

NEWS LETTER

NEWS AND VIEWS COMPILED BY THE CALGARY GROUP,
ALBERTA STATUS OF WOMEN ACTION COMMITTEE

— DECEMBER 1995 —

Faces of Resistance...

Some people, including the media, say there is little or no opposition to the brutal deficit cutting actions taken by the Klein government. We say... *look again.*

Others, including the Reform Party, are pressuring our federal government to swing far right in a similar fashion. We say... *don't even think about it.*

And some people claim feminism is dying and cheer on the decreasing government support for equality-seeking organizations. We say... *as long as there are kitchen tables to gather around, feminists will be alive and kicking for equality.*

This edition of ASWAC's Newsletter is dedicated to all those who continue the struggle for social, economic and political justice. Sometimes we under-estimate the impact our actions have on improving the status of women and our families.

When three women gather over coffee and talk about getting a stop light installed near the playground, that is political action. When someone chooses not to purchase a certain product anymore because they find the product's advertising offensive, that is political action. When someone writes a letter to the editor or takes the time to find out which school board trustees not to vote for, that is also political action.

Whether you've decided to boycott French wines to protest France's nuclear testing, or you've marched in a rally opposing hatred, we want to hear your story.

Tell us how you've been active in the last year, inform us of new groups formed, or actions taken in your area, let us know who you've phoned or written to and why you felt inspired to.

No action is too small, or too big. ASWAC members and our member groups care about the future of this province, country and planet. We are the faces of resistance. We do not resist change, we demand it so that all

may live equally, peacefully, and with security. We do resist and resent bigotry and the mean-spirited right-wing agenda being forced upon us.

Your political action for the day... join us in this adventure. Fill out the last page of this newsletter, fold it, and mail it back to us.

We will be sharing a variety of those responses with our members in upcoming newsletters. Remember, don't underestimate the value of the work you do.

We look forward to reading your stories of resistance at our kitchen table.

Coalition Against Hatred formed after November rally

Human Life International announced it was coming to Calgary Nov. 10-12th at the Delta Bow Valley Hotel. This organization supports the murder of healthcare workers in abortion clinics, is extremely racist, homophobic and ultra-right wing.

It held a similar conference in Montreal last year which resulted in many demonstrations of people's outrage at the HLI message of hate.

The Pro-choice coalition decided to call together all the organizations we thought might share our concern. From 40 activist and religious groups contacted, about 25 groups joined together to speak out against HLI.

A rally was held on Nov. 10th and despite freezing cold weather (this is Calgary, you know!) over 200 people demonstrated against hatred. It was wonderful to be there and feel the strength of support from so many diverse groups.

From this the Coalition Against Hatred has been formed.

Mission Statement:

The purpose of the Alberta Status of Women Action Committee is to advance the status of women in Alberta by providing a forum for women's voices, raising awareness and sharing resources to effect change.



CONGRATULATIONS TO MOYRA LANG ON THE BIRTH OF HER BABY GIRL
A NEW VOICE FOR FEMINISM!

**The Alberta Status of Women
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1994-1995 Board Members**

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ASWAC receives a portion of its funding from The Federal Women's Program and gratefully acknowledges the financial support from its members. ASWAC also thanks the Wild Rose Foundation for project funding.

The Edmonton office is now connected to the Edmonton Freenet. You can send us E-mail at:
ASWAC@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca.

Our newsletter is an ideal way to advertise your events, resources or services to the women of Alberta as well as supporting ASWAC. We welcome your thoughts, input, ideas, submissions, criticisms and praise. Send any submissions to: Attention Newsletter, c/o ASWAC Edmonton. Watch for ASWAC mail-outs prior to next newsletter! Thanks for your continued support.

The ASWAC newsletter is published by the Alberta Status of Women Action Committee, a non-profit organization. The newsletter is produced by, for, and about women in Alberta. The newsletter was created to share information with our members and women's organizations, as well as interested women. The views expressed and the events publicized are not necessarily supported by ASWAC. We neither endorse nor recommend; we seek to inform.

ASWAC news is produced on a collective, consensus, volunteer basis by Board Members and Staff around the province.

In order to have the newsletter better reflect the faces of Alberta women, ASWAC is circulating newsletter production to different centres around the province. We hope in this way to include a wider variety of articles and photos. Should you wish to participate in the newsletter preparation in your area, contact either the Calgary or Edmonton office.

All submissions may not be included; we reserve the right to edit to ensure that the content is not in opposition to our mission statement. We encourage women to tell us when we do not meet our own standards.

Advertising Policy - The ASWAC newsletter seeks advertising that is women positive to help defer publication costs. ASWAC does not necessarily endorse products or services offered. We reserve the right to refuse ads. Rates and sizes can be requested through the Edmonton office; please call for more information.



POLITICAL ACTION IN CALGARY



Calgary Status of Women Action Committee (CSWAC) is currently involved in two major projects. One project, being co-ordinated in alliance with the Women's Resource Centre at the University of Calgary is called "Alberta Cuts." It involves the preparation of six papers about how the lives of Alberta women have been affected in recent months by the decimation of programs throughout the province.

Two of the papers, "Education" and "Career Development," are being organized by the Women's Resource Centre while the other four, "Health Care," "Family and Social Services," "Municipal Assistance," and "Environmental Protection," are being contracted by CSWAC.

CSWAC is also planning to produce a video about how the financial cuts are affecting women in the Calgary area. It is hoped that this documentary will be ready to premiere at the annual Herland Film Festival in Calgary, February 7 through 10.

CSWAC is also involved in the preparation of a "Custody Handbook," to help women involved in custody disputes navigate the legal system. The handbook is intended to provide information about the various services available in Calgary and will include contact people, etc. It will also provide assistance in how to go about organizing a case, and how to prepare for court. This handbook is being prepared by a group of women who are, or have been, involved in a custody dispute. They meet regularly to discuss their cases and the dilemmas they have faced. Their recommendations and words of wisdom are being amalgamated into the Custody Handbook which, it is hoped, will help other women in similar situations, avoid some of the pitfalls. (For further information and meeting times, contact CSWAC at 262-1873.)

The **December 6th Memorial Committee** is a grassroots committee derived from the planning of the annual commemorative services for the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. Remembering and honouring the 14 women killed in Montreal on December 6, 1989 remains the central focus of the Committee; however the Committee also organizes educational and awareness building activities and events related to violence experienced by women. (For further information and meeting times, contact Gail at 220-4697.)

The **Group for Research and Education on Human Rights (GREHR)** is an umbrella group for others doing work in research and education in human rights. It assists in the construction of projects or presentations and provides opportunity for collaboration, multi-disciplinary research and teaching in the field of human rights.

Currently, GREHR has members who are making themselves available to talk to groups about the experiences and decisions taken at the U.N. Conference on Women in Beijing. Other recent political action included hosting Harry Wu in Calgary on November 27th. Wu is an activist committed to making people aware of human rights abuses in China. GREHR also hosted the November visit of a

Romanian Minister in the Hungarian Reform Church of Transylvania, who was instrumental in bringing down the previous regime to discuss human rights abuse.

GREHR's Bosnia Project which culminated in the affidavits of Bosnian survivors being sent to the War Crimes Tribunal has been hailed as a success. Survivors who arrived in Canada after the project commenced continue to contact GREHR wishing to include their voices. (For further information about GREHR and its activities, contact Professor Kathleen Mahoney, or Karen Argento in Calgary at 220-7254.)

The **Women's Collective and Resource Centre (WCRC)** at the University of Calgary has a number of political action activities underway. They include its Brown Bag Lunch series which hosts speakers and encourages discussion on such issues as Anti-Racism Activism, Feminist Activism, the Gender Research Institute, Women's Music, and Women and the Military.

WCRC is also hosting a workshop series called Discover the Cyborg in You: Feminists Navigating the E-Mail and the Internet two Wednesdays per month. These workshops focus on women/feminist Internet resources. (For further information on the activities and meetings of the Women's Collective and Resource Centre call 289-9401.)

Calgary Poverty Focus Group

as of November 7, 1995

- Two of their members sit on the National Anti-Poverty Organization (NAPO).
- NAPO is holding an activist training school in Ottawa in November. Two or three of the board members plan to attend. They are currently working on an information pamphlet.
- Calgary Poverty Focus Group has a radio show on CJSW, the University Radio, 909 FM. The program is called Radio Free Poverty and it is on Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m. until noon.
- All of their members are involved with other groups and all are committed to their cause. They all struggle in poverty and fight for what they believe is right — that being 'social justice.'
- The Edmonton Social Planning Agency has their name on a list of litigation against Alberta Social Services for unfair welfare rates.
- One of their members is planning a submission to present a round table discussion on the rights of the child.
- They receive referrals to people in need of advocacy. Some of these referrals come from City Social Services and Civil Liberties.
- Currently, they are shifting their focus to the members' individual needs. They are working towards a co-housing project — one that ensures that all members are safe when it comes to shelter needs.
- They also attend and organize busloads of people to go to Edmonton to the Legislature as Albertans united for social justice.

Reality is something you rise above.

— LISA MINELLI
1946—

It is justice, not charity, that is wanting in this world.

— MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT
1759-1797



THE PRO-CHOICE COALITION



The Pro-choice Coalition is a group of Calgary agencies who work to uphold the rights of women to choose from the full range of options in the event of an unintended pregnancy. The past few months have been very busy and stressful for the Pro-choice Coalition due to the push from the right to de-insure abortion. At first, it seemed as though the pro-lifers were not going to be very successful lobbying the Klein government; then it appeared they might win. However, we wrote to MLAs and began lobbying to ensure a woman's right to choose would prevail.

The government decided to let the Alberta Medical Association decide on the definition of "medically necessary." The AMA refused to alter their definition with the result that, so far, abortions remain an insured procedure.

Do not think this issue has gone away. The following is a summary of our discussion on the true state of access to abortion for Albertan women today and the future of health care for Canada.

In Alberta there are 17 new Regional Health Authorities which decide what services will be provided by them and what will be contracted out to other regions. It remains unclear as to how RHAs will reimburse one another. Many hospitals in Alberta currently refuse to provide abortion services and it seems unlikely that their RHA will force them to do so. This is especially true in rural centres.

Women from outlying areas must travel to Calgary or Edmonton (I'm not sure of the status of Grande Prairie or Fort McMurray) to obtain services from a hospital or private clinic. Will the RHAs who do not provide abortions pay for the medical costs of abortion services from clinics in urban areas? What will happen to women's access if the clinics find they are unable to recoup their costs? Are clinics to negotiate with 17 different RHAs to ensure access for all women? And what happens to the woman who has no money to travel and stay overnight in an urban centre? Throughout the wrangling over de-insuring abortion services (and the whole issue regarding private clinics) many of us may have been saying to

ourselves "Thank goodness for the Feds!" Pressure from the federal government has appeared to cause at least a small clot in the Klein cuts for health care.

However, in 1998 the federal government will no longer make transfer payments to Alberta. Where will be the political clout then? Will the Canada Health Act become a moot point? These questions remain unanswered. Until they are, universality, portability, indeed, the very existence of health care for women in Alberta, is seriously in doubt. We must be vigilant in working to ensure that the rights of women upheld in the Supreme Court are respected throughout Alberta.

Author seeks input

Help! I am a lesbian mother/author looking for personal narratives, prose, poetry, art, personal concerns, comments, ideas, etc. on the trials and tribulations of motherhood and co-parenting in the lesbian sector for possible publication in an upcoming book on Lesbian Mothers in Canada. Unpublished writers are encouraged and welcome!

The deadline for submissions is Jan. 31, 1996. Submissions, preferably typed, should be kept to a maximum of 3,000 words. Please send an SASE for any return correspondence. Send to: Mothers, Suite 416, 300 - 8120 Beddington Blvd. NW, Calgary, AB, T3K 2A8. Fax: 403-274-2247.

Common front celebrates

The Calgary Common Front marked its first anniversary on Nov. 2 with a celebration of one year of resistance to the provincial government's agenda.

Maria-Isabel Tobar Diaz, a union organizer and leader from PET-Mujer in Santiago, Chile, spoke of the similarities between Chile and Alberta in the "restructuring" of our health care systems.

A Wall of Resistance display showed a year of Community Action Teams, speakers' tours, workshops exposing myths of the debt and deficit, participation in the civic election through the Voters' Association, the campaigns and actions of our constituency groups, guerrilla actions, our own songs, letters, books, and brochures.

But most of all, we celebrated our solidarity and our learning to work together. We are working for a community that cares for all of its citizens, a community based on respect for diversity, human rights, and social justice. We have much work to do! ASWAC readers who want to become involved in Common Front activities can call the Calgary CUSO office at 283-2871. The Common Front is a provincial coalition with Community Action Teams throughout Alberta.

The Calgary Common Front meets the second Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. (6:30 orientation for new members), in the AUPE offices at 2120 Kensington Rd. NW.

Women on the Move

ASWAC continues to compile information for its Women's Resource Data Base.

When completed, we will be able to make easy referrals to women-centred services and organizations across the province. This information will also be available to our member groups.

If you know of, or are involved in a group or service that should be included in our data base, please contact the ASWAC Calgary office (233-0731) immediately.

We need to know who you primarily serve, what type of services or activities are offered, costs, contact names, phone numbers, mailing address, fax number, etc. Information can also be faxed to us at 269-2012.

Just remember, we're all in this alone.

— LILY TOMLIN
1939—



A PERSONAL STORY



About 135 of us spent the summer fighting our municipality over a proposed development of rural agricultural land.

To cut a frustrating story short, we lost our fight when the council chose to ignore us and voted unanimously for the development. (Does this sound familiar to any of you?) I felt outraged and powerless.

For me, the fight represented far more than simply an inappropriate development of land. It represented the wanton misuse of power by elected officials to bully, ignore, and denigrate a group who did not share their view. (Does this sound familiar?) It demonstrated a complete absence of creative or thoughtful response to their community's problems. Instead, they force the same old inappropriate solutions that benefit the wealthy and the few at the expense of the majority. (Does this sound familiar?)

During our fight I attended a council meeting at the municipal chambers. It was quite an experience! The meetings are held on Tuesday afternoons. Councillors sit in reclining chairs, raised up behind a solid semicircular desk, five feet above the floor. (One councillor appeared to be asleep for much of the time — a danger of those easy chairs!) Those who speak to them sit at a card table below the desk with the result that they can no longer see who they are presenting to.

I wanted a written copy of the proceedings. Council no longer prints the minutes of the meetings in the local paper (which were printed at no charge by the newspaper itself) so there is no way of checking that presentations were accurately recorded. Depending on who I talked to, copies of council minutes can be obtained, for

25 cents a page, \$1 a page, or at the discretion of administration after receiving a written request stating the reason why I wanted a copy! (Does this sound familiar?)

For several weeks I brooded and chewed on my anger. I fantasized about revenge. And then came the day! I attended an all-candidates forum before the municipal election. At the end, one jolly, little, smug soul running for re-election, smiled patronizingly at the audience and said how nice it was that we had all come out to hear the candidates; how pleased he was to see and hear from so many people. He urged us all to come to council meetings.

The woman sitting in front of me turned around and raised an eyebrow. That was enough. I flew over the chairs in front and nearly grabbed the sucker by his necktie.

"How dare you be so arrogant, patronizing, and thoughtless," I snarled through clenched teeth. "How dare you suggest we all come to council meetings! Have you no awareness of anyone else but yourself?"

He clutched the table and tried valiantly to smile. I flew on. "First, it's YOU who decides when to hold council meetings — do you think the rest of us are twiddling our thumbs at home with nothing to do? You think farmers have no chores during the day; women and men no jobs or children to look after? Oh, yes a great idea, I'll just tell my boss I'm leaving early to go to a council meeting. Not even Calgary holds its council meetings in the afternoon because THEY KNOW the public cannot attend. I know the reason you chose the afternoon — to SHUT US OUT — and you have the nerve to suggest we should attend."

He gulped. I was aware of others trying to listen. I ignored them. "Second," I hissed, "you dare to suggest that we should come to council and be treated like worms in the grass while you sit up there lolling in your chairs, hiding behind that desk, exuding power, arrogance, and impatience with people like me? Why would anyone return to be treated that way — and you have the nerve to pretend you want to hear from me?"

His nervous grin gave way to a stammer. I strode on. "And third," I declared, "why did you stop publishing council minutes in the newspaper? It cost council not a cent. I'll tell you why. Because you want to keep the public uninformed, shut out, and excluded. And why do you want to do that? Because YOU HAVE NO WISH TO HEAR FROM US. Don't you pretend otherwise. If you want to hear from us YOU CHANGE IT, otherwise don't patronize us."

"Well, thank you," he stammered.

"Oh no, thank YOU," I said with a truly sweet smile and I walked away.

You and I know that nothing will change at council. But something changed for me. Because, you see, for once I felt eloquent. I felt organized, and boy, did I feel empowered. And no one can take that away.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE DEC. 6TH MASSACRE

Genevieve Bereron

Maryse Leclair

Anne-Marie Lemay

Sonia Pelletier

Michele Richard

Annie St. Arneault

Annie Turcotte

Helene Colgan

Nathalie Croteau

Barbara Daigneault

Anne-Marie Edward

Maud Haviernick

Barbara Maria Klueznick

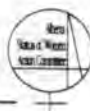
Maryse Laganiere

Age is something that doesn't matter unless you are a cheese.

— BILLIE BURKE
1886-1970



LOOKING AT THE WORLD THROUGH THE EYES OF WOMEN



by Janet Walter
ASWAC Board Member

This non-governmental forum of women from all over the globe was 10 days of common focus on the global village that our world has become. The dimension of living together, listening, and talking together enriched the village dynamic. Each of us were global citizens going beyond the boundaries of sexism, classism, and racism to assess the world in terms of equality, peace, and development. Forty thousand women applied to attend this forum, held in conjunction with the Fourth United Nations Conference on Women. Twenty-five thousand were hosted at the Chinese city of Huairou. Huairou is a centre of 250,000, located 90 minutes from Beijing.

A Thai woman, Khunying Supatra Masdit, convened the forum. She and the facilitating committee achieved a remarkable balance of regional participation and issue positions. There were 150 conference rooms and a large number of tents to accommodate the 3,000 workshops that women brought to share with the other participants. Workshop themes were: economy, governance and politics, human/legal rights, peace and human security, education, health, environment, spirituality and religion, science and technology, media, arts and culture, race and ethnicity, and youth. Running concurrently with the workshops was the plenary program.

The first plenary speaker, Aung San Suu Kyi, awarded a Nobel Peace prize for her work for democracy in Myanmar (Burma), spoke with a gentle passion on gender equality as a key to peace, human rights, tolerance, and economic security. Suu Kyi shared with us wisdom that she honed during her six years of house arrest. She pointed out that modesty and pliability, implicit within the patriarchal socialization of women, are qualities needed for learning. Learning for Suu Kyi means to find ways to democratize governance and security of human needs.

Winona LaDuke, an Anishinabeg woman from Minnesota, matched the passion of Suu Kyi. The gentle insistence of the Oriental woman was balanced by the articulate naming of the North American speaker. Winona LaDuke's voice had the certainty of a mountain river and her bearing spoke a connection to the earth as deep as the roots of a forest giant. Her words named the industrial destructions of the earth and the disregard of the rights of indigenous peoples, other species and ecosystems. The assumed entitlement of the financial elite to decide how earth's resources and people — vulnerable through need, are used for monetary ends, was stated with clarity and simplicity. Winona LaDuke's assertion that the natural law compels beyond civic or religious ordinances, set a large stage — as big as the earth, for forum deliberations.

Vandana Shiva, an eco-feminist from India, was a workshop panelist and a participant in a number of workshops. She names financial globalization, a neo-colonialism; a monoculture that engulfs the world

through an economic system fixed on capital accumulation at the expense of earth's resources and other people, that is, not corporate investors, and particularly women and children who provide cheap labour. Vandana Shiva's analysis is accurate for a large portion of the world. The exceptions are communities who insist on development that meets the life needs of their locality. There was a frequently stated acknowledgment among those of us at this global forum that whatever affects any of us affects all of us. We have a common future. Control of the global village that we live in does not have to remain in the hands of the money lenders. We have the courage and wisdom to change ourselves and institutions. The power of mutuality is not limited.

Pauline Tangiora, a Maori woman, gave the closing address. She asked that we consider that: "Each of us is the fruit of a seed, given by a man and woman." This life condition that we share with other animals and plants is a common tie to all of creation. She invoked a closing blessing that the spirit of the creator be with us.

Ralph Klein's Alberta

In September I had the opportunity to attend a book launch and conference at the University of Alberta, looking at how the provincial cuts are affecting Albertans.

The Trojan Horse, by Trevor Harrison and Gordon Laxer, is a compilation of essays examining the motivations behind and results of the cuts. This book is an excellent example of documentation available that proves the Alberta Advantage is an advantage for only a privileged few. When the book was released, the government quickly condemned it as left-winged and biased.

Of particular interest is the chapter called Road Kill: Women in Alberta's Drive Towards Deficit Elimination, by Gurston Dacks, Joyce Green, and Linda Trimble. The authors clearly demonstrate that there is a disproportionate number of women affected by the cuts. Because women are the primary service providers and users of government services and programs, they have shouldered an immense burden. For example, 98% of nurses are women, and according to the United Nurses of Alberta, more than 10% of nurses have lost their jobs since the cuts began. The authors also claim that the Tory Government's deficit-cutting policies (coincidentally?) work well with their anti-feminist agenda. Interestingly enough, the government's own Alberta Advisory Committee on Women's Issues released a similar report in October. They also point out how the cuts are hurting Alberta women. Unfortunately, the Klein government only pays attention when reports released by their own appointed bodies say what they want them to. (Remember the Alberta Human Rights Commission Review Panel Report.) *The Trojan Horse* is published by Black Rose Books and is available in many progressive book stores. AACWI's report can be obtained by calling their office. You can contact them by calling the Alberta Rite Line, 310-0000, and asking for 422-0668. Their fax number is 422-9111.

All things are to be examined and called into question. There are no limits set to thought.

— EDITH HAMILTON
1867-1963



NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL ACTION COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN



by Pam Krause
Alberta Representative

For those who are unfamiliar with NAC, we are the largest feminist organization in Canada.

This year NAC has focused on the United Nations Conference in Beijing, as well as a campaign for Social Justice and Equality. NAC is mobilizing women across the country to speak out against the dismantling of Canada's social safety net and resist the attack on women's rights.

NAC is involved in several actions which will highlight the effects of the cuts on women. Recent changes arising out of the 1995 federal government's budget will have a devastating impact upon immigrant women, already one of the most disadvantaged groups in Canada. Their independence, their ability to enter the country, and their well-being have all come under attack. As of Feb. 28, 1995, all immigrants over the age of 19 must pay a \$975 head tax to gain landed status. This is on top of the existing \$500 processing fee. All of the money collected (\$146 million) will go into general revenues, not to immigrant settling services.

The government claims that the \$975 landing fee is not discriminatory because it applies to everyone. But given that we live in a world of great disparities between women and men; between rich and poor; between the Third World and the First World, this head tax will make it difficult for many women, particularly women of colour, to enter or remain in Canada as permanent resi-

dents.

These head taxes are being put into place precisely when it is people of colour who are the majority of immigrants who are sponsored family members coming to Canada. The head taxes are intended to discourage their entry to the country. Downloading immigration costs to immigrants feeds into the notion that the rest of society does not benefit from their contributions to society. Legislating conditions that in effect discriminate against immigrants of colour and women institutionalizes and legitimizes racism and sexism in this country.

Instead of collecting deferred corporate taxes or embarking on a meaningful job creation strategy, the government is downloading responsibility onto immigrants who already contribute more than their share to society. The government is blaming immigrants for failed social policies while doing nothing to reduce the problems Canadian society faces.

We must make it clear to Minister of Immigration Sergio Marchi and our local MPs that a racist immigration policy is unacceptable and demand fair and just policies.

NAC is also working hard to prevent the proposed Canada Health and Social Transfer (CHST) which will drastically cut back on transfer payments to the province. This program will reduce accessibility to programs which meet the needs of women and their families. There are about 3 million women in Canada living in poverty and 61% of all families living in poverty are headed by single mothers. The CHST threatens the much cherished services which ensure universal health care and the minimum standard of income necessary for survival. We know that the devolution of federal powers to the provinces will have a devastating impact in Alberta.

NAC is planning several actions to educate people about the effects of the CHST and to provide a much needed gender analysis of the federal budget. We want to mobilize women to join forces and fight the CHST over the coming months. National actions will take place on budget day, IWD, and April 1, the date when the CHST is supposed to take effect. We need to mobilize locally throughout the province to make our voices heard. I would appreciate your feedback on what actions we might be able to organize in Alberta.

Cuts to services in health, education, welfare and immigration are all connected, but the government artificially separates these issues. These cuts are political and not economic choices. If we unite forces, we will be in a better position to fight all the cuts.

I encourage people to contact me and let me know how you would like to be involved in the NAC's Priority Campaign for Social and Economic Justice. You can reach me at 294-0737 (w) or 245-0641 (h). I look forward to continuing to work with all of you in the next few months and I will update NAC member groups on other actions which are organized. I also encourage those who are not yet NAC member groups to join us in the work to build a grassroots women's movement.

• ANECDOTES •

- Cathy has been having ongoing difficulties with her back. She lives near Camrose, Alberta. Recently she was told by her doctor that she had two choices — her name could be added to an extensive waiting list for back surgery which would mean that her back would not be operated on for several months OR she could pay a \$1,000 fee and be operated on the following week. Although Cathy is in constant pain, she does not have the money to pay a fee for medical services. She may have to wait several months for surgery. In the meantime she is unable to work to support herself and her children.

- Margot told us that on October 31, 1995 not only children appeared at her door for Halloween treats. Young men and women from the University of Calgary were also going door-to-door with large cardboard boxes, requesting food donations in lieu of candy, for those in need.

- Anna is an older woman who has been having chronic trouble with her knees. There is a new treatment available that is said to help some people with her kind of knee problems. Unfortunately, this treatment isn't covered by Alberta Health Care. Since the cost for this remedy is over \$300, she won't be able to try this new treatment in order to get relief from the pain.

A mother is neither cocky, nor proud because she knows the school principal may call at any minute to report that her child has just driven a motorcycle through the gymnasium.

— MARY KAY BLAKELY
1957—

WARMEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON.

• ANECDOTES •

A woman has been found guilty of a crime which is not mentioned in the Criminal Code. She had two children - a boy and a girl - and she was found guilty of a crime which is not mentioned in the Criminal Code. She had two children - a boy and a girl - and she was found guilty of a crime which is not mentioned in the Criminal Code.

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