Y t-shirt you are indirectly supporting the agency you work or volunteer for. To get yours, contact building administration at 261-9660.

Celebrating Women is an evening of presentations by women artists and performers, usually one of the last two Mondays of the month at 8 pm at the Republik, 219-17 Ave SW. For exact date, if you want to perform or for other information, call Kerry at 244-7752.

February 1 to 5 the 6th Annual Herland Film & Video Celebration at the Glenbow Museum, sponsored by CSWAC and the Women of Colour Collective.

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**The ASWAC offices will be closed from December 19 to January 3, 1995 inclusive. Please be patient, your calls will be returned by volunteers. Thank you for your support and have a wonderful Yule!**

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**Working with Women for Financial Independence**

# Alberta Feminist Calendar

## Edmonton

December 6th - A National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women - A memorial service will be held at noon at Grant McEwan Community College (GMCC) by the clock towers. Everyone is welcome!

December 5th - The Fourth Annual Fundraising Breakfast for Programs to Stop Violence Against Women and Children will be held at the Convention Centre, from 7:15 to 9 am. The speaker will be the Honourable Allan Rock, Federal minister of Justice. Tickets and information contact is Nancy Gilbert at 423-3003. Proceeds to be donated to the Women's Emergency Accommodation Centre (WEAC) and St. Albert S.A.I.F. Society (Stop Abuse in Families).

Thursday, December 1, Womonspace is holding a drop-in. Lesbians and bisexual women are invited for refreshments and talk, 9930-106 Street, 7:30 to 9 pm.

December 7 a Special Commemorative Ceremony is being held in honour of International Human Rights Day, at City Room in City Hall, from 5 to 7 pm. This event is co-hosted by Alberta Human Rights Commission, and City of Edmonton Diversity Initiatives Office. Human Rights Are For Everybody! Call 427-3116 for information.

Adamant Eve is a feminist radio program broadcast on CJSR, FM 88.5, at the University of Alberta. Listen in on Thursdays from 5 to 6 pm. Following Adamant Eve is Gaywire, a lesbian and gay radio show, from 6 to 7 pm.

December 15 the Women's Program, Faculty of Extension, is hosting an open house. Their new home is at the University Extension Centre, 8303-112 Street. Everyone is welcome to attend from 5 to 7:30 pm, in Room 2-36. The Women's Program offers many courses of interest to women. For more information, call 492-3093.

Prime Time for Women - a workshop for women in the middle years, Saturday November 26, from 9 am to 3 pm at West Jasper Place Health Centre, LaPerle Shopping Centre, 9720-182 Street. Call 489-4982 to register. Cost is \$6 and includes refreshments and a light lunch. Sponsored by the Edmonton Board of Health.

Menopause Support Group meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm at the Royal Alexandra Hospital Women's Centre in the Outpatient Diabetic clinic.

December 6th - The Quest for Sexual Potential, a full day workshop for anyone whose work involves discussing sexuality. For information, call 1-800-561-5789.

January 27 to 28, 1995, Common Ground, a conference for all women, organized by the Alberta Farm Women's Network. Location is the Royal West Inn, Edmonton. For more information, contact Janet Walter, Red Deer, 347-0660 or Christine Mitzner, Strathmore, 934-3196.

We are a group of women meeting weekly on Monday evenings from 7 to 9 pm. This is an invitation to other women who would like to join us in our discussions. Our purpose is to support one another in our relationships with our children, partners and parents. We will be meeting at the Women's Building, lower floor, common room, 9930-106 Street. Parking at rear or parking meters in front are free after 6pm. For more information, leave your name and the number you can be reached at 421-0306 (this is ASWAC's # so indicate that you are inquiring about the Monday evening group). Someone will call you back with more information.



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# ASWAC Events

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## ASWAC/TENWA Social Security Review Project

ASWAC and the Training and Employment Network for Women of Alberta received "Special Interest Group" funding in mid-October to help facilitate women's participation in the Social Security Review (SSR). The Standing Committee on Human Resources Development was scheduled to be in Edmonton on November 18 and 19, and in Calgary on November 22. All written submissions must be received by the Standing Committee by December 9th. This left us with very little time to achieve our goal of holding "Women and the Social Security Review" workshops around the province.

"The central guiding principle seems to be the invisibility of women. There is no gender analysis of the impact of social policy on women's lives. Mr. Axworthy wants to design tomorrow's social security system, but women need to survive today," stated Suneria Thobani, President of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women.

ASWAC and TENWA strongly believe any review or changes to our federal social programs must take into account the unique needs of Canadian women. Some of the money-saving options outlined in the Liberal Discussion Paper (Green Paper) threaten to reverse women's progress toward social and economic equality. For example, any move to judge eligibility for Unemployment Insurance benefits based on "family income" rather than individual income would have the effect of reinforcing women's economic dependence on higher-income (usually male) family members.

ASWAC/TENWA suggest that Alberta women stress the urgent need of national standards for programs (such as education, health care, employment training, child care and social assistance) and emphasize the merits of universal programs. Any local modification of programs, any attempt to "target" programs to the "most needy," in practice, means that fewer and fewer Canadians will be able to rely on our social safety net. **Without national standards, Albertans could expect to see greater cuts to our provincially administered social programs.**

Therefore, we are encouraging women to participate in the Social Security Review and are offering any assistance women may want in order to do that. ASWAC/TENWA has resource material available for women who want to submit a brief to the standing committee (deadline December 9, 1994), write to their Member of Parliament or attend a local town hall meeting. Materials available include a synopsis and "Quotable Quotes" from the Liberal Green Paper, ASWAC/TENWA's draft brief to the Standing Committee, a "How you can participate" information sheet and a Resource List.

"We are troubled by the absence of any mention of women's equality in the guideline principles for reform that are contained in the Discussion Paper," Glenda Simms, President of the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

Contact your Member of Parliament to get a copy of the Liberal Green Paper Summaries and Social Security Review Workbooks. The workbooks contain tear-out questionnaire

pages to be filled out by individuals and submitted to the Standing Committee by January 16th.

Pam Krause, the Alberta NAC Regional Representative, was hired as the Project Coordinator and Penny Kome, a Woman Looking Forward Board member and well-known Calgary writer, was hired as the Project Researcher. So far, Social Security Review workshops have been held in Calgary and Edmonton, with further workshops tentatively scheduled for Lethbridge (November 26), Red Deer (November 29) and Fort McMurray (December 1). Pam and Calgary ASWAC Project Coordinator Nancy Miller also had an opportunity to discuss the Social Security Review with 15 rural women on October 29 at the Isolated Feminist Brunch held in Ponoka.

ASWAC/TENWA coordinated over 20 applications to appear before the Standing Committee, but as of November 17th, TENWA had been invited to appear but ASWAC had not. We have, however, been invited to participate in a national consultation in Ottawa on December 3rd to 5th. Representatives from women's groups across the country will meet with Human Resources Development Minister Lloyd Axworthy and then have two days to develop their recommendations on Social Policy.

For more information about the SSR Project call Pam Krause, afternoons at 233-0731.

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## EDMONTON FEDERALLY SENTENCED WOMEN'S FACILITY

by Del Marlow

Things are gearing up at Edmonton's Federally Sentenced Women's Facility for their opening in late 1995. There will be a partial opening of the west Edmonton facility in September 1995 and the full opening is scheduled for December.

I recently attended a program information session where members of the community were informed that all programs are to be woman-centred, holistic and community-based. These 3 factors will help the women to grow and re-integrate upon their release.

There will be many opportunities for community members to become involved in the facility, as staff members, as program implementers and as volunteers. Many of the programs that the women will be offered will be provided by community members hired on contract. These programs could include: personal development programs such as parenting, cultural programs and anger management, educational programs, medical services, building and grounds maintenance, computer systems, etc.

For more information, call the Edmonton Women's Prison Office at 495-3656

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# More ASWAC Events

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## L.E.A.F. BREAKFAST

by Del Marlow

At 7:30 am on Tuesday, October 18, 1994, many Edmonton women gathered together to celebrate Person's Day. Person's Day is the anniversary of the famous case in which women were declared to be person's legally on October 18, 1929.

The speaker at this year's breakfast was Jean Swanson from the National Anti-Poverty Organization and End Legislated Poverty in B.C. Jean talked about how many people in Canada are still struggling to be recognized as persons. Users of welfare and U.I.C. benefits are not treated as persons. Not only are they legally discriminated against but there is widespread "poor bashing" perpetuated by politicians and the media. This can plainly be seen in the pre-occupation with welfare fraud. Welfare fraud occurs in approximately 1-3% of cases and it is Jean's contention that this small number is done for survival.

Jean believes that the current federal Social Security Review (SSR) fits right in with the political backlash against social program users. The rhetoric and preliminary documents concerning this Review promotes the stereotypes and continues the blaming of the victims. As well, there is no creation of jobs. This backlash is no surprise to Jean, as she believes that poor bashing increases just before benefits are slashed. It is all part of an ongoing trend to slash programs, keep wages low and subsidize the low wages paid by corporations so that they can (supposedly) remain competitive. This is all part of a world wide move that has been termed "competitive impoverishment."

Jean offered numerous suggestions for fighting back, the first of which was to deprogram ourselves. We must challenge the nonsense that we are continually bombarded with by politicians and the media. We must realize that the deficit was not caused by social programs but, rather, by interest rates and tax breaks to corporations. There should be an increased international minimum wage to lift working people out of poverty. There must be true government regulation of corporations for the benefit of all citizens. There must be a realization that there is unemployment because there are not enough jobs. As well, there must be a recognition that corporations, banks, right-wing think tanks, etc. are special interest groups whereas women and the poor are not. These are the starting points from which we must make fighting for justice a priority. We must put our anger and outrage with our commitment to end the injustice.

The Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF) is the organization that puts on the Person's Day breakfasts each year. LEAF is working within the justice system to obtain equality for women. Everyone is invited to become a member and support them in their struggles. For further information on LEAF write to: P.O. Box 1012, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 2M1.

## Calling All Eco-Feminists

by Liz Wetheral

A workshop sponsored by Red Deer River Naturalists, entitled "What the Public Needs to Know About Alberta Laws and Environmental Protection" was a social/political eye-opener for me.

Check the following:

- 1) Discussion Draft and Policy Review for new Water Act (S47). This allows for "ministerial discretion" to sell water. Get a copy of the draft by phoning 1-800-661-5586.
- 2) Push for implementation of Special Places 2000 as promised by Klein. Phone Ty Lund's office at the Legislature 427-1849 or Rocky Mountain House at 845-5154 to ask for your copy.
- 3) Contact the Environmental Law Centre (at 1-800-661-4238) for local issues of concern. Get their publications list. Eco-feminists must promote protection of "secure geography" for future generations!

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## Hug These Women

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Hugs and kisses to Gerry Bailey, for all her work. Gerry has left for the winter to do work in other countries. We'll see her in the spring.

Congratulations to Sharon Reiner and family on your new arrival. Welcome Morgan Janet!

Congratulations to Merrill Copper on the arrival of her new son.

Big hugs to Margot Beamish who has been helping in the office while Sharon is away being someone's mother.

Kisses to Del Marlow for all her support to the staff and time she has given to ASWAC projects.

Thanks to Christine Leonard for her knowledge and expertise on punctuation and spelling. Without her we would all be Untie instead of Unite!

Much thanks to Sharon, who yes even while away is able to organize us in a presentable fashion.

Hugs and kisses to Lorna Murray at Michael Phairs office for arranging space for our workshop.

Thanks to all ASWAC Board members and volunteers who are working so hard to ensure our voice is heard.

This issue is dedicated to all the women who have died. We will always remember you.

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# Write On

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\*A Court of Queen's Bench Justice ruled Friday, October 28, that Carl Blair was too drunk after a 30 hour drinking binge to be responsible for beating his wife in November, 1993. Justice J.H. Mackenzie cited a September Supreme Court ruling that said extreme intoxication can sometimes be used as a defense if an accused can show he was so drunk he was insane. Does this ruling drive you insane? ASWAC encourages you to let your feelings be known. Include in your letters that you want new legislation to ensure drunkenness cannot be used as an excuse for violence against women. Call, write or fax the following politicians:

Justice Minister Allan Rock  
239-Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H8  
(613) 992-4621 phone  
(613) 990-7255 fax

Attorney General Brian Evans  
320 Legislature Building  
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6  
call toll free 310-0000  
and ask for 427-2339,  
or fax to (1) 422-6621

Tell Evans you want the provincial government to strongly lobby the federal government to enact new legislation to prevent this defense from being used as an excuse for violence against women at any time. Your voice can make a difference.

\*Stop Immigration Proposal to Prevent Domestic Workers from Entering Canada!

Immigration Minister Marchi has said he has not yet decided to accept the recommendation to abolish the Live-In Caregiver Program (LCP). He has to hear from you and your friends and many other people. We have to do something! Send a letter telling the minister that he should only abolish the LCP in order to allow foreign domestic workers to enter Canada as landed immigrants without discriminatory conditions. No Postage is necessary if mailed to: Hon. Sergio Marchi, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 1L1.

\*The Alberta Committee of Citizens with Disabilities (ACCD) is concerned about the provincial government plan, as we do not think it is in the best interests of people with disabilities. The plan which threatens to reverse 20 years of progress by people with disabilities and our organizations to participate in Alberta as equal citizens.

The government has accepted the advantages to a Community Supports model, but they are planning to make the new Regional Health Authorities responsible for its administration. This will give health care professionals with a "medical model" approach control over the delivery of services for people with disabilities.

ACCD is concerned about this plan because our services - most of which are NOT health-related - are being put in the hands of people who are trained to "cure illness." We are concerned they will not address our employment, education

and accessibility needs. Alberta's health care system is already in crisis. With the current cutbacks we know people's health needs are not being met. Expanding Health's responsibilities to include Community Supports will only make the crisis worse. People with disabilities will be forced to compete for money with hospitals, acute care facilities, health units and other high profile health services. Please write your MLA or call our office for more information 488-9088, toll-free at 1-800-387-2514, TTY at 488-9090. Please be sure to send us a copy of your letter.

\*Social Action... is about speaking out whenever the opportunity arises. Many members have called and written to our offices complaining about products being sold at San Francisco stores. We find that there is much more attention given to letters from direct consumers than that of an organization. ASWAC encourages you to direct your complaints to the owner: Barry Slawski, 9762-54 Ave, Edmonton, AB, T6E 0A9. Please send courtesy copies to the mall management and remember to send a copy to ASWAC.

\***IMMEDIATE ACTION!!!** Lloyd Axworthy's department of Human Resources Development (HRD) has struck a standing committee to travel Canada and get input from individuals and groups about the proposed changes to Canada's social policy. This review is called the Social Security Reform (SSR).

Women need be very concerned about these proposed cuts to programs that will have an enormous effect on all people, but its full impact to women and children is insurmountable. **WE ALL MUST PARTICIPATE!** To obtain the discussion papers outlining these cuts contact your local Member of Parliament or call 1-800-208-9494 or 1-800-465-7735 (TDD) and ask for the Green Discussion Paper and the summary, as well as the workbook. The Standing Committee has already been in Edmonton on November 18 & 19 and in Calgary on November 22. Check with your local MP's to see if the Standing Committee will be in your community and, if so, contact ASWAC. We will supply you with information to present. The deadline for written submissions is **December 9th**. If you can't present to the committee you can still ensure your views are heard by sending your written submission to: The Clerk, Standing Committee on Human Resources Development, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6. If you have never taken political action such as letter writing in the past, this is the time to start. The proposed cuts will affect UIC, welfare, employment training, tuition, student loans, women with disabilities, immigrants and virtually all Canadians. Please remember to send a copy to ASWAC Edmonton and we'll use your comments to try and further ASWAC's concerns. Send individual letters and, if you belong to an organization, ask them to get involved. We will assist in any way we can. *See ASWAC/TENWA article in this issue for further information.*



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# Sources & Resources

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The Alberta Coalition Against Pornography (ACAP) has produced a brochure explaining the Butler decision, the legal definition of pornography and ways both merchants and the public can take action on harmful sexual imagery in the media. We encourage you to discuss this issue and become vocal about your concerns. ACAP is aware there are concerns in the women's community around the Butler decision. We add our voice to those who protest its misapplication by the police and judiciary and we support the development of strategies to check these actions. For copies of this brochure, call ACAP's office in Calgary at 264-6778.

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The Indo-Canadian Women's Association is proud to present **BOLD STEP**, a video presentation about surviving violence. This is a video about courage and is sure to have an impact. To order your copy, send \$49 plus \$6 s/h (for non profit) or \$99 plus \$6 s/h (for government, libraries, etc) to: Millwoods Centre for Immigrants, #106, 2024-57 Street, Edm., AB, T6L 2Z3.

The Indo-Canadian Women's Association now has a publication as a result of their ground-breaking conference the Impact of Fundamentalism on the Status of Women. To order your copy of *A Publication of Selected Presentations*, send \$10 to ICWA, #106, 2024-57 Street, Edm., AB, T6L 2Z3.

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A new CRIAW (Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women) publication - CRIAW paper #33. *Canada's Early Women Writers: Texts in English to 1859* by Carole Gerson. Who were Canada's early women writers and what books did they produce? This bibliographical study presents 152 woman-authored English-language texts relating to Canada that were published from 1728 to 1859, thus contextualizing the work of the best-known authors of the period. Included are monographs that appeared before 1860, and personal life-writings (letters, diaries, travel journals) written before 1860 that were later published. The discussion relates the kind of texts early Canadian women writers produced to the authors' individual biographical status as armchair authors, visitors, immigrants or Canadian-born, and to the larger historical context of female authorship in the new world and the old. In addition to identifying authors as fully as possible, the bibliography cites the genre of each text, and its current availability in reprint or microform. 20% discount for an order of 10 or more. Individual copies are \$5, postage included. Contact: CRIAW, 151 Slater St., Suite 408, Ottawa, ON, K1P 5H3, (613) 563-0681.

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The Victims' Assistance Program is now located in the Edmonton Law Courts Building at B2 Law Courts, 1A Sir Winston Churchill Square, Edm., AB, T5J 0R2, phone 422-0721.

*When in Doubt, Do Both: The Times of My Life* by Kay Macpherson. As the title suggests, Kay Macpherson really has done both and is still doing it after 80 years. A feminist long before the term was coined, this grassroots activist has been at the forefront of the women's movement for the past 50 years, both in Canada and around the world. Her autobiography paints the portrait of an average, middle-class woman who discovered that political activism is often rooted in everyday realities. And she provides inspiration to anyone who think it's too late to "get involved". \$50 cloth/\$18.95 paper. Contact: University of Toronto Press, 10 St. Mary Street, Suite 700, Toronto, ON, M4Y 2W8.

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*Women and the Canada Labour Code* contains the employment standards for workers in federally regulated workplaces, such as chartered banks, air transport, radio and television broadcasting and others. It provides information on workers' entitlements granted by this legislation, with an emphasis on entitlements that have particular impact on women. Provisions regarding sexual harassment, equal pay for work of equal value, leave for birth or adoption of a child, and maternity-related reassignment and leave are clearly described. The booklet was created to enable women workers in federally regulated workplaces to have quick and easy access to information regarding their rights and protection. Contact: Publications Distribution Centre, Human Resources Development Canada, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0J2 (819) 994-0543.

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*Legal Information and Wife Abuse in Immigrant Families* by San Sly and Sudha Choldin. This document is an exploratory study of the role of legal information in addressing the issue of wife assault in immigrant families. Contact: Publications Officer, Research Section, Department of Justice, 9th Floor, 222 Queen St., Ottawa, ON, K1P 5V9 (613) 941-4191 or 941-2266.

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Founded in 1986, the National Organization of Immigrant and Visible Minority Women of Canada (NOIMWMC) is a network of Immigrant and/or visible minority women's groups. In 1993, the need to develop culturally/linguistically relevant AIDS prevention strategies and education has led NOIMWMC to initiate a two phased project entitled "*Immigrant and Visible Minority Women Organizing Against HIV/AIDS: Towards the Development of a National Network for HIV/AIDS Prevention Education*." This is Phase 1 of the project.

In phase II, NOIMWMC is seeking to strengthen linkage between immigrant and visible minority groups working at the grassroots level to educate women about AIDS prevention. Entwined in this process will be the need to cultivate the creation of supportive networks for HIV+ women and women living with AIDS who are currently isolated within their various ethnocultural communities.

For information or to purchase a copy of the report of phase 1, contact Shelley Das at (613) 232-0689.

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# More Sources & Resources

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The National Women and HIV Project now is publishing a bulletin to be distributed to all interested organizations and women. The purpose is to support women living with HIV. If you would like more information, contact Karen Potts at (403) 488-5742.

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## Steps For Change... A Project in Search of Changes

On Sunday, March 5, 1995, women across Canada and the organizations representing them are invited to take part in the first national walk of solidarity for women and children living with HIV/AIDS. March 5th was chosen as it is the first day of the 20th International Women's Week.

Objectives of this walk are to raise awareness among the general public to the specific needs and difficulties of women and children living with HIV/AIDS, to end their isolation, to challenge governments and to change attitudes and behaviour.

The Centre for AIDS Services of Montreal (Women) encourages the participation of all partner groups across the country to walk with us, on the same day and for the same cause. We believe that the impact of a large national walk will result in significant changes for women and children living with HIV/AIDS.

We hope that your organization will decide to get involved in mobilizing women and organizations in your own area. Join us, together we can make a change! For more information and for an organizational kit, please contact the Project coordinator in Montreal, Francine Breton, (514) 954-0170.

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*Women, Sport and Physical Activity: Selected Research Themes.* This publication is a unique literature review of current sports issues affecting women, as seen from a feminist perspective. The publication focuses on three main areas: sport socialization, women in sport and recreation leadership, and discrimination and oppression in sport and recreation. Contact: Sport Information Resource Centre, 1600 James Naismith Dr., Gloucester, ON, K1B 5N4 (613) 748-5658.

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*Tax Treatment of Child Support* - The Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women (CACSW), in a comprehensive review of tax policy on child support, urges the federal government to stop taxing parents receiving child support and to create a special limited tax credit for support payers. The executive summary of CACSW's brief is available. Contact: CACSW, 110 O'Connor St., 9th Floor, Box 1541, St. B, Ottawa, ON, K1P 5R5 (613) 992-4975.

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*Thriving* is a newsletter published by DAWN Canada: DisAbled Women's Network Canada. Its purpose is to share information and to introduce issues that are of interest to women with disabilities. To subscribe send \$10 - individual or \$75 - organizational to: DAWN Canada, 776 East Georgia Street, Vancouver, BC, V6A 2A3. All women and groups controlled by women with disabilities are welcome to apply.

*Work in Progress: Tracking Women's Equality in Canada.* The background research conducted for this report demonstrates consensus on the pace of progress on women's equality issues in Canada. The general assessment by women's groups is negative: overall, progress on equality is too slow. Problems are especially severe for poor women, racial minority women, Aboriginal women and women with disabilities. To a great extent, women still are underpaid, are segregated into job ghettos, carry a double burden of work and family responsibilities, suffer from violence and abuse at the hands of men in their lives, lack adequate and lack accessible child-care facilities, and insufficient access to appropriate health care. Contact: CACSW, 110 O'Connor St., 9th Floor, Box 1541, St. B, Ottawa, ON, K1P 5R5 (613) 992-4975.

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The Women's Program, Faculty of Extension - 492-3093. The Women's Program has moved from its home in North Garneau to the University Extension Centre, Room 4-16 B, 8303-112 Street. Our new Fax number is 492-1857. The phone number remains the same. We will be hosting an Open House on Thursday, December 15 from 5 to 7:30 pm in Room 2-36, University Extension Centre, 8303-112 Street. Many courses are available.

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National Women's Reference Group on Labour Market Issues is inviting consultation on a draft outline Response to the Social Security Review. The author's particular focus on training, education and employment issues for women is reflected in the concerns they want to raise about proposed reforms. Contact: National Women's Reference Group on Labour Market Issues, c/o Kathleen Thomas, Project Coordinator, 14 Commanche Dr., Nepean, ON, K2E 6E9 (613) 225-6756.

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We are a group of women meeting weekly on Monday evenings from 7 to 9 pm. This is an invitation to other women who would like to join us in our discussions. Our purpose is to support one another in our relationships with our children, partners and parents. We will be meeting at the Women's Building, lower floor, common room, 9930-106 Street. Parking at rear or parking meters in front are free after 6pm. For more information, leave your name and the number you can be reached at 421-0306 (this is ASWAC's # so indicate that you are inquiring about the Monday evening group). Someone will call you back with more information.

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*Lying is done with words and also with  
silence.*

*Adrienne Rich*



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# News From NAC

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This is my first news from NAC, so those of you who don't know me, my name is Pam Krause. I was elected as Alberta Representative at the last AGM in June. Things have been very hectic over the past several months. At the AGM, the membership voted to have two major NAC campaigns over the year, the Social Security Review (SSR) and the Federal 99 Steps. As most of you know, the SSR is now underway. In fact, the government's process will be complete within a month. The time frame has been absolutely ridiculous for anyone to have meaningful input.

NAC was involved in a conference in Regina, October 1-3, which brought women from across Canada together to discuss the SSR and the implications proposed changes will have on women. Over thirty women from Alberta attended the conference, a very impressive turnout. NAC has made a presentation to the Standing Policy Committee and is also organizing a consultation with Lloyd Axworthy, Minister of Human Resources Development (HRD), at the beginning of December. Women from across the country will meet with the minister and then strategize and come up with a response to HRD's proposals. My position as the coordinator of the ASWAC/TENWA (Training and Employment Network of Women in Alberta) social policy review project has also given me the opportunity to talk with women around the province about the review and how they may be involved.

The other NAC campaign this year is around the Federal 99 Steps, which is a document produced by Vancouver Rape Relief. This document deals comprehensively with the issue of violence against women. Over the past couple of years, NAC has received input on the document with the goal to have the final draft become NAC's policy on violence against women. At the last AGM, the membership agreed to accept the 99 Steps as a working document, but some members felt that further input is required to ensure that we are appropriately addressing issues from a variety of perspectives. Moyra Lang has already begun to help with distribution of the 99 Steps document to women in Alberta and I hope to workshop it in the new year.

I am very excited to let you know about a project that NAC is involved in organizing. We are working with OXFAM Canada, the Calgary Status of Women Action Committee, the YWCA and the Alberta Council for Global Justice to put together a conference on Beijing '95. The title is *Beijing, Alberta* and will be held in Calgary, February 24 to 26, 1995. It will be a provincial conference which will provide a forum for grassroots women in Alberta to participate in the Beijing process and create our own platform/plan of action on the status of women in Alberta. The conference planning committee has just started meeting, so I will keep you informed when more details are available. If you have any ideas about what you would like to see included in a conference on Beijing, please let me know.

We are also in the process of organizing a Steering Committee. Several women from Calgary have met, and I am going to continue to work to make the work of NAC more provincially

based. A regional meeting will be held in the new year. I also look forward to attending your functions and meeting women across the province in the coming months.

We will be setting up a NAC office in the new year (thanks to OXFAM Canada), but for now you can reach me through the ASWAC Calgary office. I would be happy to provide you with information about NAC's work or to talk to you about what your group is doing. Please feel free to give me the names of any organizations you think might be interested in NAC's work or becoming a member.

In Sisterhood - Pam Krause



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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.

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