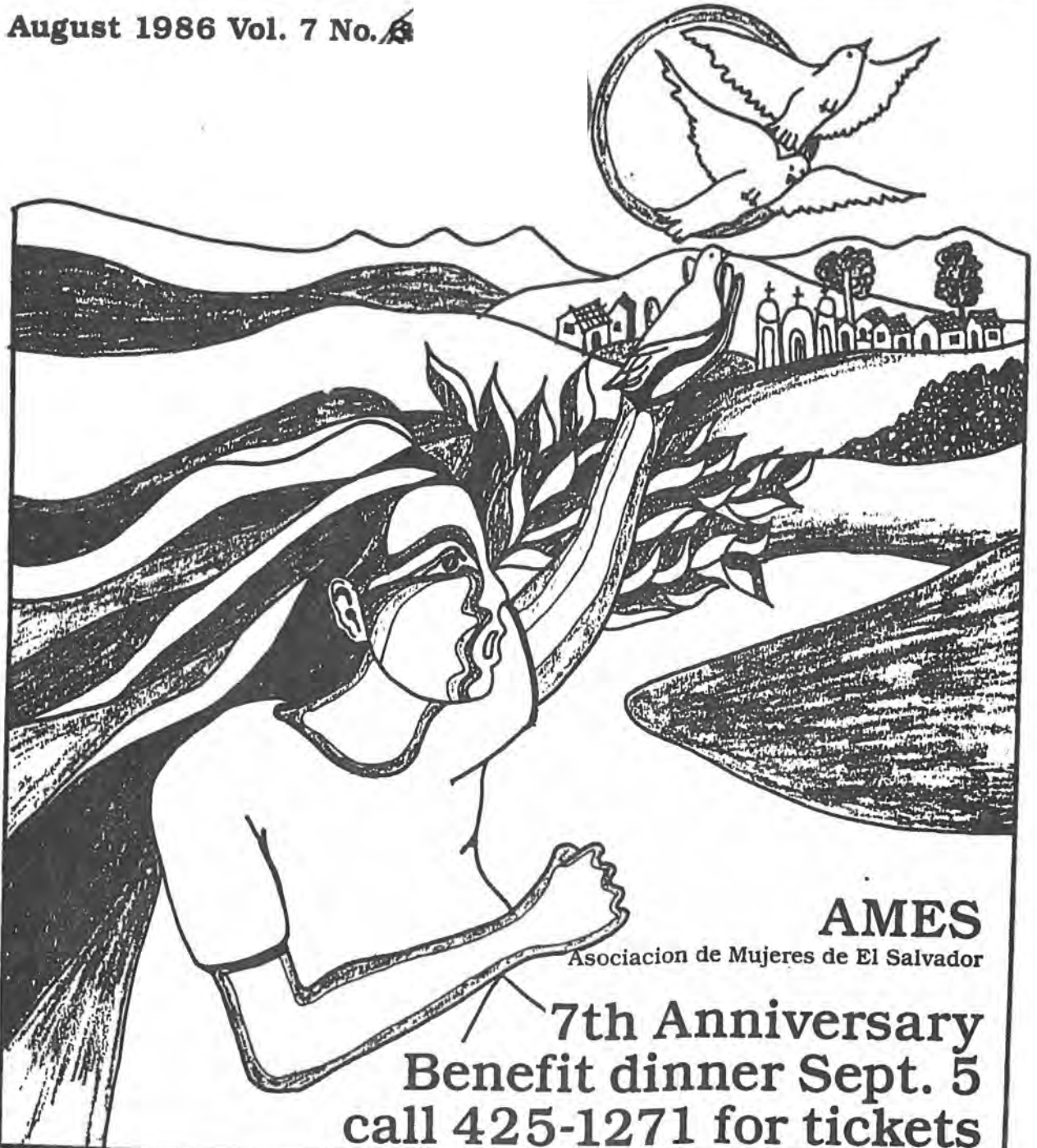




ALBERTA STATUS OF WOMEN ACTION COMMITTEE

August 1986 Vol. 7 No. 8



AMES

Asociacion de Mujeres de El Salvador

**7th Anniversary
Benefit dinner Sept. 5
call 425-1271 for tickets**



Gerry Bailey takes a weeding break during the most recent board meeting at her place.

ASWAC is

Over 500 members all across the province!

1985-86 Board members

Frances Adams (staff member) c/o ASWAC

Cathy Bray #706-10135 Saskatchewan Dr.
Edmonton, T6E 4Y9 433-2682

Lavera Greasy Box 1740, Hanna, TOJ 1P0
854-3216

Terri-Ann Marco 44 Columbia Bay West,
Lethbridge, T1K 5A7 381-1523

Lorraine Mitchell (staff member) c/o ASWAC

Suzn Morgan 6423 Laurentian Way SW,
Calgary, T3E 5N2 246-8755

Eunice Olsen Box 124, Innisfail,
TOM 1A0, 227-1970

Aura Rose 9941-81 Ave, Edmonton
T6E 1W5 433-0349

Marty White Sun Box 418, Hythe,
TOH OH1 356-3797

Jane Wiley (staff member) c/o ASWAC

1985-86 Regional representatives

Gerry Bailey RR1 Westrose, TOC 2V0
(WestCentral) 586-2983

Irene McRae 10928-115 St, Edmonton
T5H 3L4 (Edmonton) 428-1280

Joan White Calf 5603 50 Ave, Camrose
T4V OT6 (East Central) 672-2210

The next Board meeting will take place in GRANDE PRAIRIE the weekend of Sept. 12-14. Phone the office of Marty WhiteSun for more information. Come and meet the women of the board!!!

If you have any articles, comments, artwork or features you would like to see in the ASWAC Newsletter, send them in! Letters should be marked, NOT FOR REPRINT, if you don't want them in the Newsletter.

ASWAC's mailing address is Box 1573, Edmonton, AB, T5J 2N7. Telephone 424-3073.

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These wonderful women put their money where their hearts are and made a donation to ASWAC in the last little while: Elizabeth Crocker, Nancy Leavitt, Christie Mjolsness, Natalie Dobrolige, Anna Pellat, H. Murray, B. Prescott, L. Ayre-Jashke, M. Potrebenko, J. Yuzwenko, Jennifer Wolfe, Audrey Swaffield, C. Elder, Ann Harvey, C. Oseen, Beth McCullough, K. Farkas, Linda Neilsen, Wendy Farrington, Catherine Bowen, M. Assheton-Smith, E. Roberts, Karin Goldberg, Kathryn Buchanan, J. Melnyk, Jamie McKay, Sue Robinson, Renee Spence, Kathy Grieve.

Our board meeting minutes

Eighteen hours at a glance

Following is the minutes of the board meeting July 25,26,27. We met at Gerry Bailey's farm near Pigeon Lake.

present: Suzn, Terri Ann, Marty, FA, Cathy, Aura, Jane (our new publications woman), Lorraine (our new researcher), Amanda, Lisa, (on Saturday) regrets from: Lavera, Eunice; Irene couldn't get transport in time although she wanted to come and Joan was with us in spirit.

Ft. Mac Frances was up to visit the women in the north, and found them to be quite busy gearing up for a major public campaign around the abortion issue. During the upcoming municipal election, a plebiscite will be debated concerning whether or not their should be a therapeutic abortion committee at the Ft. McMurray Regional Hospital. We want to help them with their work by helping them to print flyers, sending a van load of women up there to help distribute them, and any media work they need help with.

Child Care Someone will be attending the upcoming City of Edmonton, Public Affairs Committee hearings on Standards for Out of School care.

Assembly The discussion around our annual conference took up a considerable amount of time at this board meeting. The dates and place are set: Novemeber 14,15,16 at Innisfail. The weekend looks like it will be heavy on fun with lots of good entertainment, time to socialize and meet new Alberta feminists.

The workshops are in the planning stages and resource women are being sought. More details regarding transportation and child care subsidy will be in the next newsletter.

This will be ASWAC's tenth anniversary, so we hope to see lots of founding members attending.

Board and Rep selection After much discussion as to the most effective, non-violent and better than last year method of

selecting board members and regional representatives, it was decided that we would try a mix of self selection with a final yes/no vote by the membership. We hope that women who are interested in working in these ways with ASWAC would declare their intent before the Assembly, so that the membership can have some opportunity to meet them. We thought it would be appropriate for women to submit a short biographical sketch along with goals and dreams for ASWAC in the upcoming year.



Frances and Cathy, trying to warm up after a swim in Pigeon Lake.

Take Back the Night

No one seemed to be aware of any planning being done for a walk this year. Any takers???

Hiring Committee

Suzn, Terri Ann, and Frances will do the interviewing for the Office Co-ordinator position. The position will be somewhat changed to include half-time community development work. This was discussed as a way to begin the process of de-centralizing ASWAC staff and resources from Edmonton.

New staff

Lorraine and Jane's job descriptions were discussed, and a temporary time line set up for them. Both of these jobs will need formalized job descriptions done up sometime soon.

ASWAC in Lethbridge

TerriAnn talked about the Sec State application that has been submitted, asking for money for a resource centre in Lethbridge. See letter in this newsletter.

Feminists busy in the north

by Frances Adams

I had a great trip to Fort McMurray July 20 - 24. This was my first visit to the area and I met with many ASWAC members, the local chapter of the Canadian Abortion Rights Action League (CARAL), Business & Professional Women's Club members, two members of the organizing committee for a Sexual Assault Centre and Jack Shields who is head of the Alberta caucus of federal MPs. I presented a pay equity workshop that was taped by ABC cable, did an hour long radio call-in show and several interviews with local radio and press. I really enjoyed my visits with Judy Moynihan, a former ASWAC Board member who is busy with CARAL and organizing for a women's resource centre and with Carol Elder, an ASWAC member and former roommate. I had 'warned' our members that I was looking for someone interested in becoming a board member or regional representative and while there were no immediate takers, Carol Elder and Katherine Stewart volunteered to do a report from McMurray for every second Newsletter starting with our next issue in September.

CARAL McMurray

On October 21, Fort McMurray voters will be asked to respond yes or no to the question:

More meeting minutes

Finances

The budget needs some re-working again. The office expanded next door, so that there are some telephone moving costs. As well, now that we have four (!?!!) staff, we need to expand our phone system.

Regional Reps

Gerry Bailey gave us an update on what the Central Alberta reps have been up to, and brought up some questions about how the regional rep system could be improved. She expressed the need for women who are interested in being reps to have some time together at the assembly.

Pay Equity

Red Deer and Lethbridge workshops are being re-scheduled for the fall. The collection of endorsements by other groups is on-going.

No regrets but much sadness

This was dear Amanda's last board meeting. For three years she has divided her life up into six-week chunks to travel the province and hash out ASWAC plans. We will all miss her beaucoup!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

"There should be a therapeutic abortion committee at the Fort McMurray Regional Hospital". Earlier this year the Hospital Board asked City Council to include this question as a plebiscite with the regular election of city council, the school and hospital boards. This is the first vote of its kind in Canada and, whatever the outcome, it will be of great import to the abortion debate in this country.

The decision to take this issue to a direct vote was, in fact, a result of the anti-choice/pro-life lobby in Fort McMurray. Politicians don't want to touch the issue and now hospital boards are backing away from making abortion related decisions as well.

Fort McMurray is a city with 36,000 people. The hospital has never had a therapeutic abortion committee (TAC) and women seeking abortions are forced to go either to Grande Prairie (two trips are required) or to a clinic in the U.S. Two years ago the McMurray hospital board hired an Edmonton firm to survey the community's response to having a local TAC. The telephone survey indicated that a majority of residents would support a TAC and that virtually all of the medical



One last shot of Amanda busy at her desk, as she has been for the last year and a half. We hear that Halifax is a good place to spend a vacation, so start booking your tickets now!!!

CARAL campaign needs support

staff were in favour. Then the hospital board, obviously in internal conflict, invited submissions from the public. The response was overwhelmingly against a TAC. The board backed off and the result is the plebiscite and a greater emphasis on the hospital board elections. Nominations for the board close on September 22.

Earlier this year, a group of McMurray people, mostly women, formed a chapter of CARAL. The group has set up an information table in one of the malls, done some media work and are planning two events prior to the plebiscite. Sheila Bailin, President of Abortion by Choice Edmonton will be speaking at a film night on September 20 and Norma Scarborough or Dianne Mossman (CARAL National) will be speaking at a forum in October. Pro-choice information leaflets will be printed and distributed to every household in the city. ASWAC is donating \$300 from our general account toward the leaflets and we are planning a fundraiser in Edmonton.

If the McMurray residents are representative of the Canadian public and the turn-out for the election is high (which would be unusual for a municipal vote), the vote should be yes. Donations and support from ASWAC members would be much appreciated.

SEXUAL ASSAULT CENTRE

I met with Wendy Trull and Lois Gordon, two of the organizers of a Sexual Assault Centre for the McMurray region. Wendy and Lois told me that the Centre will be coordinating existing preventive and therapeutic/counseling services in the area and they hope to hire a full-time director and volunteer coordinator by next January. An incest survivors support group is meeting now and they see the need for a rape survivors group, mothers of incest victims group and so on. They will use the present distress line in the beginning with the possibility of a separate crisis line in the future. The organizers plan to provide as comprehensive a service as possible, including a treatment program for 'offenders' eventually.

Native women have been active in the organizing committee and Wendy and Lois believe that natives, who avoid Social Services and the RCMP, will more readily approach the Centre. The Centre will likely be housed in the Peter Pond Community School which will fit nicely with the Women's Resource Centre currently being organized. The two groups have discussed the women's centre undertaking the social action component in the community.

A two-day symposium on rape and child sexual abuse is planned for the fall.

JACK SHIELDS

I spent about an hour with Jack Shields, MP for northeastern Alberta and head of the Alberta caucus discussing ASWAC's funding and pay equity. I informed Mr. Shields that our grant application to Secretary of State had been approved but that we were concerned with the response of some MPs to our request for support. Shields advised me that the consensus arrived at the by Alberta caucus was to support our application and he assured me that while the MPS did not agree with everything we do, "they support our objectives". He added that they had also discussed funding for R.E.A.L. women but did not volunteer their decision.

Our discussion of pay equity was interesting. Shields made it clear that he was opposed to legislated pay equity despite the fact that the Canadian Human Rights Act (with provisions for equal pay for work of equal value) was passed unanimously by all MPs in 1978. I had intended to discuss federal legislation for affirmative action, pornography and free trade but the pay equity discussion took all of our time. I find it useful to occasionally meet with our MPs just to get a feel of where they are coming from and what their level of understanding is. Someone recently suggested that ASWAC make a presentation to the entire Alberta caucus and I will bring this up for discussion at the next Board meeting in Grande Prairie.

Keep your eyes open for a regular report from the women of the north. It will be nice to know that Fort McMurray is more than redneck oil riggers and company town affairs.

we recommend

Sima Khorrami

freelance photographer
468-4822

And he even brought the muffins!

Lobbying our new minister

ASWAC and six other women's groups and service agencies met with the Hon. Dennis Anderson, new Minister Responsible for Women's Issues on July 3rd. ASWAC organized the meeting in order to introduce the groups and some of the issues to Mr. Anderson and to discover what his opinions and thoughts are. We found him much more receptive than are many of the Cabinet Ministers or past 'status of women' Ministers. He has demonstrated a greater interest in and commitment to the Women's Secretariat, the Advisory Council and non-governmental women's groups than did his predecessor, Dick Johnston. While we fail to agree on many of the actions necessary to 'improve the status of women', at least he understands some of the problems and treats the issues seriously.

The following is a record of the meeting:



Dennis Anderson explained the role of his Ministry as that of an advocacy nature within the Government as opposed to program administration. He spoke of the forthcoming reports on child care and family violence [since tabled] and the Government's new initiatives on job training, immigrant and native women as outlined in the Throne Speech. He said that women's concerns would be an important agenda item at the First Ministers' Meeting this November.

Frances Adams presented some of ASWAC's concerns about the Advisory Council including the need for an explicit mandate to improve the status of women; appointment of women who have a demonstrated commitment to this aim; a research mandate for the Council; the right to publish and publicize findings and recommendations.

Mr. Anderson responded that he recognized our concerns; that council membership has to include as wide a variety of views as possible including AFWUF's; the Secretariat Act was enabling as opposed to restrictive legislation; Council research should not duplicate the Secretariat's work; the Council would be more effective working through Government rather than publicly; the Council could only oppose legislation or programs after they have been introduced or the government would not consult the Council.

Lorraine Mitchell of Edmonton Working Women spoke of the need for legislated pay equity, an increased minimum wage and less restrictive grounds for sexual harassment under the Individuals Rights Protection Act. She cited the requirement that the women being harassed tell her harasser that

she considers his behaviour harassment. This requirement is specific to sexual harassment and is not required for other forms of discrimination.

In regard to pay equity, Anderson said that the Government has not formally discussed this subject; he cited the varying definitions of pay equity and variations in implementation as complex; the gap is shrinking and the cause of the gap is unclear; the increase in women university graduates is an improvement; no one can make an objective judgement on the value of jobs; the effect on the economy and private sector would be detrimental; women could lose jobs; it would be better to encourage women and society to avoid job ghettos.

Jane Karstaedt addressed the Edmonton Sexual Assault Centre's concerns about the lack of female sex crimes detectives, a lack of understanding among professionals (judges, lawyers, doctors and police) of the effects of sexual violence on victims, the instability of Social Services funding, the lack of services for children sexually abused outside of the family and the Badgley Commission Report.

Anderson said the police are not within provincial jurisdiction; that he would discuss including victims' feelings and needs with the Minister of Advanced Education with the possibility of 'ticketing' funding to a change in curriculum for these professionals; that he would discuss funding problems with the Minister of Social Services; that he needed more information on service gaps and that the Attorney General's Department is reviewing the Badgley Report.

Representing A Safe Place, the Strathcona Women's shelter,

Lisa Walter asked whether Anderson would support an order-in-council request from Connie Osterman to increase this fiscal year's allocation to the fourteen shelters by \$600,000 to meet essential service needs and whether Anderson would indicate his support to the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters.

Rebecca Coulter outlined the National Action Committee's concerns about the effect of free trade on women's employment (specially in textiles, light manufacturing and services), social services and labour legislation. She said that none of the governments supporting free trade had an electoral mandate to do so and that NAC proposed a national

referendum on the issue. She requested Anderson's support for immediate research being conducted by the new Advisory Council on the impact of free trade on Alberta women.

Anderson stated that the Alberta Government's stand on free trade was well known prior to the election; that the parameters of free trade must be set before research can be conducted; that the federal government had made it clear that although some jobs will be lost, better jobs may open up for women; that once the parameters are known, the Alberta government will examine the possible effect of free trade prior to supporting an agreement.

Sima Khorrami from Changing Together: A Centre for Immigrant Women, addressed employment issues stating that most immigrant women are unemployed or underemployed and that job retraining and other supportive programs (such as language) are imperative.

Anderson agreed that this was a priority and spoke to the Government's involvement on the intergovernmental committee on immigrant and visible minority women, the next meeting of which is in three months. He requested specific programming and training ideas.

Sheila Bailin Abortion by Choice Edmonton, presented information on therapeutic abortions in Alberta (there has been a constant decline in the number of hospitals performing abortions to a low of 21 at present with 3 hospitals performing 75.1% of all such procedures; over 400 Edmonton women left the province last year to obtain abortions.) Bailin asked whether Anderson would support an out-patient clinic at the Royal Alex similar to the Foothills Clinic in Calgary and whether the Government would support free-standing clinics.

Anderson responded that women are divided over the issue and this division is reflected in the Government caucus; that the pro-choice position gains more or less support depending on how the question is phrased; that the Government is opposed to free standing clinics for medical reasons; that neither the Government nor his Ministry is considering the issue or is likely to in the near future.

Also attending the meeting were; Aura Rose, ASWAC; Janina Vanderpost, The Women's Secretariat and Charlene Blaney, Executive Assistant to Anderson. Mr. Anderson can be reached at 427-4928 or write 103 Legislature Bldg. Edmonton, T5K 2B6

Charter updates

The Legal Education Action Fund (LEAF) has recently released the first issue of what they hope to be their regular Newsletter. LEAF is, of course, the national organization founded to ensure that women actually benefit from the inclusion of the equality rights guarantees in the Canadian constitution.

Remember how we all celebrated April 17th, 1985 as being the day henceforth from which Canadian women were guaranteed equality "before and under the law"? Well, of course, the truth of the matter is that while Section 15 was included in the Charter of Rights the equality it apparently guarantees will only ever be as complete as those precedents set by court cases taken through the system.

If the new Charter is to help women, it needs to be tested in court. LEAF is the national organization that supports test cases which will advance women's equality. It is the ONLY organization designed specifically to take women's equality issues into Canada's Courts.

The LEAF Newsletter will keep you informed about Charter developments, LEAF cases and the activities of the organization. In the first issue is included a history of LEAF, a description of who's who in the organization, a list of LEAF contacts across Canada and, maybe most interestingly, a synopsis of all the cases which LEAF has already taken through the courts. These vary from challenges to the Yukon Change of Name Act, the Ontario Hockey Association and the Department of National Defence (OSSOMM's challenge regarding their right to assemble and associate as wives of military members.)

contact LEAF at
Women's Legal Education
and Action Fund
344 Bloor St. West, #403
TORONTO, Ontario
M5S 1W9
tel: (416) 963-9654



Emergency consultation

by Frances Adams

Fifty-five women's organizations from across the country formed a strong lobby at the June 25-27 Emergency Consultation on Women's Program Funding. It is often difficult to assess where the impetus for action originated but given the speed with which funding applications have been processed in the past two months, the meeting can be deemed a success in my opinion. Former Secretary of State, Benoit Bouchard (the cabinet was shuffled a few days later and now we have David Crombie) announced a 5 percent decrease in the budget and, referring to the Nielsen

Task Force recommendation that the budget be reduced from \$13 to \$5 million, he said we were lucky the decrease wasn't 10 to 15 percent. At first I thought, well if the Department can administer the program more efficiently a 5 percent decrease won't make too much difference; the budget was underspent last year due to funding delays and the discretionary freeze. However, I think I am too accommodating at times and I am realizing more and more the number of important projects and services that will not be funded this year.

We had three distinct meetings during the two and a

half days - with the Women's Program staff, with Benoit Bouchard and an evening reception for MPs and senior civil servants. A lot of time was spent preparing for these meetings and the final half day was spent evaluating the outcome and planning ongoing work on funding. A copy of my report to the ASWAC Board is available and should be of interest to other groups receiving or seeking Secretary of State



Feminists rally in West Ed

by Julie Anne Le Gras

On July 23, CTV taped a show about feminism, on location in West Edmonton Mall, and with an audience. The original title was to be: "How has feminism led women down the garden path". I was to be a panel speaker, and got them to change it to something starting with "Feminism Today:..." (the rest was changed on me, again, but ended up to be somewhat more neutral).

Initially, the other panel member was to be another feminist. But CTV was a bit late, and not knowing local politics, ended up contacting Mary Ellen Haggarty, an M.D. who made the choice to stay at home to rear her children and now only works part-time as a physician.

Since Mary Ellen is a member of Alberta Federation of Women United for Families (AFWUF), local politics were quickly activated. Mary Ellen, herself, appeared to speak from her personal experience primarily. But it was obvious that we could expect AFWUF political leaders in the audience. None of us wanted the show to be a forum for set-

ting women up against women.

ASWAC and individual feminists did a fantastic job of spreading the word, mobilizing a number of women who came to the show. Many had taken time off work. I felt totally overwhelmed at this presence of so many feminists standing up for what we believe in. Between us, we took our sail out of militant AFWUF wind, without blowing back, and without being on the defense. The best part of the performance was when Mary Ellen said she didn't want to be like a man. Feminists applauded with enthusiasm. I am told Mary Ellen's face was a sight to behold.

I feel we lived up to our principles, empowering ourselves, and including all women. I thank the women who supported me with information, organizing, and being there.

The CTV program is called "Lifetime", in Edmonton from 1 - 2 pm weekdays. This show will be aired sometime in September or October. (For an extensive account of the event, see The Newsmagazine for Alberta Women, sept issue.

funds. In point form, here are some of the highlights:

- .roughly 65% of the monies go to regional groups with 35% to national groups
- .the ceiling for salaries for national applications is \$30,000
- .a deadline for funding applications is being considered
- .at the national level, they are willing to reconsider funding for capital costs; they particularly want to help computerize
- .Bouchard admitted there isn't much money available to women's groups from the private sector and said that the women's program mandate will not change until women have equality
- .2 or 3 year grants will not be considered
- .Olivia Jacobs is the new Director of the Women's Program and we've heard good things about her. Women's groups did not have input into the hiring, however, as happened with her predecessor, Lise Blanchard

News from the south

This year Lethbridge has had an ASWAC board member locally. Feeling at a loss as to what exactly to do, I talked to all the women I knew, and had an article about ASWAC in our local paper printed, with my name as a contact. Several women phoned me to find out more about ASWAC as a result.

We decided that what we wanted to do, more than anything, was to meet each other, so we began meeting twice a month. Other women heard about us and came out in a steady trickle.

Over and over women said how great it was to find a way to meet other feminists in Lethbridge. We met, talked, laughed and did little projects as they caught our energy. Finally we had a formal discussion about the group's shape, identity and future and came up with these ideas:

- the group does not want to be a completely independent entity, but preferred to remain a local group of provincial ASWAC members.
- The group wants to call itself ASWAC Lethbridge
- that ASWAC Lethbridge is inclusive of all members, though directions, activities, etc., will

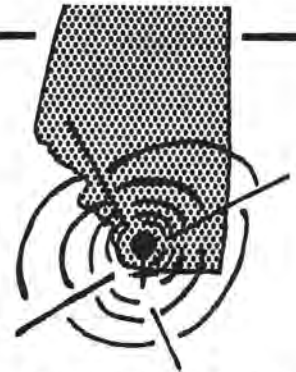
be developed by those members choosing to attend meetings. -that women may attend meetings and participate in decision making without an ASWAC membership, though such will be encouraged.

-BUT that it be understood that activities of ASWAC Leth. be compatible with provincial positions on issues, and that ASWAC be aware of and have input into activities. Specifically, applications for funding of any sort will be submitted to ASWAC prior to submission. -that ASWAC Leth. will support projects and activities of the provincial group, as is possible locally.

-that the group has the autonomy to respond to, or initiate local issues; and will have the support of the provincial group as is possible.

-that direct and frequent contact be maintained, preferably by representation of a local member on the Stoard, and, as that occurs, that Stoard outreach money be used for the needs of the group.

-that a minimum of one formal meeting between the two groups occur, for the purpose of evaluating the working relationship, and



-that, should circumstances alter, for whatever reasons, this group may choose, or be asked to choose a name which does not specifically attach it to ASWAC.

Currently, we are looking into potential funding for a Women's Resource Centre, but we have committed ourselves to not getting lost in that search. Though it is difficult sometimes without a fixed place to operate from, we want to hold onto the kind of mixture of work and fun that we have now. As members in the collective of ASWAC we are finding many ways to be involved, and finding this an exciting way to work. We have several things tentatively planned and will be sharing our news and activities in the newsletter.

Love from Lethbridge,
Terri Ann

Public supports equal pay

A recent Solidarity Alberta survey indicates that there is strong public support for the concept of equal pay for work of equal value.

The survey, designed in consultation with the U. of A. political science department, was mailed to a random sampling of 1000 Alberta voters. Approximately 27% of those responded.

When presented with the statement, "Men and women working in different jobs which are equally valuable should be paid the same wage or salary," over 80% of the

respondents agreed while fewer than 14% disagreed.

There was some discrepancy between men and women respondents, with 74.4% of the men agreeing, and 90.9% of the women agreeing.

According to how they voted in the last provincial election, 80.6% of PC-ers were in favour of pay equity, 90% of the New Democrats also agreed with the question. 76.9% of the Liberals were in favour, and 57.2% of the Socreds. The one WCC respondent strongly disagreed with the concept.



Advocating for our rights

The Canadian Human Rights Advocate is a wonderful little publication! It is the only resource of its kind in Canada that keeps you up-to-date and informed in the the field of equality rights.

The Advocate is a newsletter format document that is choc a bloc full of facts pertaining to human rights issues, what's happening with important cases in the court system, and updates on human rights items of interest. It is published ten times a year.

The editor of the Advocate is Kathleen Ruff who has been actively involved in equality issues affecting women, racial minorities and persons with disabilities, since the 1960's. She was the director of the B.C. Human Rights Branch, and is the founder of the Canadian Human Rights Reporter Inc.

Subscriptions rates vary according to your financial status. They range from \$40 a year for government bodies

to \$5 for persons on welfare. For a sample copy send \$2 to The Canadian Human Rights Advocate RR 1 Maniwaki, Quebec. J9E 3A8

The Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench has ruled that "discrimination by reason of pregnancy is not discrimination by reason of sex" and is therefore not a contravention of the Manitoba Human Rights Act.

In a Judgement delivered Nov. 26, Justice Simonsen upheld the decision of a Board of Adjudication which ruled that Susan Brooks, Patricia Allen and Patricia Dixon were discriminated against on the basis of pregnancy by Canada Safeway Ltd., but that such discrimination was not prohibited by the Manitoba Human Rights Act. The women filed complaints because the company's group sickness and accident policy excluded employees who were pregnant for 10 weeks prior and six weeks after the expected week of birth.

Simonsen quoted the Federal Court of Appeal who ruled in

the Bliss case that discrimination against pregnant women was discrimination against pregnant persons and not discrimination against women. (taken from the The Advocate, March 1986 issue.)



Lesbians organize

ASWAC is receiving increasing numbers of requests for a formal structure within the organization that would address issues of specific concern to lesbian feminists. Word has swept around the province about the very successful Lesbian-Feminist/Feminist-Lesbian workshop held at last year's Assembly and women are anxiously awaiting word about what this year's workshop will look like ... and here are the current plans and ideas for this Assembly '86 workshop.

The lesbian caucus will meet during the assigned caucus times on the Saturday of the Assembly with the actual workshop taking place on the Sunday afternoon. The intent

of the workshop time is to develop the basis for a lesbian feminist network around the province. So many of us think we are the only dyke in town when we might well be living next door to a sister without ever having the opportunity to meet her in an organized lesbian feminist event-oriented way! The idea of the provincial network was developed at a gathering of interested women in Camrose in late July.

What do you think? Phone the office for input into the workshop design ... and ... ATTEND THE 1986 Assembly to be part of the founding of the ASWAC lesbian feminist network!

Rural realities differ

Dear ASWAC women that I met on my brief journey to your part of the country...first of all, I would like to thank you very much for your kindness, your attention, and for the work you are doing.

Coming from the area that I do, it was, in many ways, like a visit to a strange and wonderful world. It seems so rich. There were the bookstores, full of books I desperately want to read, but couldn't afford and can't get here without vast effort; there were wonderful, educated, intelligent, hard working women doing the kind of work that I do, but under vastly different circumstances...above all, there was community, a sense of safety, a sense of en-

Letter to Journal

Re: Grade 8 Students view graphic abortion movie (article July 15, 1986)

Sir,

While we are pleased to see the topic of abortion tackled in a Junior High School (Kenilworth) human sexuality course in Edmonton, we are concerned about the choice of film that was used to initiate discussion.

The "Silent Scream" is an interesting film especially when shown in conjunction with the Planned Parenthood Response to it. The Silent Scream has been proven, by leading neurological and other medical experts, to be factually and scientifically inaccurate. Its techniques are misleading and manipulative, its style sensational and dishonest. Worst of all possibly, the movie presents the issue of abortion in total isolation from the larger issue of reproductive rights and choices.

The Planned Parenthood Response rebuts, in a cool, calm and highly intelligent way, many of misleading "facts" presented in the Silent Scream. May we suggest that the Grade 8 Kenilworth class be given the opportunity to view this rational response, too?

Better, yet, invite into the next human sexuality course that wishes to tackle the issue of reproductive choice representatives from organizations such as Planned Parenthood, Abortion By Choice or the Alberta Status of Women Action Committee who will lead discussions and workshops based on a philosophy of freedom of choice rather than emotional manipulation.

Sincerely, Amanda Le Rougetel
ASWAC Board Member

Sheila Bailin, president
Abortion by Choice/CARAL Edmonton

closure, that is lacking out here in the hinterland.

I believe all that wonderful feminist stuff about sisterhood, and being open, and understanding, but there is also something about having to live out here in the real world with no defenses that keeps you in touch with what is really going on with people. I think any movement can become elitist. It took the strong efforts of black women in the US and other places to point out the racism within the Women's movement. Women from developing countries are getting strong enough to define for themselves how their liberation movements will be forwards. In Canada, at this point, rural women are often unheard and unseen. We feel like we ride behind our sisters in the cities, benefitting from the work they are doing, but still feeling left out and second class.

I challenge ASWAC to continue with the regional outreach work you are doing, and to ensure that you continue to have represented, women who are other than white, educated, and middle class. I am sure that you have made efforts in this direction already, and I trust they will continue.

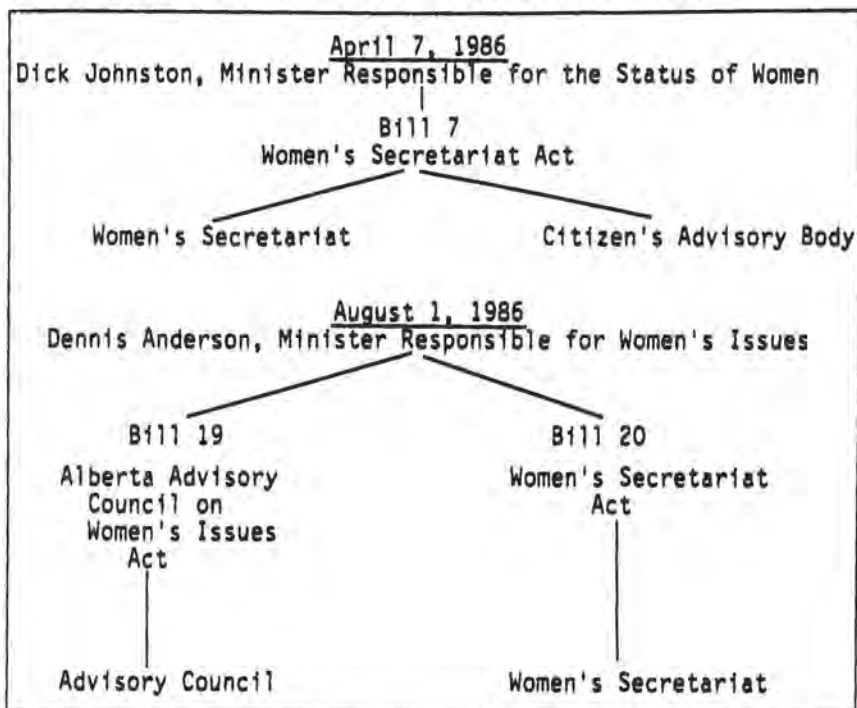
Once again, I enjoyed my time in Edmonton thoroughly, and I hope to see you all again, sometime and somehow.

Sincerely, Luanne Armstrong
(Luanne lives in Sirdar, B.C.)



Out with the old bill

On April 7, 1986, Dick Johnston, Minister Responsible for The Status of Women, introduced to the Legislature, Bill 7, The Women's Secretariat Act. The provincial election was called April 14, and therefore the Bill never made it past its first reading.



On August 1, 1986, Dennis Anderson, the new Minister, introduced Bills 19 and 20 to replace Bill 7. What follows is some analysis and highlights of these bills. Bill 19 could be considered to be the grown-up version of the baby citizen's advisory body Bill presented before the election!

Isn't legislative ping-pong interesting to watch?

Protests promote better language

by Amanda Le Rougetel

The schematic diagram shows clearly how the new Bills introduced by Dennis Anderson provide two obviously separate entities, a major improvement over the single Bill 7 introduced by Dick Johnston which served to confuse the relationship between the Women's Secretariat (WS) and the citizen's advisory body (c.a.b.). Connections exist between the WS and the Advisory Council now, but Bill 20 clearly describes the WS as an internal government advisory and policy making body while the Advisory Council, as described in Bill 19, presents the women of Alberta with a Council that has as its mandate "to advise...the Alberta Government...on matters relating to the opportunity for full and equal participation of Alberta women in the life of the province..."

The most noteworthy changes in these pieces of legislation are to be found in the newly outlined purpose/mandate of the Advisory Council in Women's Issues. Compare section 8.5 (a-b) of Bill 7 with section 2.2 (a-d) of Bill 19 and you will see that the wording has been changed and improved to the point where the nebulous

term "status of women" contained in Bill 7 has been struck and been replaced with "matters relating to the opportunity for full and equal participation of Alberta women in the life of the Province".

Another change worth noting is that the number of members on the Advisory Council has been increased to 15 from 12; this must surely be in response to the enormous number of applications for membership which the Council has received. We can only hope that the extra bodies will result in increased and improved representation of Alberta women!

And who could overlook the difference in language used in Bill 19: section 3.2 describes how the Lieutenant Governor in Council may appoint 1 of the members of the Advisory Council to chair it. Compare this with the archaic wording in Bill 7, chairman and vice-chairman to be appointed, and it begins to appear like our loud protests and lobbying for improvements were actually listened to!! Now, if only we could get a clause included in Bill 19 about the Advisory Council undertaking AND publishing its own research . . .

and in with the new!

Bill 7

Women's Secretariat Act

Women's Secretariat

- 2.1 WS established through this act
- 2.2 its purpose is to
 - a. identify, analyze and make recommendations about government policy, programs and legislation that affect women,
 - b. promote public and government awareness of issues of concern to women,
 - c. maintain co-ordination and liaison with government departments to ensure that women's concerns are reflected in policy and program development,
 - d. conduct research and collect data on women's issues.
- 3 staff . . .
an Executive Director and other employees shall be appointed as required by the business of the WS.

Citizen's Advisory Body

- 8.1 the Lieutenant Governor in Council may by order establish a . . . citizen's advisory body on the status of women in Alberta with no more than 11 members
- 8.2 the Executive Director of the WS shall be an ex officio, non-voting member of the c.a.b.
- 8.3 a chairman and a vice-chairman of the c.a.b. will be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor
- 8.4 employees may be appointed as required by the c.a.b.
- 8.5 the purpose of the c.a.b. is
 - a. to advise and report to the Government through the Minister, on any matter relating to the status of women in Alberta referred to it by the Minister for consideration, or any other matter relating to the status of women in Alberta that the c.a.b. considers appropriate, and
 - b. to increase awareness of the public relating to women's issues, needs and concerns.
- 8.6 The c.a.b. ceases to exist 10 years after it is established unless it is earlier disestablished by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.



Bill 20

Women's Secretariat Act

- 2.1 WS is established with this Act
- 2.2 the WS
 - a. may identify, analyze and make recommendations about Government policy, programs and legislation that affect women,
 - b. may maintain co-ordination and liaison with Government departments to ensure that women's concerns are reflected in legislation and policy and program development,
 - c. may conduct research and collect data on women's issues,
 - d. may promote public and Government awareness of issues of concern to women, and
 - e. shall undertake any activities that the Minister considers appropriate.
- 3.1 there may be appointed an Executive Director of the WS and any other employees required to conduct the business of the WS
- 3.2 the Executive Director shall report to the Minister

Bill 19

Alberta Advisory Council on Women's Issues Act

- 2.1 Alberta Advisory Council on Women's Issues is established by this Act
- 2.2 The purpose of the Advisory Council is to advise and report to the Alberta Government through the Minister on matters relating to the opportunity for full and equal participation of Alberta women in the life of the Province by
 - a. identifying specific matters and issues relating to women that may be addressed by Government,
 - b. making recommendations to the Government with respect to any matters and issues relating to women,
 - c. consulting with and providing information to the public, and
 - d. carrying out any other activities that the Minister considers appropriate.
- 3.1 . . . shall consist of not more than 15 members, for terms of not more than 3 years
- 3.2 the Lieutenant Governor in Council may appoint 1 of the members to chair the Advisory Council
- 4 employees will be appointed as required
- 5.1 the Advisory Council shall meet at least 3 times per fiscal year
- 7 This Act expires on December 31, 1996 unless it is continued for a further period by an order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

conferencesconferencesconferences



Feminist counselling

Dr. Sophie Freud will lead a half-day workshop titled, *Feminine Perspectives in Counselling*. She will focus on some of the dynamics involved in counselling situations where attention must be paid to the specific needs of women and to their unique experience.

The date of the workshop is Friday, October 17, 1-4 pm. It will be held at the Empire Room, Convention Inn South, 4404 Calgary Trail, Edmonton. The cost is \$35, and cheques are payable to Grant MacEwan Community College. The registration deadline is Oct. 3. For more information contact: Community Services Outreach 462-5553.

Solutions to porn

The Alberta Coalition Against Pornography is hosting a conference for Adults and Teens entitled, "Understanding Pornography - Seeking Solutions".

Touted as the first event of its kind to include special sessions for teens with a focus on sex-role stereotyping, the conference will be held at The University of Calgary September 19 and 20.

Registration fees are \$25 for adults and \$15 for teens. For further information contact the ACAP office at 320 - 5Ave. S.E., Calgary AB. 263-1550 local 346. (This event is co-sponsored by the Alberta Women's Secretariat and the Calgary Junior League.)

Seeking good health

"Pursuing the Best", is the title, and sets the tone for a Women and Health Conference to be held at the Calgary Convention Centre the last weekend of October.

The conference is hosted by the Grace Hospital Women's Health Centre, and will offer seminars on Osteoporosis, PMS, sexuality, nutrition and many more.

for information contact: Grace Hospital Women's Health Centre, 1402-8 Ave. Calgary, Ab. T2N 1B9 or phone 284-1141 local 394.

Natural birth control

The National Family Planning Association (Alberta) cordially invites you to attend a weekend seminar with Dr. John and Lyn Billings. John and Lyn Billings are the founders of the Billings ovulation method of birth control.

The ovulation method involves monitoring of the mucus secretions of the cervical crypts in the uterus. "Scientific" studies indicate that with proper instruction and motivation, this method in actual practice is 98% effective while being far safer than most popular artificial or chemical methods.

The workshop will be held Thanksgiving weekend, October 11, 12 at Holiday Inn 708-8 Ave. SW, Calgary, AB. To register, phone or write prior to September 12, 1986. (263-7600)

Women and the law

"Women and the Criminal Law" is the title of an upcoming national conference sponsored by the Faculty of Law of the University of Ottawa.

This conference is being called to discuss the number of vital concerns that women have with the criminal law. In April of this year, the Status of Women Canada's publication *A Feminist Review of Criminal Law* indicated that women, as women, have an important role to play in the policy debate which is about to take place as to the scope and purpose of the criminal law and the criminal justice system in Canada. This Fall and Winter will be a critical time as Parliament will have before it legislation responding to the Fraser and Badgley Reports; the Law Reform Commission of Canada will table its new Criminal Code for Canada; and the Sentencing Commission will present its report on the future direction of sentencing policy.

If interested, please contact; Jennifer Pothier Women and Criminal Law Conference, Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa KiN 6N5 (613) 564-5855

A very old subject

Health and Education professionals are invited to a huge conference titled, *Sexuality and Health: New Look at an Old Subject*. The program will be of interest to physicians, educators, nurses, pharmacists, psychologists, social worker, therapists, counsellors and students in related fields.

For more information contact the ASWAC office, there is a registration form and a detailed description of the workshops in the conference package.

happeningshappeningshappenings

Public hearing

The City of Edmonton's Public Affairs Committee will be holding a hearing on Out of School Care Standards, Tuesday, September 16, in the City Council Chambers. If you are interested in making a presentation either verbal or written, please inform:

Grace Rumbold
Public Affairs Committee
Office of the City Clerk
3rd. Fl City Hall
or phone 428-5404 before
September 10.

Women's centres to meet

The 1987 Women's Centre's Conference will be hosted by the Bow Valley Women's Centre in Canmore!!

An organizing meeting is planned for September 9 in Canmore. Questions or comments about the conference can be directed to Frances Adams at ASWAC or Sally Garen, Box 8 Banff AB, TOL 0C0.

On in Red Deer

The Red Deer Status of Women Association is sponsoring a Potluck Dinner meeting, Tues. September 9, at the Museum.

The dinner starts at 7 pm with a dinner speaker at 8:30 pm. The topic for the evening is "Day Care the Surrogate Mother."

Saturday, October 25 from 9:30 - 3:30 will be a workshop at the Great West Inn. The topic will be: "Be the Boss of your Future", with sessions on retirement planning, assertiveness training, financial planning and Do-it-yourself wills. The Red Deer Status of Women Association is looking for more workshop ideas like this one. If you have any other "lightbulbs", please contact Kathy Edwards at 347-6524.

Crowsnest Pass events

The Crowsnest Pass Women's Resource and Crisis Centre has some events coming up:

Sept 20,27 are Volunteer training and re-training sessions from 10am 2pm at the centre. Luncheon and reimbursement of babysitting costs.

October 4 Is the open meeting to elect/confirm committee members. This is a very important meeting, starting at 11 am.

October 28 is the date of the Family Violence Seminar 7 pm at the Provincial Building. The topic is the Prevention of Family Violence.

More work on PMS

Many women experience a variety of mood, behavioural, and physical changes in the days preceding their menstrual period. For some, such changes are severely debilitating enough to interfere with normal daily functioning. As yet there have been no definitive studies into the causes and treatment of this condition due to the lack of diagnostic information.

We are a group of researchers who are interested in examining the physical and psychological changes which occur in the menstrual cycle in the hope that better methods of diagnosis may be developed. If you have filled out a premenstrual assessment form from a study conducted last year or if you have no premenstrual symptoms or minor physical symptoms, we would greatly appreciate your assistance. Please contact:
Shirley at 432-6311 or
Dr. Cumming Ob/Gyn U of A
432-6636 (leave message with Elaine)

Interesting courses

The University of Calgary is offering through the Faculty of Continuing Education a number of course options of interest to women in the upcoming fall session. For detailed course information, phone 220-4724 or write, Faculty of Continuing Education
Education Tower Room 106
The University of Calgary
T2N 1N4

Roast Feminist anyone?

September 13, 1986 is Halyna Freeland's 40th Birthday Roast!
This auspicious event is to be held at Riverdale Community Hall, 9231-110 Ave. Cash bar opens at 6 pm with supper at 7. Tickets are \$10.

For more information phone
424-6889 or 433-2692 or 431-0388

Dispelling sex trade myths

"A Particular Class of Women" is a series of vignettes inspired by women in the striptease business. They are written and performed by Janet Feindel, an actress who has also worked as a stripper for several years. The show dispels the myth of strippers as victims. Rather it emphasizes their strengths: humour, sisterhood, and insight.

"A Particular Class of Women" is at the Fringe Festival this year and will be playing at Chinook Theatre, 10329-83 Ave, August 16,17,18 at 6 pm - \$5. The show will also be playing at Chinook, August 22,23,24 at 3:30 pm.

The show is directed by Dorothy Ann Haug and designed by Matthew Gould with Betty Hushlak as production manager.

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.

If you bought or renewed your membership on or after September 1, 1985, you are up to date and ok, you will have a little 86 in the top right corner of your address label. However, if your membership dates from before September 1, 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. Donations of any variety are always received with squeals of delight.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

PHONE - home _____
work _____

**suggested membership fee is \$10.00 but we will of course accept less. Please make cheque out to: ASWAC, Box 1573, Edmonton, AB T5J 2N7

Membership:
NEW / RENEWAL

Donation

In your opinion, what are the three most important women's issues of today?

Where did you come across the Newsletter?