



ALBERTA STATUS OF WOMEN ACTION COMMITTEE

March, 1986

Vol. 7 No. 2



Inside this Newsletter:
Update on childcare issues
International Women's Day events

Our board meeting minutes

Eighteen hours at a glance

PRESENT	Amanda Le Rougetel, Lisa Walter, Aura Rose, Frances Adams, Lavera Creasy, Irene McRae, Marty Whitesun, Terri Ann Marco, Suzn Morgan, Cathy Bray, Eunice Olson, Rosemary Taylor, Mair Smith,	WOMEN'S CENTRES CONFERENCE	Planning and preparation has gone well, and the weekend (March 15,16) looks promising. Participation will be restricted to 50 ♀.
board and region. reps.		NEWSLETTER	Planning for next issue (which you hold in your hand) - devoted to International Women's Day, as well as discussion of future articles.
visitors	Barb Richardson, Renate Shearer, J.A. LeGras		
PAY EQUITY	Barb Richardson of the Canadian Human Rights Commission spoke on Friday evening about equal pay for work of equal value. Board and regional reps and visitors discussed the objections raised against pay equity, and counterarguments to such objections.	REGIONAL REPS	Mair Smith spoke about her ways of working as a regional rep in Edmonton. She sees herself as a personal contact for members and feels she can be especially effective in alerting women of "fast-breaking" activities and actions. She also created enthusiasm for the rejuvenation of monthly feminist pubnights. Mair stressed that she didn't want her role to be strictly defined.
PAY EQUITY CAMPAIGN	(Equal pay for work of equal value) i) A tabloid to be prepared by Julie Ann Legras can be used in the provincial election campaign. ii) Workshop materials will be prepared so that ASWAC board members and other interested women will have standardized resource material for educational workshops throughout the province. iii) An ASWAC policy statement and fact sheet, as well as a poster, will be prepared. iv) Other ideas: post cards sent to MLA's expressing support for pay equity; polling election candidates on their attitudes on pay equity; hosting forums and summits; sending speakers; workshop at annual assembly.		General discussion occurred about boundaries for regional reps. It was decided that reps should reach out to their natural community, and not worry too much about geographic lines. Perhaps more regional reps are needed.
		ASSEMBLY	Red Deer is the location for the 1986 assembly. Eunice Olson will begin work there.
		BUDGET	Next year's budget, in a new and simpler format, was reviewed and modified. The working group expressed their satisfaction with their process and product.
PROCESS ASSESSMENT	Renate Shearer outlined the work she has done and will do to execute an evaluation of the work of and relationship between ASWAC and the Secretary of State Women's Program. A letter and questionnaire has been sent to ASWAC members as part of this process.	CHILDCARE CAMPAIGN	We discussed the recommendations of the intermunicipality report on childcare, and the Coalition for Quality Childcare which may grow from a local to a provincial group. Frances will continue to be the ASWAC rep on the childcare committees. We decided to set aside \$1,000 to start up a provincial coalition.

1985/86 ASWAC BOARD MEMBERS

FRANCES ADAMS	c/o ASWAC office	424-3073
CATHY BRAY	#3-8511-107 St., Edmonton, T6E 4L1	433-2682
LAVERA CREASY	Boc 1740, Hanna, T0J 1P0	854-3216
AMANDA LE ROUGETEL	c/o ASWAC office	424-3073
TERRI-ANN MARCO	834-7 Street South, Lethbridge, T1J 2H6	327-0040
IRENE McRAE	c/o 166 Beacon Hill Drive, Ft. McMurray, T9H 2P5	743-2809
SUZAN MORGAN	6423 Laurentian Way Sw, Calgary, T3E 5N2	246-8755
EUNICE OLSEN	Box 124, Innisfail, T0M 1A0	227-1970
AURA ROSE	Bsmt. 8542-83 Ave., Edmonton, T6C 1B1	469-7112
LISA WALTER	9525-77 Ave., Edmonton, T6C 0M3	431-0296
TERESA WARENYCIA	12908-88 St., Edmonton, T5E 3H3	476-8525
MARTY WHITE SUN	Box 418, Hythe, T0H 0H1	356-3797

1985/86 ASWAC REGIONAL REPS

JUDY MOYNIHAN	190 Highland Close, Fort McMurray, T9H 3T5	791-4395	NorthEast
MAIR SMITH	11460-95 St., Edmonton, T5C 1L4	479-0623	NorthEdmonton
GERRY BAILEY	RR 1, Westerose, T0C 2V0	586-2983	WestCentral
JOAN WHITE CALF	5603-50 Ave., Camrose, T4V 0T6	672-2210	EastCentral
ROSEMARY TAYLOR	#3-806-2nd Ave., Calgary, T2N 0E5	270-2187	Calgary

**** please note the addition to the Board member list of Eunice from Red Deer!!! She met with Frances during her visit down there in January, came to the Board meeting and came on the Board. She is full of energy and has committed herself to working on finding a location for our Assembly in November in the Red Deer region amongst a variety of other things, too. I really look forward to working with her.

Board Meetings

The next Board meeting will take place in Lethbridge, March 21, 22 and 23. A presentation on pay equity will be made at the Friday evening portion of the meeting. If you are interested in attending all or part of the meeting, please call Terri Ann Marco in Lethbridge at 327-0040.

The Board will be meeting on the following dates throughout this year:

May 2/3/4 - Westerose
June 6/7/8 - Calgary
July 25/26/27 - Coronation
Sept. 12/13/14 - G. Prairie
October 17/18/19 - Edmonton
November 14/15/16 - Next Annual Assembly in Red Deer.



\$

We have received about \$650 in donations since the Assembly. Thanks very much to
Marlene Rankel, Aura Rose, Doreen Indra, Liz Lunney, Marg Koep, Sheila Bailin, Marilyn Assheton-Smith, Pam Barrett, Jeanette Raby, Glenda Molgat, Agnes Wiley, Janet Beebe, Viola Birss, Debbie Shogan, Ruth Barker, Virginia Cornish, Warren Sarauer, Rosemary Moon, Helen Greaves, Sheila MacDonald, Lorraine Butchart, Joan

Rosenberg, Marty White Sun, Elizabeth Verhagen, Isabel Smith, Glenna Roper, Dorren Pirie, Linda Lee Nicholls, Mufty Mathewson, Vicki Davidson, Sandra Spicer, Gloria Filax, Diana Chown, Jean Schmitt, Janina Vanderpost, Lynne Parent, Erica Wuensch, Rebecca Coulter, Saskia Scott, Dianne Oberg, Doris Malcolm, Bernice Neal, Beryl Schmittke, Leslie Stewart, Marie Laing & Vicki Vaitkunias.

NAC position open

Trudy Richardson has been the Alberta/NWT representative on the National Action Committee executive for the past two years. This position will come open at the Annual General Meeting coming up at the end of May. NAC member groups from Alberta and the N.W.T. attending the Ottawa meeting, Organizing For Power, will choose the new representative for our region. Any member group can nominate a woman for the position.

A regional rep's work is to

make regional concerns heard nationally and vice versa. She is the contact for member groups throughout the region, takes groups' concerns to the executive and encourages groups to take action on national initiatives such as the family allowance or pension cutbacks.

Now is the time to consider running for the executive. If you are interested, please contact Trudy Richardson (482-2766) or Frances Adams at the ASWAC office.

Member's surveyed as evaluation begins

ASWAC members received a letter and a questionnaire this month from the Advisory Committee, represented by ASWAC member Lisa Walter. The letter and the questionnaire are part of the work we are doing with Secretary of State in evaluating both of our organizations and activities.

The letter that came with the questionnaire may have led you to wonder about the evaluation project. The wording of the letter unfortunately made some people think that this project was not appreciated by the letter's author, and ASWAC.

The evaluation project is, in fact, going very well and we are pleased to be involved. Renate Shearer is the woman doing the research and interviewing work and she is very good. We are hopeful that the project may show us a good deal.

So please, complete the questionnaire and sent it in if you haven't already done so. They've been flooding back at a great pace actually. We will reproduce the report's recommendations and have the report available by the end of April.



Legal Counsel for Unborn

Opposition to freedom of choice for women continues. On January 17, Lawrence O'Neil MP for Cape Breton Highlands-Carso (Nova Scotia) introduced Bill C-254 "an act to amend the Criminal Code to provide legal counsel for the unborn child" for a second reading. Fortunately after Margaret Mitchell (NDP Vancouver East) argued against this ridiculous bill, it died on the order paper. Then, on Monday January 20 another private members bill which sought to eliminate all abortions except where the mothers life was in danger was given second reading. Jim Hawkes (PC Calgary West) spoke at some length to the bill but "it was not possible to determine where he stood". Letters from ASWAC members to the honorable member, House of Commons, Ottawa, might help him to clarify his position further.

from Diane Mossman
National Coordinator
Canadian Abortion Rights
Action League

Diane Mossman Coordinator of CARAL would like to know of doctors across Canada who would support Doctors for Choice. Please send her names of anyone who might be interested.

Diane Mossman
C.A.R.A.L.
National Office
344 Bloor St. W #306
Toronto, Ont.
M5S 1W4
416 - 961-1507



**The Canadian Abortion Law on Trial
Women Speak Out!**
Edmonton: March 27, 1986
Centennial Library Theatre

WE are looking for women who would be willing to 'testify' at the tribunal. The section of the Canadian Criminal Code dealing with abortion will be put on trial and a jury will hand down the verdict. The Code is charged with being guilty of discrimination against women.

DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL?

DO YOU KNOW A WOMAN WHO HAS A STORY TO TELL?

DO YOU KNOW OF A WOMAN WHOSE STORY SHOULD BE TOLD?

For more information on how to participate in the Abortion Tribunal, please contact:

Abortion By Choice/CARAL
Box 4098, EDMONTON, Alta
T6E 2A0
tel: 429-6015

or

ASWAC
Box 1573, EDMONTON, Alta
T5J 2N7
tel: 424-3073

Show your support for the PRO-CHOICE movement . . . ATTEND THE TRIBUNAL!

Out-of-school care struggle

The Emergency Ad Hoc Group on Out-Of-School Care, of which ASWAC is a member, is continuing to meet to discuss provincial funding. After a barrage of lobbying the province to put additional dollars into Out-of-School Care programs, we have few assurances of anything. The city of Edmonton decided to keep all the children already in the program but upped the basic fee (for those on full subsidy) by \$20 to \$60 per month. Neil Webber indicated several times that chances were good F.C.S.S. funding would be increased which would give all municipalities more dollars for Out-Of-School Care Programs. Webber however, was moved to Education and has been replaced by Connie Osterman

whom we have no reason to believe is sympathetic to increased funding for child care. F.C.S.S. funding from the province has been frozen for three years and we can hardly believe that this can continue, particularly since this is an election year. However, we can't afford to take any chances and will continue to inform and pressure the government.



Municipal Recommendations

INTER-MUNICIPAL TASK FORCE REPORT ON OUT-OF-SCHOOL CARE

1. That, in consultation with Municipalities, the Province be requested to immediately raise its F.C.S.S. program base allocation for all municipalities to at least \$12 per capita, plus an inflation allowance retroactive to 1982 that accommodates true cost of living increases and further that this resolution not be constructed as contrary to the F.C.S.S. Association's resolution calling for a "substantial increase".
2. That, in order to provide a long-term solution to the Out-of-School Care issue, the Province, in consultation with Municipalities, be requested to establish a separate funding "element" for Out-Of-School Care, with the basic F.C.S.S. philosophy, guidelines and administration, under the 80% - 20% formula, but which would be open-ended and drawn on by Municipalities depending on the need being experienced within the local jurisdiction.
3. That the licensing and monitoring of Out-Of-School Care programs be a joint responsibility negotiated individually between the Province and Municipalities. If a municipality wishes to license and monitor Out-Of-School Care programs which operate within its jurisdiction, the Province should delegate that responsibility along with appropriate funding. If the municipality does not wish to be responsible for these functions, it would ask the province to do so but in accordance with the licensing standards approved by the municipality.
4. That both the Province and Municipalities adopt as their guidelines for licensing Out-Of-School Care the policy statement on Out-Of-School Care Standards.
5. That joint responsibility for Out-Of-School Care be clarified in the Social Care Facilities Licensing Act.

For a copy of the Task Force Report, Contact your municipal gov't or call the ASWAC office.

Federal Hearings

The Special Committee on Child Care is holding hearings across the country in the next few months and will be in Alberta between June 2 and 6. The Committee, made up of federal M.P.s, will hear witnesses in Calgary, Edmonton and Medicine Hat. Reasonable travel and accommodation costs will be paid to enable groups from other parts of the province to attend. All requests to appear before the Committee should be sent to Ottawa by MARCH 14.

Submissions may be sent to the Committee at any time prior to June 2nd. All correspondence should be sent to the Special Committee on Child Care, Suite 308, 151 Sparks St., Ottawa K1A 0A6; Tel. (613) 995-3789.

ASWAC is interested in knowing who, in Alberta, will be making presentations and/or submitting briefs. Please send us a copy of your presentation or contact the office.

I read in the paper

This poem was written by Sheryl Ackerman and read at the Candlelight Vigil. It is dedicated to Brenda McClenaghan and countless others.

I read in the paper
once
that most times
when a man
kills another man
there is a motive:
greed
pride
jealousy...

this means there is
a direct connection
between the murderer
and the victim of his crime,
a reason, however twisted and ugly,
that he killed
that particular man

the same article
went on
to explain
that
sometimes
when a man
kills a woman
there is no apparent motive
no connection
between the murderer
and the victim of his crime
no reason...
that he killed
that particular woman

(which explains,
the police explain,
why so many such cases
remain unsolved)

in any other context
the murder
of innocent
and arbitrarily-
chosen victims
is called
TERRORISM

the papers are awash these days
with frustration, anger, indignation
about terrorism in the world
and now men are making speeches
about the need and means to stop
these heinous crimes against humanity

where are their speeches
for Brenda?

read
in the paper

one morning
in cold black print
"WOMAN'S BODY FOUND"

no particular woman?
any woman?
every woman?

I knew it was Brenda
as I slumped
in my chair

and I cried
I cried
I cried

and I held her
memory
in my palm
I cradled her there
gently
a time.....

then turning the
page
I read in the paper
in bold black print

"TRAGEDY OF BRENDA: JUST ONE MISTAKE"

and my sorrow
swooped
through me
transformed
to RAGE

"she made one
mistake" it read
"she decided to
walk to her car
alone"

MISTAKE?
MISTAKE?

surely there must be
some mistake?!

and how can it be
Brenda's?

surely
walking
from a building
to a car
cannot be a mistake!

and men
who write such words

do they have wives
or daughters
who walk
from the house
to the car
or to school
alone?

ever?
and is that a mistake?

MISTAKE?!
MISTAKE?!

surely
the man
who murders
an innocent woman
is to blame?

surely
a society
steeped in the values
of power, aggression and domination
is to blame

surely
a world
imbued with fierce
deep-rooted
misogyny
is to blame

but not, not Brenda
Brenda is not to blame

she is right
and we are right
to walk
to run
to dance
to be

she has the right
and we have the right
to walk
to run
to dance
to be

day and night
belong to us
time and space
belong to us
life, sweet life
belongs to us

because...
we are

now
Brenda
be with us
now
Lottie
be with us
Deain
be with us
Kathy
be with us
now
Charlotte
be with us

Serrinder
be with us
Cheryl Lynn
and Neri
be with us
Rita
be with us
Karen be with us
Louise
and Mary Anne
be with us
Marie and Gail
and Cindy
be with us
and Tania
wherever you are
be with us
now

We are all
women
claiming
our right
to be
here
and
now

We are all
women
claiming
our right
to be

©



photo by Sima Khorrami

Vigil for Brenda

On Wednesday, January 29 about 300 Edmontonians gathered at a Candlelight Vigil to commemorate victims of sexual violence. The vigil was organized by the Edmonton Sexual Assault Centre and ASWAC in response to the discovery of Brenda McClenaghan's body and the reaction of the public to her murder.

Brenda was abducted from a parking lot in Edmonton earlier in the month and the search for her ended in horror. The vigil, new confer-

ence and media work centered on our outrage at these kinds of events, our grief for Brenda's family and friends, and for others with similar experience of sexual violence.

The vigil included speeches, a song written by a S.A.C. volunteer, a poem written and read by an ASWAC member and the lighting of hundreds of candles. The decision to organize the vigil came from the many calls received in the two offices from people expressing their anger.

The message to the people at the vigil, and to others through the media was clear. Women have an equal right to safety in our streets, public places and homes. Women cannot be kept - and will not hide - in private, so called safe places. We will band together to enjoy our rightful places in the world. And we will not accept any compromise from politicians, news writers or the judiciary in erradicating the injustice.



As we come marching,

Women all over the province are organizing celebrations and demonstrations for International Women's Day '86. The diversity of the events reflects the wide range of women's concerns and strategies of the women of Alberta. The striking working women for which March 8 has been named would be proud to know their struggles continue.

Camrose

The women of Camrose have put their energies into organizing a "Reclaim the Night March" for Saturday, March 8 beginning in the evening. To find out more about the time and place phone Joan at 672-2210.

Edmonton

International Women's Day was introduced in Edmonton by a fantastic Coffee House that featured Local women performing music and drama. The event was very well attended and hopefully was a sign for the future.

The Edmonton I.W.D. Committee is helping to publicize a week of events beginning Monday March 3 and running throughout the week.

Monday will feature a Pro-Choice Vigil 7:30 at the Legislature. This vigil is being co-sponsored by ASWAC and Abortion by Choice to commemorate the lives of women that have been lost or destroyed by lack of access to safe, legal abortions.

For more information about the week's other events, contact the committee at 424-4371 or 45-3287.

The festivities on March 8 begin at The Women's Building with a march to the legislature where a short program will be held. Workshops begin at The Women's Building at 2:00 pm.

The Women's Building will also be the location of the evening social to begin at 9 pm. Drop by and take in some information or warm spirits! Childcare will be provided throughout the day.

Reinforcing Womanhood

Positive Images: Women by Women now has a greatly expanded collection of photographs, and three copies of our slide-show 'The Flame's Got to be Strong' so we can now be in five places at once!

So, for an I.W.D. treat, take in some positive reinforcement of your womanhood at these places:

Red Deer: The museum has the original photo exhibit from March 3 - 30th.

Stettler: See the new additions to the photo exhibition at the I.W.D. dinner March 8th. Contact Bari Castle at 742-0861 for information.

The slide show will be in Lethbridge (contact Terri Ann Marco at 347-0040), Golden, B.C. (Peggy Chalmers at 344-5317) and the Unitarian Church in Edmonton (contact Muffy Mathewson at 452-6224).

Also, it is likely that the new photographs will be on display in HUB, U. of A. during Women's Awareness Week, following I.W.D. Contact Siobhan Avery at the U. of A.'s Women's Centre, 432-2057 to find out when.

Bread and Roses, Bread and Roses

As we come marching, marching,
in the beauty of the day,
A million darkened kitchens,
a thousand mill lofts gray,
Are touched with all the radiance
that a sudden sun discloses,
For the people hear us singing,
"Bread and Roses, Bread and
Roses!"

As we go marching, marching,
we battle too for men,
For they are women's children,
and we'll mother them again
Our lives shall not be sweated
from birth until life closes;
Hearts starve as well as bodies,
give us bread, but give us roses!

As we come marching, marching,
unnumbered women dead
Go crying through our singing
their ancient cry for bread
Small art and love and beauty
their drudging spirits knew
Yes, it is bread we fight for
but we fight for roses, too!

As we come marching, marching,
we bring the greater days,
The rising of the women means
the rising of the race
No more the drudge and idler-
ten that toil while one
reposes,
But a sharing of life's glories:
Bread and Roses, Bread and Roses!

We bring the greater days

Lethbridge

Lethbridge will be the site of a very exciting day on March 8 this year. To find out more details than are listed here contact Terri, our board member in the south at 327-0040 or Jenny at 328-5725. Here is a list:

2pm - 9pm This is a chance to view displays and see some films. Displays will feature education, health care, art sport and news media. The Theme is "Just a Sample of Women's Contribution to the Community". This event will take place at the YWCA. Childcare runs from 2pm - 6:30 pm at the Y. Clown face workshops will entertain the kids.

ASWAC and The World Citizen's Centre is co-sponsoring the day's events as well as a Wine and Cheese Party from 6:30 - 9:00.

Red Deer

The Red Deer Status of Women Association cordially invites women to attend the following events celebrating I.W.D. this year:

March 5, "THE JUGGLING ACT" presented by Donna Arvidson
Cocktails 6:30
Dinner 7:00 at the Black Knight Inn
\$14 members
\$18 non-members

March 8, A Film Series
- "If you love this Planet"
- "Speaking our Peace"
- "Killing us Softly"
- "Loved, Honoured and Bruised"

These films will be shown in Room 2501, Red Deer College
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Attendance at this event is free of charge.

Fort Mac

Dianne Stefaniuk will perform a rendition of "The Paper Bag Princess" in Fort MacMurray as part of the Mac's I.W.D. event. The performance will be part of a wine and cheese for the women of Fort MacMurray to be held at the MacDonald Island Pavillion. International Women's Day posters and pamphlets will be ready for the day. For more information please feel free to contact our ASWAC board member in the North, Irene at 701-5705.

Peace River

Education is the focus of I.W.D. activities in Peace River this year. The women there have taken on the ambitious task of doing seminars on women for the staff at the Social Services Department, the Health Unit and the Provincial Building. The seminars will include film showing and discussions. These are very courageous women!!

Calgary's Celebrations

Women Together: Join us for Calgary's Fifth I.W.D. Celebrations

Every year on March 8, women all over the world organize events to celebrate I.W.D. In Calgary, the I.W.D. committee is emphasizing women's unity; taking a look at the links between us in all of our various struggles and lives. This year, we are holding a march and rally. There is a film festival running simultaneously showing women's films which we encourage everyone to participate in as well. There are some excellent films being shown that we don't often have the opportunity to see.

The march begins at 2 pm leaving from the YWCA at 320-5 Ave

S.E. The rally following will be held at the YWCA and will feature Sarah Murphy as moderator. Other speakers will be representing the Latin American Womens community, the Status of Women Action Committee, the Black Women's Association, and the United Nurses of Alberta.

Refreshments will be served at the rally. There will also be a variety of tables with information on local women's groups to look at. Childcare is provided free, through the film festival. Let them know in advance by calling Sherry Kozak at the YWCA at 263-1550.

For more information about this event contact the I.W.D. committee at 262-1873.



Tackling the Member issue

One of the areas ASWAC will be working on this year is membership. It is important that we continue to grow so that we remain a strong, common voice for women's rights in Alberta. Two issues require policy decisions: male membership and group versus individual memberships. We hope to hear what you think.

At present, both women and men may purchase a membership in ASWAC and attain full rights in the organization. In developing a male membership policy a variety of options should be considered. Three such ideas are outlined below but you may have more alternatives.

1) maintain the status quo - allow male members the same rights and privileges as female members.

2) establish associate membership for men - whereby they would receive the Newsletter and have access to services through ASWAC. This type of membership could mean that

they would not have a vote at meetings; nor could they sit on the Board, nor attend the General Assembly. (A combination of the above is certainly possible).

3) not allow men to attain ASWAC memberships.

When determining a male membership policy, a number of factors should be considered. These include; the affect of men's active participation in ASWAC, the public's perception of the policy, the impact the policy could have on potential members.

The second issue requiring a policy decision is group membership. At present a number of local, provincial and national organizations purchase ASWAC memberships each year. While this provides for communication between women's groups and groups organized for social change, it can have a detrimental effect on ASWAC's overall membership. Individuals who may otherwise become a member of ASWAC may feel they are sufficiently represented by the organization they are affiliated with. Therefore they do not join ASWAC. This leads to the question, Why join ASWAC? Of course there are the fringe benefits of receiving a regular Newsletter and the right to vote and attain a position on the board. However, one of the most important reasons to join ASWAC is to ensure one common voice for Alberta women-gaining strength through numbers to enable ASWAC to demand more

positive changes for the women in this province.

ASWAC could separate group from individual members in one or more of the following ways.

1) charge a higher membership fee for groups. One major concern is that many of these organizations are non-profit and already strapped for funds.

2) count the membership of member organizations as members of ASWAC. This may create double counting and, raises the concern that all members of one organization may not necessarily wish to be included in another.

3) encourage individuals within their organizations to take an individual ASWAC membership.

ASWAC could use a combination of these points or develop our own group membership policy.

If you are interested in contributing your suggestions or concerns on these issues, please forward them to me, Aura Rose, care of the ASWAC office by April 11, 1986. The policies will be presented for final approval at the General Assembly in November. Thanks alot for your input!



Advisory Council

The long sought provincial advisory council or Alberta Council on Women's Affairs should be announced before the provincial election. The Provincial Committee that has been lobbying for the council has had some assurance from Mr. Johnston that the mandate and structure of the council will be accepted as proposed by this same group.

Now is the time to submit resumes to Mr. Johnston should you wish to be appointed to the council. Resumes should be sent with a covering letter to the Hon. D. Johnston Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, 127 Legislature Bldg., Edmonton. A copy of the proposed structure can be obtained through ASWAC.

59¢ day committee

Early in November, 1985 information began to surface which showed that many women's groups were encountering financial difficulties due to cutbacks and delays in funding provided by the Secretary of State Women's Program. Furthermore, political lobbying by anti-feminist groups was threatening the very existence of the Women's Program. A meeting was held Nov 16, 1985 attended by approximately 25 women expressing individual and agency concerns over the funding problem. Three approaches were recommended. Individuals and agencies would write to and meet with federal representatives to state their concerns and the value of Secretary of State funding. A recommendation was sent to the National Action Committee conference to sponsor provincial information days to celebrate the work being done and to inform politicians and the media of the cutbacks. The 59¢ Day Committee was struck with a mandate to strategize other possible courses of action.

The committee met throughout November and December with members reporting on contacts made to inform politicians of the situation. Little sympathy was forthcoming. The NAC recommended that actions be organized on a provincial and local level. A presentation was made at the ASWAC assembly to inform

members around the province of the situation. Representation at the meeting remained focussed in the Edmonton area.

Discussions were held to develop strategies for resolving the funding crisis. Suggestions included the establishment of a private sector foundation that would request matching government funds; working together with women in political parties, particularly the

Conservative party, to develop a political profile; and public workshops to coincide with International Women's Day that would draw public and media attention.

By January 1986, the immediate crisis situation had altered. With the exception of the Newsmagazine for Alberta Women, the affected agencies had received some, if not all, of the funds budgeted by the Secretary of State. The 59¢ Day Committee took stock and began to extend its mandate. The

focus of discussion shifted toward examining long range planning, including not only funding sources, but also general visions of the future for women's groups.

An idea formulated around conducting a workshop on 'Futures' that would bring together women's groups to discuss such questions as:

- 1) How might you envision your organization in five years?
- 2) What problems or concerns would you anticipate for that time?
- 3) How might a coalition help your organization in strategizing for the future?

At our first meeting in January, we appreciated that our mandate had shifted and that the focus established in November, 1985 was fading. It seemed appropriate to recognize that, to report back on our process, and to encourage ASWAC members to

59¢ is not enough.

Women's Centres to meet

ASWAC has organized a women's centres conference for March 15 and 16. The conference is open only by invitation and between forty and fifty participants are expected. Some of the women will be from towns where women's centres are in the process of being established: Fort McMurray, Fairview and Westlock. This will be an opportunity for them to gain from the experiences of established centres. This is the first conference for women's centres in Alberta which is why we are limiting the number of participants. The response has been quite overwhelming though, and we

are encouraged to hold a much larger conference within the next year.

Six workshops have been organized: goals clarification, using media, funding reaching out to new women, building boards and collectives and things in between, and women's centre as crisis centre. The conference is being held at the Edmonton Women's Building and local ASWAC members are invited to join us there on Saturday evening for a great party. For details, please contact Frances at the ASWAC office.

consider the possibility of 'futures' strategizing. Short of creating new work for ourselves, we might conclude here. However, the concept of developing a workshop directed at 'Future Visions' is an exciting one, and we believe it might fit well with the ASWAC Assembly. The committee is willing to discuss these ideas with the ASWAC Board.

It is timely to conclude with news of the freezing of federal funding for projects across Departments announced in February 1986. It is apparent that the work has only just begun...

In Sisterhood,
the 59¢ Day Committee

Law imposes hardship for women

If you are a woman living in Canada, you lost some of your civil/human/constitutional rights on December 20, 1985. Your freedom of movement and freedom of association have been restricted.

How did this come about?
In the form of Bill C-49.

Prostitution is not illegal in Canada, but this bill has made waving, winking, talking, gesturing or any type of communication which may be interpreted by police as soliciting for the purposes of prostitution illegal.

Prohibition has never stopped an activity, merely driven it underground. Once out of the public eye, it becomes more dangerous for participants, more open to abuse. The government has given a clear message to men in Canada that they do not care about the safety of women by making it harder for prostitutes to report violence against them. Trying to legislate morality does not work either. If a woman who works as a prostitute flags down a friend while not working, she could be charged under this new law. If she retires, is she never to be able to stop on the street to speak with a friend? Get into a car with a friend? Once a prostitute,

always a prostitute?

This is unfair to all women, not only to those who currently work as prostitutes.

Bill C-49 condemns all behaviour associated with prostitution including casual sex, frequent sex, and sex outside the home - and is therefore an attack on the sexual freedoms of all women.

An infringement of one person's rights, is an infringement of all people's rights. How can we make every day movements illegal for only a certain segment of the population? We have returned to the days when women aren't allowed to be on the streets unless they can give a good accounting of themselves; where they are going, what they are doing there, how they earn a living. This law imposes increased hardship and violence against women who work as prostitutes.

If you ever wave, wink, smile gesture or speak to people on the street, consider supporting the Alliance for the Safety of Prostitutes Defence Fund. For more information contact Calgary A.S.P. at 269-2937, or send your donation to 124-320 5th Avenue, Calgary, T2G 0E5



Porn Action Succeeds

Efforts by concerned people who live and work in the McCauley-Boyle Street area of Edmonton to oppose the establishment of a business by "Erotic Video Exchange" in the neighborhood have met with success. Led by the group "Positive Action Against Pornography", "Ukrainian News Publishers", and others, the group petitioned the Development Appeal Board of Edmonton City Council on January 23, 1986. Arguing on various grounds including the concern that children would have to pass by the store on their way to school, and that the business would not be in keeping with the McCauley-Boyle Street Area Redevelopment Plan (whose aim is to create a healthy community), the community group worked to persuade the Board to oppose the pornographic video store. The board voted unanimously to reject the application for a permit.

It should be noted that the availability of pornography was challenged by citizens without using the courts or the Criminal Code of Canada. The case demonstrates again that collective actions by concerned individuals on issues relating to the oppression of women CAN WORK.

RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday, March 1

9 am - 3 pm

Edmonton Women's Building

10055 - 110 St.

This is a fundraiser for ASWAC. If you have clothes, books, etc. to donate, please drop them off at ASWAC before the end of February.

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¶ **SASKATCHEWAN WOMEN** - Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow, is a conference and fair for Saskatchewan women. It will be held at the U. of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, May 16-19.

The conference is an attempt to create a forum for women to celebrate and learn about their past and present achievements in the promotion of the status of women.

The Saskatchewan Action Cttee. Conference Planning Committee invites women's groups to share perspectives and ideas on empowerment issues with other women. The conference workshops will be conducted by a variety of women's groups. We hope your group will be one of the presenters.

If your group wants to participate, your proposal for a workshop should be submitted

If you are interested in more information contact the Saskatchewan Action Committee, at 525-8329, or write 2149 Albert St., Regina, S4P 2V1.

¶ **"WOMEN IN BUSINESS"** IS THE title of a business and professional women's conference to be held in the northern part of the province, May 30,31-June 1.

The conference is open to women, and will feature Marion Dewar, recently elected president of the federal N.D.P. Workshops will in-

clude; Economic status of women, Superwomen Syndrome. It will be held in Grande Prairie.

For more information contact Louraine Howatt at 532-0674 or write, 9240-112 A Ave. Grande Prairie, AB.

¶ **THE CANADIAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE** for the Advancement of Women is offering Outreach Doctoral Fellowships to women in the areas of Management and Business Administration Phd's. Contact Dr. B. Korkie at the U. of Alberta Business Management Faculty for more information.

¶ **THE CALGARY STATUS OF WOMEN** Action Committee will be holding bi-monthly meetings focusing on the issues of concern to women of colour. These meetings may provide some ideas for events for International Women's Day. Call 282-1873 for time and place.

¶ **THE YWCA'S WOMEN'S RESOURCE** Centre is sponsoring a number of free group personal support programs. These include; New Opportunities: for stay at home mothers on low incomes, Exploring the Road Less Traveled and Life Mapping.

There are many interesting projects getting underway at the centre. If you might be interested, phone Karen Lee at the WRC at 263-1550

¶ **THE WOMEN'S CENTRE AT THE U of Alberta** is sponsoring its annual "Women's Awareness Week" March 10-14. Due to the freeze of Secretary of State funding for the fiscal year, costs have been severely curtailed however, the show will go on.

The week will be filled with speakers, films and open discussions.

Tuesday, March 11 An open discussion on Working women will be held at 12:00 noon.

Loro Carmen will speak about Native women in the afternoon, also on campus.

Wednesday March 12

A seminar on Reproductive Rights and Birth Issues will be held at noon. The discussion will focus on Midwifery and Abortion.

The afternoon will feature a Wen-do (women's self defense) demonstration from 4-5:00 p.m.

Thursday March 13

Exercise as a health issue will be the topic of a workshop held at noon.

Prostitution a Forum

A forum on the issues surrounding prostitution will be held in the evening at 7:30 p.m.

Featured will be speakers from the Alliance for the Safety of Prostitutes (Calgary) and a discussion will follow.

continued on page 14

Have you renewed Your membership?

If your address label doesn't show
1986 you are past due

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Friday March 14

Dallas Cullen Chair of the "Women Studies Committee at the University will host a discussion about Women's Studies at the U of Alberta. This will take place from 3-5:00 p.m.

And Finally, a social just prior to the HEATHER BISHOP-TRACY RILEY concert will be held at 6:00 p.m. Room 270 S.U.B. Come and have fun before the concert.

¶ THE CALGARY ASSOCIATION OF women and the law is publishing the second edition of the booklet, "Women and the Law in Alberta". To help publicize the edition the association will be hosting a 'Coming Out Party', in late Feb. date T.B.A. Call Yvonne Chenier 237-6522 for more information.

¶ RECENTLY CALGARY HAS BECOME home to two women-centered therapy businesses. AYLA Counselling Services is offering counselling for all people, individually or in groups. They specialize in treating anyone who has had to deal with sexual abuse.

The Women's Therapy and Research Centre is now offering individual and group counselling also, but with a personal growth perspective. They offer sessions in Self Esteem, Assertiveness Training, Body Work, etc. They are also presenting a special six week session on Exploring Women's Wisdom with a focus on women centred ritual, songs and chants, mask making and more.

AYLA phone 245-5005
WTRC phone 270 7274

¶ THE CALGARY WOMEN'S HEALTH Collective is working on a women's health conference for the spring. Keep your eyes open for details.

¶ THE WOMEN'S PROGRAM IS OFFERING a workshop for women who wish to enhance their work with women or in the women's movement. Led by Cheryl Malmo, well known feminist psychologist, the workshop will focus on developing constructive communication skills and the use of skills to heighten awareness of needs and to handle differences and conflicts in order to better achieve positive change for women. Also includes understanding formal and informal power relationships and making them work.

Date: Friday and Saturday, March 21-22, 9:30-4:00 pm at the Women's Building. Fee:\$55 (some assistance available) Call 432-3093

¶ ANOTHER UPCOMING CONFERENCE that everyone is raving about is called "Socialization of Judges to Equality Rights". The date for this conference is May 22 to 24 and it will be held at the Banff Springs Hotel. Some of the speakers lined up include Tom Axworthy, Freda Steele, Sheila Day, Mark McGuigan, Constance Backhouse, Margrit Eichler, Rosalie Abella and Bartha Knoppers. For more information, contact Kathleen Mahoney at the Faculty of Law, Univ. of Calgary, 220-7115.

¶ THE SOUTH PEACE REGIONAL Council of Women and ASWAC are co-sponsoring a conference titled "The North-West Conference on Women and Health". This is the second of such events, the first was held last spring, with approximately 100 women in attendance.

This year workshops on women and addiction, nutrition, vaginal and cervical health, women and depression, will be featured.

The conference will be held at St. Patrick's Community School, Grande Prairie, May 9-10, Friday and Saturday. For more information contact Marty Whitesun, 356-3797.

The Changing Volunteer Community

A conference for volunteers and directors/coordinators of volunteers.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Eva Schindler-Rainman

Date: April 17-18, 1986

DAY I • Challenges to Systems in an Era of Restraint
• Transition Strategies for the Volunteer World

DAY II • Motivating Volunteers through Enhancing their Competence
• Volunteer Coordinator - The Youngest Profession in the World

Call 483-4329 for more information.



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¶ MAKING VISIBLE THE REALITY OF immigrant Women will be the topic of a discussion by Dr. Zohra Husaini, when she will share the findings of a two year long community action research project on the needs of immigrant women in Edmonton. The research shows that family related needs are marginally satisfied but the personal needs of most immigrant women are neglected and unfulfilled.

Everyone is invited to attend this public forum to be held on Thursday, March 6, 7:30 pm in Room 120, Corbett Hall, U. of Alberta. Call the Women's Program for more information at 432-3093.



¶ THE FEDERATION OF MEDICAL WOMEN and the Faculty of Medicine at the U of Calgary are co-sponsoring a conference, "From Woman to Woman-You and Your Health", Saturday March 22.

The cost of registration is \$30.00 and you should register as soon as possible, this conference is full every year. Call 220-7240, U of C. Faculty of Medicine for more information.

¶ NEW INFO FOR TEENS ON PORN.

Educational booklets about pornography are now available and being distributed in the schools. Written by Brenda Brochu for the Grande Prairie Pornography Action Committee, the booklets, "A Guide for Teenagers" and "A Guide for Teachers", are designed for senior high school students.

The set may be purchased for \$18 (or \$20 including postage and handling) through Positive Action Against Pornography, 202 10006 149 St., Edm., T5P 1K8, or telephone 486-3409.

¶ "RECLAIMING OUR FEMININE Power", a wonderful workshop led by Batya Chivers to explore the hidden meaning and truth of our feminine consciousness. Examines myths, symbols, life-events, fantasy and dreams to explore contemporary women's issues such as relationships, sexuality, etc. Two Sundays, March 16 and 23. \$55. Call 432-3093 for info.

¶ THE SOUTH PEACE COUNCIL OF Women is holding their Annual General Meeting, April 26/27 in Grande Prairie. The agenda is as follows;

Pay Equity Workshop Saturday
Dinner Saturday evening
Business Meeting Sunday Morning
Workshop Sunday afternoon on Pay Equity
For more information contact Marty Whitesun at Box 418, Hythe, AB T0H 0H1 or phone 356-3797.

¶ WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A FEMINIST and a teacher? What is the different but equal debate really about? These are the topics of two free lectures to be given by Allison Jaggar, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Cincinnati. Ms Jaggar will be a Distinguished Guest Lecturer to the Advisory Committee on Women's Studies, U. of Alberta, March 2-14.

On March 5, 7:30-9:30, Dr. Jaggar will discuss "Teaching Sedition: Some Dilemmas of Feminist Pedagogy".

March 12, 7:30-9:30 pm her topic will be "Women: Different but Equal". Both lectures will take place at Humanities, Lecture Theatre One, U. of Alberta.

These lectures are sponsored by the Advisory Committee on Women's Studies and the Women's Program and Resource Centre, Faculty of Extension. For further information, contact Leslie Stewart at 432-3093.

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Are you out of date? Read on!

ASWAC's membership runs from conference to conference, November to November (with a "generosity" period beginning in September).

This means the following:

if you bought or renewed your membership on or after September 1st, 1985 you are up to date and ok and you will have a little 86 in the top right corner of your address label. HOWEVER if your membership dates from BEFORE September 1st, 1985 you will have a little 85 or even 84 in the top right corner of your address label AND YOU NEED DESPERATELY TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!!

SO . . . if you and your membership are out of date, please take a minute and send in your renewal to the office. We suggest a membership fee of \$10.00 but will of course accept less. Donations of any variety are always received with squeals of delight!



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