

membership

We welcome the following new member groups:

Business & Professional Women's Club of Hamilton, Ontario
 Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women & Sport, Ottawa
 Canadian Day Care Advocacy Association, Saskatoon
 Carleton University Women's Centre, Ottawa
 Ernestine's Women's Shelter, Rexdale, Ontario
 Everywoman's Place Society, Edmonton
 Gateway Status of Women Council, Port aux Basques, Newfoundland
 Halifax Transition House, N.S.
 Hamilton Status of Women Committee, Hamilton, Ontario
 La Vie En Rose, Montreal
 Midwives Association of B.C., Vancouver
 Newfoundland Teachers' Assn, Special Interest Council on Women's Issues,
 Port aux Basques, Newfoundland
 Sexual Assault Centre, Edmonton
 University Women's Club, Toronto
 West Bay Homemakers - Anishnabeeuek, Ontario
 Westcoast Women & Words, Vancouver
 Women's Council, Main Brook, Newfoundland
 Women's Information Exchange (WEB), Richmond, B.C.
 Women of the North Collective, Fort McMurray, Alberta
 Women Unlimited, Sydney, N.S.
 York Region Women Teachers' Association, Aurora, Ontario

native indian women

A meeting is planned for March 9 of all the First Ministers and the Prime Minister. Aboriginal Rights is an issue on the agenda. We have heard that the federal government is prepared to give the natives of Canada some form of self-government. If that happens, the Indian Act, which is an act of the federal government, will no longer apply.

We have lobbied for the repeal of Section 12(1)(b) of the Indian Act for many years. 12(1)(b) says that any woman who marries a non-status Indian loses her status as an Indian (the same is not true for men). We have also lobbied that children born of such unions retain their Indian status.

We have it on good authority that the federal government, in offering some form of self-government to the native population, will not require the reinstatement of Indian women and children to Indian status and will leave it up to individual Indian governments on how they treat the question of status for Indian women.

Action .. Urgent .. Action

Please telegram/telephone the Hon. John Munro, Minister of Indian & Northern Affairs -- and Prime Minister Trudeau -- INSIST THAT IT IS UNACCEPTABLE TO GRANT INDIAN SELF-GOVERNMENT WITHOUT STATUS EQUALITY FOR INDIAN WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN.

pensions

At the time of her divorce, Joy Irving did not know of the possibility of sharing pension credits. When she heard of the provision she applied immediately. Unfortunately she applied 25 days after the three year eligibility period. Her claim was denied. She applied to the Minister of Health & Welfare, Monique Begin, who denied her appeal. She then filed an appeal under section 83 of the Canada Pension Plan Act. The Review Committee decided in Irving's favour, but Begin appealed this decision to the Pension Appeals Board.

The Equal Pay Information Committee is mounting a public campaign to change the law regarding pension credit splitting upon divorce and at retirement, making the splitting automatic and mandatory. They feel this can only be done with cooperation from women's organizations across Canada. You can help by publicizing the case in your newsletter, at meetings, and by your contacts with the media. For further information, please contact:

EQUAL PAY INFORMATION COMMITTEE, P.O. BOX 4237, VANCOUVER, B.C.

-----Jane Evans-----

A labour code for women

In the December 8 Throne Speech, the federal government unveiled proposed changes to the Canada Labour Code. WOMEN'S NEEDS WERE IGNORED. Instead of action to end discrimination against part-time workers, the federal Minister of Labour, André Ouellet, is proposing further consultations. Since 1979 the Liberal government in Ottawa has been consulting and promising. We need action NOW to legislate equal pay rates and proportional benefits for part-time workers, 75% of whom are women.

Also conspicuously absent from proposed amendments are provisions to require more frequent rest periods for workers using video display terminals. When questioned on this issue by a journalist from LA PRESSE, Mr. Ouellet responded that the existence of health problems has not been verified. If all the studies done have not convinced Mr. Ouellet, then perhaps he's listening more to employer groups than he is to Canadian women.

Since 1976 the NAC has been passing resolutions on part-time workers. Last year's AGM called for legislation to deal with health problems created by Video Display Terminals. The time has come to mount a grass-roots campaign. In a pre-election period when the Liberals are looking for issues which will make them more appealing than the opposition, concerted pressure can make the difference.

In December, NAC member groups were asked to send telegrams to Mr. Ouellet. We urge those who may have been missed to send their telegrams immediately, insisting on pro-rated wages and benefits for part-time workers and a restriction of 40 minutes per hour worked on VDT's. Send to:

The Honourable Andre Ouellet
Minister of Labour
Room 511 CB
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

THE GASMAN COMETH (Excerpt)

WHAT WILL YOU DO WHEN THE GASTAPS TURN? WHERE WILL YOU BE WHEN THE BODIES BURN?
WILL YOU JUST WATCH AS THE CATTLE-TRUCKS ROLL BY? PRETEND IT ISN'T HAPPENING AND TURN A BLIND EYE?
HAVE YOU SEEN THE ARMY CONVOY SILENTLY PASSING BY? HEARD THE HELICOPTERS IN YOUR LITTLE BIT OF SKY?
PICTURES IN THE PAPERS OF SOLDIERS IN THE STREET, PICTURES IN THE HISTORY BOOKS OF ROTTING HUMAN MEAT
AUSCHWITZ IS NOW A TOURIST SPOT FOR GOGGLED-EYES TO PEEK, STILL IN WORKING ORDER JUST FOR YOU AND I...

PHOTOS OF THE VICTIMS OF GAS, OF GUN, OF BOMB. INHERITANCE OF VIOLENCE IN THE BOOKSHELVES OF YOUR HOME
DON'T WAIT FOR IT TO COME TO YOU, BECAUSE COME IT SURELY WILL
THE GUARDIANS OF THE STATE ARE TRAINED TO SEARCH, DESTROY, AND KILL....

Chris LeFranccois
15 years. 1984

survival

5

Plans are now going ahead for NAC's Survival Workshops at the AGM in Ottawa. Scheduled for 1.30pm and 3.30pm on Saturday, March 17 (plan to attend one - or both) the format will be:

- I Introduction & Summary of Actions
Film: "What About the Russians?" or
In the Nuclear Shadow: What the Children Can Tell Us.
Discussion Strategy
- II Introduction
Forum: Women noting successful actions; linking domestic violence and war; re-defining "security", "deterrence" into non-violent, supportive terms of cooperation and confidence building
Strategy: for election - for action

Each member group has received the proposed Resolutions. NAC Survival Committee has prepared three. Please discuss them with your group and come prepared to vote.

NOTE: We will have a map at the AGM pin-pointing peace actions across Canada.....



Meanwhile, Member groups are participating, organizing and supporting actions for:

- International Women's Day (slogan in Toronto: RISE UP Jobs--Choice--Peace)
- April 28: Disarmament & Peace Action coast to coast
- Peace Petition Caravan Campaign: Canvassing with the petition as preliminary to the next federal election
- the Prime Minister's Peace Initiatives are being carefully watched in the hope that real change will be made in Canada's own policies and actions
- Women across the country are making the links between pornography, violence against women, and a society based on threats and force.

THE NUCLEAR NORTH A New Book

The People, the Region and the Arms Race....

Carole Giangrande Anansi \$9.95.

Talking to people - at Litton - Port Hope - Halifax
Uranium City - about Trident, Candu, Uranium Mining,
testing, Canada's arms race involvement.

TRY TO GET TO OTTAWA..... OR MAKE SURE SOMEONE CAN
REPORT BACK TO YOUR GROUP...

-----Ray Macpherson-----



bc/yukon

At home, the cut in social services by the Bennett Government in B.C. is still being felt. Ministry of Human Resources social workers, some of whom are carrying caseloads of 300 or more, are asking NAC member groups to help close the gap. This could include counselling, para legal work, and referral services. In the meantime, the Government of B.C. is asking for bidders to carry out the social services they cut. Once again, it's the volunteer sector (largely female) providing.

In the Yukon, the plans for the 9th annual Yukon-wide women's weekend have been finalized. And plans for I.W.D. are moving a pace. The Fraser Committee on Pornography and Prostitution will be in Whitehorse, and the Yukon Status of Women Council is hoping to present a brief to them. A Media Watch demonstration against First Choice Pay-TV brought out 50 people! And, while the weather has been mild, we are looking forward to spring.

Hope I'll see BC/Yukon delegates at the NAC Annual Meeting. For the last time this year..... Chimo!

-----Jon Leah Hopkins-----

Commodore

WE HAVE RECEIVED A LETTER FROM COMMODORE BUSINESS MACHINES EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT OUR PIECE IN THE JANUARY MEMO ON THE SEXUAL HARASSMENT CASE AT COMMODORE.

WE ARE GATHERING INFORMATION ABOUT THIS AND WILL REPORT FURTHER IN THE APRIL MEMO.



Look for the Canadian feminist perspective on pensions, abortions, employment, survival, pornography, the law and more.

Subscribe to *Status of Women News*, the bilingual quarterly publication which features the work of feminist writers, illustrators and photographers.

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National Action Committee on the Status of Women
Le Comité National d'Action sur le Statut de la Femme
40 St. Clair Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario, M4T 1M9

announcements

ADOPTION: A writer-editor seeks women who have given children up for adoption --either legal or covert (raised by another member of family) -- willing to write or talk about their experiences for anthology bringing together women's voices and historical, cross-cultural, legal and feminist perspectives on the institutions, customs and attitudes surrounding adoption. She wants to focus on complex forces, overt and tacit, social and economic, brought to bear on women's choices or lack of choices in adoption situations. She'd welcome inquiries from other women interested in working on the anthology. Contact: K. KAUFMANN, C/o PLEXUS, 545 ATHOL AVE, OAKLAND, CA. 94606. U.S.A.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT: Kristina Potapczyk, in April 1983, filed a complaint with the Canadian Human Rights Commission against her former employer, MP Al McBain. A hearing date has now been set for April 9, 1984. A trust fund has been formed to help Kristina Potapczyk's campaign because she is a young woman with limited resources. Please send donations to:

KRISTINA POTAPCZYK TRUST FUND
C/o BOX 1060, STATION "F"
TORONTO, ONTARIO M4Y 3T7

CARLETON UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CENTRE, last summer, found their funds cut by the student council because they felt the Centre was "too political". The Centre fought for survival and had legal advisory and representation costs of \$2800. They have held benefits and written letters of appeal to cover their costs. If you can send financial support, please do. Send to:
CARLETON WOMEN'S CENTRE LEGAL FUND, CARLETON WOMEN'S CENTRE, ROOM 504 UNICENTRE, CARLETON UNIVERSITY, COLONEL BY DRIVE, OTTAWA, ONTARIO K1A 5B6. Ph: 231-3779.

ONTARIO IMMIGRANT WOMEN'S NETWORK was formed in 1983 to establish a strong provincial-wide network of regional immigrant women's groups which identifies and speaks for the needs of immigrant women in Ontario. On March 17, 1984, they hold a provincial meeting to discuss progress/future direction, etc. Location: YWCA, 80 Woodlawn Ave East Toronto. Time: 10am to 4pm.

WOMANSPIRIT ART RESEARCH AND RESOURCE CENTRE, one of only three women's art galleries in Canada, is threatened with closing due to lack of funds. Opened in 1978 in the corner of a local weaver's studio, Womenspirit now operates a gallery/performance space and a research and resource centre where women's cultural heritage is both celebrated and preserved. Volunteers and short-term grant staff have kept the spirit alive, but they cannot continue without a director or core funding. If you'd like to support them, join as a member (\$10 for artists & students, \$25 for sustaining members and \$30 or more for matronising members). All members receive Spirale, a periodic journal by and about women in art. Please send contributions to them at 359 Dundas Street, London, Ontario N6B 1V5. Ph: (519) 432-2826.



publications

WOMEN'S EDUCATION DES FEMMES: A national quarterly on women & learning spotlighting programs, issues, strategies, resources..... Available from CCLOW, 692 Coxwell Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M4C 3B6, Ph: (416) 461-9264
Subscription: \$15 individual, \$25 organizations.

PLANNING A SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE: Guidelines for Community Groups, 23p.
\$4.00 includes postage 1st class.

CHANGING TIMES: Women & Employment in British Columbia, 63p. and 5 appendices.
\$16.00 includes postage 1st class. Both available from Status of Women Action Group, Box 6296, Station C, Victoria, B.C. V8P 5L5.

THE OPTIMST (The Voice of Yukon Women) Women's Newspaper: Sub \$3.00 (4/year).
Order from 302 Steele Street, Whitehorse, Yukon

LOBBY PACKAGE: Excellent lobby kit developed by the FERNIE WOMEN'S CENTRE to put pressure on government for more Women's Program Funding.... government has announced increased funding, but this kit has invaluable ideas, addresses, for other lobby uses... Write them: Box 2054, Fernie, B.C. V0B 1M0 Ph: 423-4819.


FAMILY BENEFITS WORK GROUP Newsletter: They are an Ontario-wide, Toronto based organization of social assistance recipients. They offer counselling, referrals and advocacy services. For information write them: 1470 Gerrard St.E. Toronto, Ontario M4L 2A3.

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE: DESCRIPTIONS OF NINE PROGRAM APPROACHES TO TREATMENT by Andy Wachtel & Sarah Lawton-Speert. 185p. \$6.00 + \$1 postage. Order from Social Planning & Research, United Way of the Lower Mainland, 1625 West 8th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 1T9 Ph: (604) 731-7781.

ATTENTION: WOMEN AT WORK: 28 minute documentary film profiles four women - offers non-traditional career advice. NATIONAL FILM BOARD, Studio D. Contact your local NFB Office.

Women's History
in
British Columbia
Conference

April 27-28, 1984
Camosun College



Registration: \$25
\$15 (students & unemployed)

Barbara Latham
Camosun College
3100 Foul Bay Road
Victoria, B.C. V8P 4X8
592-1281, Local 337



**Canadian
Women's
Movement
Archives**

The Archives has grown out of, and is part of, the women's movement in Canada. It is ours. It belongs to all of us engaged in every struggle which gives us more autonomy in our lives.

It is an organized archival collection maintained through consultation with other archivists, and is accessible to all unless donations have specific conditions to be closed to the public. Send us your material (clippings, photos, documents, posters, buttons) and use the resources.

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