
ALBERTA STATUS OF WOMEN ACTION COMMITTEE

February/March 1995

Volume V, Number 2

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

*Celebrating
Our
Courage...
Struggling
for our
Lives!*



Cover provided by the Edmonton International Women's Day Committee

**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

Westerose

Gerry Bailey

ASWAC Edmonton:

Box 1573, T5J 2N7

Located: #10, 9930-106 St.

Fax: 425-3293

Phone: 421-0306

ASWAC Calgary:

#303, 223-12 Ave. 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. ASWAC also thanks the Wild Rose Foundation for funding.

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 **April 14** publication date is April 28, 1995.

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

Every minute of the day, every day of the year, two women become infected by HIV and every two minutes a woman dies of AIDS. Source: Dr. Nafsiah Mboi, World Health Organization (WHO), Geneva, Feb, 95.

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!

'How To Be A Fabulous Feminist'

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

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

Hurray, Hurray, Its International Women's Day!

by Moyra Lang with excerpts from IWD brochure produced by the ASWAC Education Committee 1982.

International Women's Day has come to symbolize women's struggles throughout history and to demonstrate by fighting against all forms of exploitation that we reaffirm our dignity as women. Through demonstrations and festivities, women around the world celebrate March 8th as International Women's Day (IWD) and pay homage to those courageous women who fought to improve our working and living conditions.

On March 8, 1910, Clara Zetkin succeeded in having March 8th proclaimed as International Women's Day. This specific day was chosen in remembrance of the famous March 8, 1857, strike in New York.

1857: New York - Women textile workers from New York's east side stopped working and marched through the streets to protest 12 hour workdays, incredibly low salaries and unsafe working conditions. In addition, they demanded an end to child labour and that the right to vote must be given to women. The police force reacted swiftly and brutally; several women were beaten and many were trampled by police horses.

This strike and the struggles did not go unnoticed by the rest of the world. While women textile workers returned to work in the same conditions, plans were made. From 1900 to 1908, women textile workers in Montreal held more than 40 strikes. In certain instances, women were forced back to work under fear of retaliation by the army if they did not comply.

By 1908, conditions had scarcely improved. 51 years after the original strike, women textile workers earned \$6 for 56 hours of work per week. Seventy percent of the women leading the demonstration were between sixteen and twenty five years of age.

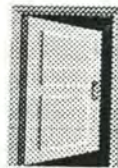
In 1910 in Copenhagen, Denmark, March 8th was proclaimed International Women's Day. IWD was celebrated for the first time in 1911.

Even with this proclamation, lots of work was still needed to improve working conditions for women. In 1934 in Montreal needletrade workers were successful in closing down 125 boutiques, 12 strikers were arrested. From 1935 to 1952 in Quebec, strikes by garment and textile workers continued to occur and many lasted long and were marked by violence on the part of the police. Since this time, strikes have occurred in the textile industry and women union members have worked hard to include such industries as pulp, paper mills and nursing.

Conditions did change and we can thank the women who fought these battles for us to ensure women today can demand proper working conditions. If it weren't for the struggles of these women, not only would we be fighting the Klien cuts, but imagine what a battle we would have on our hands. So remember to think of these women when you are celebrating IWD this year. And remember the slogan they used in 1857 and continue to use: "We want bread and Roses!" In 1981, nearly 75 cities commemorated IWD and the Edmonton IWD committee successfully urged the Mayor of Edmonton to declare March 2 to 8 as International Women's Week. Since this time, there have been so many events planned, the week has been set aside to celebrate.

On February 7th, 1995, Stats Canada stated that Canadian women now make seventy two cents for every dollar a Canadian male earns. Although we've changed a lot in the work place, including conditions which benefit all people, we certainly are a long way off from pay equity.

Check the Calendar of events for details of activities in your area.



Opportunity Knocks!

*Are you a dedicated feminist?
Do you need to focus your energy?
Does the Alberta government anger you?
Do you have ideas to share?
Are you up for a challenge?*

If so, then the ASWAC Board may be the place for you. New Board Members and Regional Representatives will be selected at the Annual Meeting in May. If you are interested in being nominated, contact the provincial nominating committee through either of ASWAC's provincial offices. They'll let you know what is involved and what you need to do. Don't be shy. This could be your chance to make a difference. Call today!

*Edm: 421-0306 (fx 425-3293) Calg: 233-0731 (fx 269-2012)
Or write to Box 1573, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 2N7*

Alberta Feminist Calendar

CALGARY

International Women's Day will be celebrated on Wednesday, March 8 and will begin at City Hall at 6:45 pm and will lead us all to the celebration which takes place at the Calgary Native Friendship Centre 140-2 Ave SW. The theme for this years celebration is 'Strength in Solidarity' - specifically looking at issues of class. The celebration is being coordinated by the Committee Against Racism and will feature a coffee house with the Lubicon Cree Nation Women's Circle.

All are welcome to a coffee house in solidarity with 'Lubicon Lake Nation Women's Circle.' Featuring poetry by Sharron Proulx, Robin Melting Tallow and Gail McKenzie. There will be Hoop Dancing and a presentation by the Lubicon Lake Nation Women's Circle, as well as music and refreshments and door prizes. Join us immediately after the march and rally, on March 8th.

Celebrate International Women's Day with the Magical Michigan Movement. A Women's Dance will be held Saturday, March 4, at the Bridgeland Riverside Community Centre, 919 McDougall Rd NW. Doors open at 8:00 pm. Call Sandy for more information at 686-0870.

The tenth annual 'One World Film Festival' sponsored by the Arusha Centre will be held March 10 to 12. Festival programs are available from the Centre at 233-10 Street NW. This is an exciting weekend of films and videos, provocative guest speakers and international foods and crafts. There is a special Kidsfest for 2 to 10 year olds. For more information, call 270-3200. Ask about the Celebrating Lesbian Films.

The second Tuesday of each month Action For Breast Cancer Calgary meets at 7:30 pm at the Glenbow Museum. Contact Elizabeth for more details at 686-4521.

The University of Calgary Common Front Presents: 'How Klein's Debt and Deficit are Accounting Fictions.' With Dean Neu, the University of Calgary Faculty of Management, on Thursday, March 16 from 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm at Social Sciences 814.

Questioning your sexual orientation? Calgary Birth Control Association presents an eight week group for women only, offering a supportive, confidential environment in which we'll explore the issues arising when a woman finds herself in this questioning process. Call Jo-anne at 283-5580 for information/registration.

Women get on the Information Superhighway! Calgary Free-net is a volunteer community project providing computer connections to a vast array of databases and information, both local and global, free of charge. For information, call Shawn Henry at 264-9535. Getting Women's groups on line: Linda Tauscher is a feminist activist and computer whiz and has

kindly volunteered her services to women's groups who wish to join the Calgary Free-net. Linda is offering free hands-on training on how to set up and use the system; call her at 275-0631.

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

Power, Sex and Representation - Women Listen to Women, March 25. Presented by the Alberta Coalition Against Pornography. 11 am to 5 pm at Pumphouse Theatre, 2140 Pumphouse Ave. SW. On site child care, sliding scale registration fee \$5 to \$15, includes lunch, wheelchair accessible. For more information or registration, call Geri at 270-8350.

The YWCA Women's Employment Counselling Service offers individual career and employment counselling and workshops to any un/underemployed woman. For more information, call 531-9620.

On March 18 the Alexandra Writer's Centre Society is presenting 'Marginality: An Alternative Expression Writing Workshop' for marginalized writers. For more information on the fee, time and location, call 262-4730.

The Alberta Coalition Against Pornography (ACAP) has produced a brochure explaining the Butler Decision, the legal definition of pornography and ways to take action on harmful sexual imagery in the media. For copies, call 264-6778.

Women Looking Forward (WLF) has a new address. We're still at the Old Y Centre, but we are now on the ground floor, in office #104. Our new fax number is 233-2074.

Women of Colour Collective support meetings are a chance for women of colour to discuss thoughts, issues and concerns with others who share similar experiences. Contact Anna at 232-8458 for more information.

The second Wednesday of each month the regular meeting of the Calgary Common Front is held at 7:00 pm at AUPE office, 2nd floor, 2120 Kensington Road NW. For more information, call 283-2871.

The Poverty Game - a role playing board game in workshop format has been organized by the Arusha Centre. Facilitator will be Marilyn Seelye who works with the Calgary Poverty Focus Group. Pre-registration is a must as space is limited. Fees range from \$0 to \$25 based on what you can afford. Lunch will be a potluck. The workshop will be held on Saturday March 4 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Unitarian

Alberta Feminist Calendar

Church. Call 270-3200 to register.

On June 1 the YWCA Women of Distinction Awards and Dinner is being held from 5 to 10:30 pm at Calgary Roundup Centre. Tickets are \$75. For information or tickets, call Twyla Free at 263-1550 or 24 hour ticket line at 531-7851.

EDMONTON

International Women's Day 1995 - A Protest and Celebration of Our Struggles and Achievements. On March 4 at noon at City Hall we will gather to march through downtown to Canada Place and back to City Hall. After the march Nettie Wiebe, President of the National Farmers Union, will speak about the impact of the economic cuts on women. There will be other speakers, entertainment, information display tables and refreshments. Child care will be available on site. For more information, contact Snake at 421-0306 or Louise at 439-8744. Come and demonstrate, come and celebrate! Everyone welcome!

Wednesday March 8, the Edmonton Women's Building Collective (ASWAC, Womonspace, CUEW, Edmonton Working Women) 9930-106 Street, is holding their third annual Open House from noon to 7:00 pm. We'll have snacks and good conversation. Everyone welcome!

Wild Swans - a film with personal perspectives on a woman in China. March 8 at 7 pm at Grant MacEwan Community College, Downtown Campus - Room C142. Donations for the Centre for International Alternatives (CIA) Women's Program will be gratefully received. Sponsored by the CIA and GMCC Social Work Program.

Learn from the Best Women in Business! Exploring the First Steps Toward Starting Your Own Business - a panel discussion. Wednesday, March 1 at Myer Horowitz Theatre, SUB, 5:00 to 7:30 pm. \$5 at the door. For reservations, call 492-2847. Co-sponsored by Orlene Lacey of Midland Walwyn Capital Inc. and Trimark Investment Management Inc.

YWCA of Edmonton invites you to attend our first Power Lunch "Meeting The Challenge" keynote speaker Sharon Wood, the first North American woman to conquer Mt. Everest. Wednesday, March 8, 11:30 am - No Host Bar, noon - Lunch and Presentation. The Westin Hotel, \$50. For more information or to reserve your seat, call 429-8718. A tax receipt will be issued. Tables of ten may be reserved. Please reserve your ticket before March 3rd.

Perspectives on Alberta - Rally for jobs and Social Justice, Tuesday, March 7 at 6:30 pm at the Legislature. Join in with national labour leaders and coalition partners. There will be speakers and entertainment. Bring your banners and noisemak-

ers. Organized by the Alberta Federation of Labour.

Changing Together. A Centre for Immigrant Women presents free workshop for Nannies and other Immigrant Working Women. "Know your legal rights in Canada" Saturday March 11 and March 25 at 9:00 am at 10010-107 A Ave. Call 421-0175 to register.

Women and Community - open to women who work paid or unpaid in the field of social justice. Meets Monday March 20, 6:30 to 9:30 pm at CSS, 10709-105 Street. Call Louise at 439-8744.

From Field to Table - March 3 and 4 at the U of A, Education Building. Organized by SAGE, EarthKeeping, U of A International Centre and CUSO. For more information, call June Carrington at 439-4663.

Monday, February 27th at 8:00 pm Lorelei Loveridge is having a CD release party. "Endless Contradictions" is a reflection of Loveridge's experience and strong conviction. Special guest is Picasso's Life; admission is free at Ike & Iggy's Pub. Sponsored by CJSR FM 88.

Celebrating our talents and empowering our collective voice. Sound Groovy? Let's make it happen - an all new Edmonton Women's Music Festival. Contact Lorelei Loveridge at ph/fax 420-0113.

The Menopause Support Group meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Royal Alexandra Hospital Women's Centre in the out-patient Diabetic Clinic. For additional information, call Barb Rocchio at 454-3133 or Gladys Roth at 477-4829.

The Take Back The Night organizing committee is holding their first planning on March 7th at 5:45 pm at #104, 11745 Jasper Avenue. Take Back The Night Rally and March held in September each year is one positive way for women to join together to say that violence against women is not acceptable. We invite any woman interested in planning this year's event to attend. We welcome new ideas and input. For more information contact, Sylvia MacKinnon at 457-9795.

STETTLER

On March 8, Stettler Public Library is once again hosting our annual International Women's Day luncheon. This year our guest speaker will be Fran Smith, a local business woman and the only female town Councillor. Fran will speak about Managing a Business and local politics from a woman's perspective. Everyone Welcome.

More Calendar

Women of the 90's... Being Our Best, a woman's conference, March 11 at the Performing Arts Centre, Stettler. A one day conference with several speakers and workshops, cost is \$30, includes lunch and admission to the Trade Fair. For more information contact, Cathy Smith or Maureen Mailer at 742-7400.

WETASKIWIN

International Women's Day - Celebrating Women, March 8th at the Wetaskiwin Library, 7:30 pm. Bring your favorite expression (poem, painting, etc) to share. For more information, call Johanna in the evenings at 352-3476.

ASWAC Events

Social Policy Review Project

The joint ASWAC/TENWA Social Policy review project began in October, 1994. The purpose of the project was to involve women in the social policy review. Pam Krause was hired as the project organizer for four months and Penny Kome was hired as the researcher/reporter.

Work began by coordinating over twenty women from Alberta to attend a Social Policy Review Conference in Regina organized by NAC, the Federation des Femmes du Quebec and the University of Regina.

Two weeks later Pam attended a Canadian Labour Force Development Board conference on social policy in Ottawa. ASWAC also participated in a national consultation which included a meeting with Lloyd Axworthy and Paul Martin. The work in Alberta consisted of facilitating the participation of groups in the Social Policy Review (SPR) process, organizing and facilitating workshops throughout the province, as well as distributing information.

An advisory committee was established with representation from both ASWAC and TENWA. This group determined the type of materials we would distribute and provided some direction in setting up the workshop itself.

Initially, we were surprised by the number of people who were unaware that our federal social policies were being reviewed or that they could participate in this process. We informed them of the review process, what programs and services might be changed and how this could affect their members or clients or themselves. We also strongly encouraged them to get involved in the review process. Workshops and information material were distributed throughout the province.

We helped to organize groups in both Edmonton and Calgary to apply to appear before the Standing Committee on Human Development when they were in Alberta. Many groups were contacted, and over 20 organizations were registered through the Calgary office. ASWAC was not chosen to appear before

ASWAC Events

the Committee. However, Nancy Miller did get five minutes in Edmonton. TENWA did appear in Calgary. Lorraine Moulding and Pam Krause went before the Committee and reviewed our joint brief. All parties asked questions, none of which were particularly enlightening. However, the Liberals were somewhat defensive when we pointed out the lack of gender analysis evident throughout the Green Book.

Issues Raised in the Workshops

Our workshop presentations began with a discussion of the debt and deficit. The participants appreciated the information we provided, and our lively discussions led us to believe social spending did not cause the federal debt.

Overall, it was felt the Green Paper's discussion about Unemployment Insurance was focused on blaming the worker for not working. Many people remarked that the real problem is the lack of "good" jobs. Workshop participants strongly felt the Liberals should focus on job creation, the platform they were elected on, instead of blaming the victims of unemployment and cutting social programs.

There was a great deal of concern about the possibility of tying UI to family income, rather than individual income. It was unanimously felt that this would have a drastic negative affect on women's independence. Also, there were many concerns raised about frequent UI claimants possibly receiving fewer or no benefits. Again, it was felt that people don't chose to be seasonally employed; it is economic reality that leads to this. Post-secondary education changes were also front and centre in our discussions. First of all, there was not a lot of support for changing the system to end federal transfer payments in favor of providing enhanced loans directly to students. The concern was that this would lead to increased tuitions and superloans causing students to be more in debt for longer and making it completely inaccessible for some. As well, the end of transfer payments would make it more difficult for post secondary institutions to plan for the long term. Much of their revenue would be coming directly from students, making them more of a business-type enterprise. Fear was also expressed that universities would become just job training facilities, and programs like Liberal Arts would suffer.

National standards were discussed in various contexts, but there were two main areas of concern. Keep in mind that we recognize Quebec's right to self determination and First Nation's people right to self-government. National standards, as we discussed them, only refer to Canada outside of Quebec. Participants wanted to see the Canada Assistance Plan maintained, if not strengthened. Many times the concern was raised that any devolution of federal powers to the provinces, and the destruction of national standards as a result, would be devastating in Alberta. Canada Assistance Program (CAP) also protects the rights of social assistance recipients. Without federal standards, the Alberta government would be free to abolish all social services in this province, something not out of the realm of possibilities.

More ASWAC Events

In area of training, participants clearly stated the need for national standards, portability, as well as a recognition of life long learning and foreign credentials.

There was some discussion about the idea of a guaranteed annual income (GAI), although no clear consensus was reached. However, during the workshops we presented what the National Anti-Poverty Organization (NAPO) has produced on the issue. This led people to consider the implications of a GAI, and the possibility that it would drive all wages down. There was support for a comprehensive, quality, affordable, accessible national child care program. The feds have been talking about it for too long. We say... just do it!

This project gave us the welcome opportunity to meet women from outside of Edmonton and Calgary. We would like to thank the ASWAC members who assisted us in this work.

•On February 6th the Standing Committee on Human Resources Development released its Social Security Review report. The Liberal majority urged the government not to cut Unemployment Insurance or other social programs. The report has been largely ignored, and Lloyd Axworthy admitted that social security reforms will take a back seat to deficit reduction.

Introductions

Hi folks, my name is Snake Kunda. I'm excited to be joining Nancy, Moyra and Sharon as part of the staff team of ASWAC. For the next year I will be working out of the Edmonton office and travelling around Alberta coordinating the Provincial Volunteer and Resource Development Project. This is a new special project funded by the Wild Rose Foundation of Alberta.

As part of the work of this project I will be creating a database of resources, agencies and programs addressing a range of issues of concern to women, from health to legal issues, social security to self-help groups. This information will then be made available to women throughout Alberta.

A second priority for this project is volunteer development in political activism. I hope to meet with many of you over the next year to look at how we can have a stronger voice as women in our communities, organizations and government. From my discussions with women I will be developing a generic, user friendly workshop package on political organization and action. My goal is to test this package in a few communities in Alberta and then to make it available to women's groups, organizations and individuals throughout the province.

To reach these goals, I need input from you, our members. If you are aware of any groups, programs, agencies or resources

that you think other women should know about, please phone, fax or mail me at the Edmonton ASWAC office. And if you know any folks (groups or individuals) in your area who are interested in organizing women around political issues, or who want to brush up on the "how-to's" of political activism, or who have tips on "how-to" that should be included in the workshop package, please contact me. I am in the Edmonton office Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9am-4pm.

I look forward to hearing from and meeting many of you as I embark on what is bound to be a challenging and rewarding year with ASWAC.

AGM

Yes, it's that time again - the **Annual General Meeting - Saturday May 6th**. This year's AGM will take place in Calgary at the YWCA of Calgary, 320-5 Ave SE, accommodations are available on site and are free of charge to all ASWAC members in good standing as of May 6, 1995. Travel will also be covered and car pooling is being organized through the Edmonton office. The Calgary women have a track record of putting on the best ASWAC socials so be prepared to socialize with some of the finest, funniest and very dedicated feminists in our province, on Saturday evening. We invite all ASWAC members to take part in this year's event. The theme is The Value of Women's Work: Paid and Unpaid. Arrangements for the keynote speaker are still to be made. Watch for details in our next newsletter.

Refreshments will be provided. To ensure there is enough room for everybody RSVP as soon as possible. If **child care** is needed please contact Moyra at 421-0306 **before April 24th**. Let's take the province by storm - come and support your sisters - be part of the struggle - !

On **Sunday May 7th** Women Looking Forward has invited ASWAC members to a workshop. The location is the same as our AGM and will run from 10 am to noon. Watch for details in our next newsletter.

Please see our call for nominations on page 2.



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Working with Women for Financial Independence

Write On

This section of the ASWAC Newsletter is dedicated to providing information to our members about issues that need political action. In our years of advocacy, we find that individual letter writing is a most powerful tool. Phone calls, petitions have proven to be not as effective as an individual letter which requests a response. It is in these times of severe cut backs, blaming and lack of responsible, accountable government that we urge every ASWAC member to write. If we all wrote one letter in response to one of the following issues, action would have to take place on the politicians part. Remember to request a response. So write today, write often and remember to send a copy of your letter to ASWAC Edmonton. We use these letters to provoke responses. Thank you for taking the time.

PROVINCIAL

The government has accepted the idea of a Community Supports model, but they are planning to make the new Regional Health Authorities - which are in the Department of Health - responsible for running it. This will give health care professionals control over the delivery of services to people with disabilities. It will also reverse 20 years of progress for people with disabilities. To help the Alberta Committee of Citizens with Disabilities call 488-9088, TTY at 488-9090 or toll free at 1-800-387-2514. We need your help.

Possible government changes in gaming regulations could mean the end of secure casino, bingo and raffle funding for non-profit groups. A provincial committee has been set up to hear from you on the possibility of the Klein government using these funds for other purposes, such as deficit reduction. This is absurd. Write to Judy Gordon, Chair of Lotteries Review Committee at 503 Legislature Building, 10800-97 Ave, Edmonton, AB, T5K 2B6. Send a copy to Steve West at 425 Legislature Building, and a copy to Ralph Klein at 307 Legislature Building. The Wild Rose Foundation which funds non-profit organizations, is in jeopardy as well. Recently ASWAC received a year grant from the Foundation. We need this money to continue our valuable work; we urge all ASWAC members to write.

FEDERAL

(No postage is required) If you don't know your Member of Parliament's name, call 1-800-267-8683.

The Elizabeth Fry Society is asking us to write to Allan Rock, the Solicitor General of Canada, Ottawa, to review dangerous offender legislation and in particular, to revise the criteria that has been established to ensure that women and men are treated equally under the law. Lisa Neve a 21 year old woman has the distinction of being the only woman in Canada declared a dangerous offender. Her charges are violent, for a woman. They would not, however, be considered particularly exceptional if she were a man. Most dangerous offenders are

detained in protective custody from other inmates: Lisa has been held in the general population. Contact the Elizabeth Fry office nearest you for more information.

Federal government plans to increase taxes on benefit programs. Paul Martin has indicated he is strongly considering a new measure to tax group health and dental insurance. This could result in hundreds of dollars in new personal federal income tax for you. Write to Paul Martin Minister of Finance, L'Esplanade Laurier, 140 O'Connor, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0G5. Also send a copy to your Member of Parliament at Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A6.

Write to Sergio Marchi, Minister of Immigration and Citizenship at House of Commons, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A6. Domestic workers contribute to Canada's economy and their skills at taking care of our children and our homes must be recognized. Please end discrimination against domestic workers by allowing them to enter Canada as landed immigrants under the Immigration Point System. Currently domestic workers enter Canada, unlike other immigrants, on a temporary visitor's visa; the live-in caregiver program requires them to renew their work permit every year and allows to apply for status as a landed immigrant only after they have lived in for two years. This is a blatant form of discrimination against this group of immigrants.

The Coalition for Gun Control asks that we write to our Members of Parliament at House of Commons, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A6. Legislation should be introduced to include: possession permits and cost-effective registration for rifles and shotguns, a total ban on assault weapons and large capacity magazines, controls on the sale of ammunition, tougher restrictions on handguns. Ask your MP to support these measures and ask for a response. The Coalition for Gun Control can be reached at (416) 604-0209.

Lorene Rajhard, M.Sc.



**Individual, Marital
& Family Therapy**

#204 Ritchie Mill
10171 Saskatchewan Drive
Edmonton, Alberta T6E 4R5
(403) 431-0623

Sources & Resources

Action Link: Political Action Directory (1994), Council of Canadians, telephone 1-800-387-7177.

The Deficit Made Me Do It: The Myths About Government Debt (1992), Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, telephone (613) 563-1341.

Fact sheets from the National Anti-Poverty Organization (1994), telephone (613) 789-0096.

A Picture of Health: Audiotape, videotape and report on the fight for quality health care services (1994), Ontario Federation of Labour, telephone (416) 443-7686,

Poverty Profile 1992 (Spring 1994), National Council of Welfare, telephone (613) 957-2961.

Review of the Situation of Women in Canada (1993), National Action Committee on the Status of Women, telephone 1-800-665-5124.

Social Programs, Social Sense (July 1994), Canadian Labour Congress, telephone (613) 521-3400.

Unfair Shares: Corporations and Taxation in Canada (1994), Ontario Federation of Labour and the Ontario Coalition for Social Justice, telephone (416) 441-2731.

The Wealthy Banker's Wife (1993), Linda McQuaig. Available in most book stores and libraries.

The Tax Treatment of Child Support: Preferred Policy Options, July 1994. Quote # 94-E-209 when ordering this publication. Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women (CACSW), telephone (613)992-4976.

Every Voice Counts: A Guide to Personal and Political Action by Penny Kome (1989). Quote #89-L-156 when ordering. CACSW, telephone (613) 992-4976.

To order a brochure of publications available from CACSW, call (613) 992-4976.

Sexual Assault: A Guide To The Criminal Justice System. If you choose to report sexual assault, this 80 page handbook is a useful guide to the maze known as the criminal justice system. \$6. Metro Action Committee on Public Violence Against Women and Children (METRAC), 158 Spadina Rd, Toronto, ON, M5R 2T8, telephone (416) 392-3135.

The following material related to the 1995 World Conference on Women is available from: 1995 World Conference on Women Secretariat, Status of Women Canada, 360 Albert Street, Suite 700, Ottawa, ON, K1A 1C3, telephone (613) 995-7835: 1) Fact sheet on the 1995 World Conference 2) Canada's

National Report to the United Nations 3) Regional Platform for Action 4) Report of the Vienna NGO Forum 5) Beijing Update- newsletter providing information on activities. 6) A poster celebrating the 1995 World Conference on Women.

Action Canada Network: Keep Canada Caring: Speak Out for Social Programs, Fall 1994. (\$6.50) #804-251 Laurier Ave West, Ottawa, ON, K1P 5J6.

Steps For Change... A Project in Search of Changes. The first national walk of solidarity for HIV+ women and children planned for Sunday, March 5, 1995, has been canceled. There have been difficulties attracting funds and human resources to support this project. This meant that we can not distribute the written materials necessary or do the follow-up required. The March 5th National Walk is canceled. We thank ASWAC members for their support. For further inquiries, call Francine in Montreal at (514) 989-7997.

This is our Place: Alternative Resources for Low-Income Families, February 1994. Includes an explanation of what alternative practices should be and a directory of resources by province. Available from, 43 Templeton Street, Ottawa ON K1N 6N5.

Carolyn A. Gorlick. Taking Chances: Single Mothers and their Children Exiting Welfare (1994). Available from Prof. Gorlick, School of Social Work, King's College, University of Western Ontario, 266 Epworth Avenue, London ON, N6A 2M3.

WomenFutures Community Economic Development Society. Women Get Credit: An Introductory Kit on Alternative Financing. (Autumn 1994). (\$11 individuals or \$13 groups) Includes savings groups, lending circles, barter systems and loan guarantee funds. #217-1956 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC, V6J 1Z2, (604) 737-1338.

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More ASWAC Information

Public Awareness of Sexual Sterotyping and Pornography (PASSP) has moved! Their new address is Box 42071 RPO Millborne, Edmonton, Alberta, T6K 4C4. Phone number is 450-4777 and Fax number is 450-3867.

You are invited to apply to be part of our summer educational tour to Guatemala. Be more than a tourist this summer. Experience Guatemala first-hand by participating in Pueblo Partisans' Fourth Annual Study to Guatemala. The itinerary includes visits with human rights organizations, development projects, women's groups. Also there is the unique opportunity to visit our grassroots community accompaniment project in the Western Highland Mayan village of Comitancillo, Guatemala. For more information, please contact Pueblo Partisans before March 30 at PO Box 75014, Ritchie Postal Outlet, Edmonton, Alberta, T6E 6K1 or call 439-6334.

Azimuth Theatre will launch its Canadian tour of "Running Through the Devil's Club." The drama was developed with the assistance of survivors and sexual abuse/assault specialists. Running Through The Devil's Club is 80 minutes in length, and can be followed by an informal debriefing, panel forum or small group discussion. The tour is starting in Bowden on February 21 and will travel across western Canada over the next three months. If you wish to host a show, call Azimuth Theatre at 448-9165.

Social spending doesn't cause debt...

According to Statistics Canada...

- 50% of the debt is due to tax breaks for upper income earners and corporations;
- 44% of the debt is due to high interest rates;
- 4% of the debt is due to general program spending and;
- only 2% of the debt can be attributed to social programs.

-Statistics Canada, 1991

Edmonton Women's Shelter needs donations of single bed mattress covers, sheets and blankets, pillows, crib sheets and towels. All should be new and completely washable. Please drop off at #290, 11717-42 Street. If you have any questions call Del at 471-6709. The shelter is unable to pick up donations.

The Edmonton Women's Building Collective (ASWAC, Womospace, Edmonton Working Women, Candian Union of Educational Workers) is holding the third annual **International Women's Day Open House** at 9930-106 Street from noon to 7:00 pm on **Wednesday March 8th**. Everyone is welcome; please drop by to visit and have a snack!!! For information, call 421-0306.

\$\$\$

As some of you may remember, ASWAC received 45,000 from the Wild Rose Foundation in October, 1990. This money was used to hire a volunteer coordinator (Cathy Meade) for a year and to develop several resources. The project was a great success and we hoped to apply again. Well, on September 29 as Sharon Reiner was starting to go into labour (Morgan Janet, was born the same day), she completed our application to the Wild Rose Foundation. Since Sharon had a new bundle of joy to keep her busy, Margot Beamish did follow up on our application. Well, success! We received 44,000 in late December, 1994. Sherry Gettis attended the ceremony at the Foundation where she was presented with the cheque. After much disbelief, surprise and delight, we started plans to hire for this year long position. We advertised in all the weekly Alberta papers, as well as the Journal and the Herald. We received 230 applications. Wow!

On January 30, Snake Kunda started work at the Edmonton office (see her introduction for more information). The Project is called Women On The Move, and it involves the creation of a database of services/organizations, advocates and information available to women in Alberta. We welcome any input on the project! Also, Snake will be developing a workshop that will take to the road later in the year, geared at political activism. ASWAC will be upgrading the computers and software with hopes of entering the information hi-way. We are extremely happy to have received this grant and we call on all ASWAC members to refer to the Write On section of this newsletter and respond to the latest efforts to end funding to non-profits. Again, we welcome input on the project and any ideas or concerns.

The Women's Building Collective, basement 9930-106 Street, has a partially furnished, windowless, but cheery room for rent on a month to month basis. Shared meeting room, kitchen facilities and smoking room available. Any offers will be taken into consideration. Good for short term projects or counsellors requiring a interview room. Drop by on March 8th during our Open House, noon to 7:00pm or leave a message at 421-0306.

Call Us is a one hour television program aired on WTN at 11:30 am EST. It is a comfortable venue for women across Canada to tell their stories and share their views without criticism. *Call Us* to interact with professionals and guest experts on all topics relevant to their everyday lives - on air - live - Canada wide. 1-800-678-LINK (1-800-678-5465) links women across Canada. We encourage ASWAC members to *Call Us* and exchange stories and share your views.

News From NAC

The Social Policy Review has been the main focus of NAC's work over the past year. One of the activities which NAC undertook was to organize a national consultation. Over eighty women from across the country met in Ottawa to discuss the Social Policy Review (SPR) and it's implications for women, and then met with Lloyd Axworthy and Paul Martin. Nancy Miller (ASWAC) and I attended the consultation.

The social policy work continues even though the government has decided to frame the debate around the federal budget, expected in late February. It appears that the work of the Standing Committee on Human Resources Development, which spent five weeks traveling the country consulting on the future of Canada's social programs, has been ignored. NAC, working with women's groups throughout the country, initiated a National 'Old Shoe' Campaign. Women were asked to send an old shoe to Paul Martin encouraging him to walk a mile in our shoes while preparing the budget. Each pair of old shoes sent to the minister represents a person living in poverty. A national day of action against poverty is planned for late May. May 26 to June 4 women in Quebec are marching from Montreal to Quebec City to protest poverty. NAC has decided to have one day during that period as a national day of action to support our sisters in Quebec, and to protest the attack on social programs. I will inform you when a specific date has been set. Some provinces may hold rallies or marches; others want to do something very different. If you have any suggestions about what we in Alberta might want to do, it would be great to hear from you.

NAC also continues to consult with women about the draft "99 Steps" (to end violence against women) document. All member groups should have received a copy of this last year. If you have not received a copy, or want to offer your comments on the document, please contact me.

The Beijing, Alberta Conference for Women was held in Calgary February 24 to 26. It was organized by a coalition of groups, including NAC. The purpose of the conference was to share information and create our own platform for action around the Fourth United Nations Conference on Women scheduled for September 1995 in Beijing. For information on the outcome of the conference, please contact me.

Sunera Thobani, President of NAC, spoke at the Beijing, Alberta conference. She was also a speaker at International Week at the University of Calgary earlier in February. As always, Sunera was an inspiring and dynamic speaker.

The NAC Annual General Meeting (AGM) is fast approaching. It will be held in Ottawa June 9 to 12 at the Citadel Inn. The NAC office will be sending information out about the AGM soon. It would be great if we could have twenty women from Alberta at the AGM again this year.

I have not had the opportunity to hold a regional meeting yet this year, but I would like to hold two meetings before the NAC AGM. The first is tentatively planned for the end of March in Edmonton. I would like to take that opportunity to meet women from the member groups in Edmonton and northern Alberta and discuss issues of concern and get feedback from you. Notices will be sent to member groups

with details very soon. The second meeting will be in Calgary on May 6 or 7 in conjunction with the ASWAC AGM. Although NAC has been under attack by the right wing and in the media lately, its membership has increased both nationally and in the provinces. Now it is time for organizations and individuals to demonstrate their support for NAC by becoming a member group or a "Friend of NAC." Fundraising efforts are also becoming more regionalized, and we look forward to your support in the future.

I can be contacted through ASWAC Calgary at 233-0731.

In Sisterhood
Pam Krause
Alberta Representative



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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.

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