



NAC Housing Newsletter



Volume 2 no. 3, Spring 1989

NATIONAL COMITÉ
ACTION CANADIEN
COMITEE D'ACTION
ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
SUR LE STATUT DE LA FEMME

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Judith Shahn

Special Issue on Women's Housing Groups Across Canada!

While the NAC Housing Committee is currently a small group of women based in Toronto, our goal is to create a national network of housing activists through the formation of nationwide NAC Housing Committee Chapters. This Newsletter is a step towards forging those links.

This issue highlights a number of women's groups active in housing issues and working on projects across the country. Their profiles demonstrate that, from the Maritimes to the West Coast, there is a growing number of women organizing for safe, decent, affordable and accessible housing. We hope that their stories serve to strengthen and inspire you in your own local struggles.

NAC Housing Committee

Habitat International Coalition Women and Shelter Group

In New Delhi, April 1987, the Habitat International Coalition (HIC) called together a working group, through regional member nominations, to develop a proposal to address the global concerns of women in shelter/housing issues. The group met again in Stockholm in December 1988; it includes the following regional representation: India, English- and French-speaking Africa, South-East Asia, the Caribbean, South America, North America and the Nordic countries. Elisabet Viklund of Stockholm made valuable contributions to the Group's development.

The Group's collective experience as women and with women in grassroot struggles, popular movements, squatter settlements, housing research, trade unions, co-operatives and other self-help initiatives set the tone for global responses to the growing housing crisis affecting women.

These global responses continue the initiatives of the Women and Human Settlements Workshop held at the close of the Decade for Women in Nairobi in 1985. Specific issues discussed then included housing services and infrastructure, home income generating activities, housing problems specific to rural women and female-headed households, legal constraints on women's access to housing, and global networking to exchange experiences and strategies (for more on this see Diana Lee Smith, "Nairobi, 1985: Women and Habitat," *Women & Environments* Winter 1986).

Prior to developing an organizing structure, the Working Group addressed the questions of what the concept "women and shelter" means in different regions, why it is important to us in our regions and in our own lives, and why we are working internationally. We also recognized the need to develop our relationship as members of the Group.

From these discussion a plan of action began to evolve as the Group reflected on why and for whom we were organizing. Key principles which helped decision-making included accountability, responsibility, representation and continuity.

Activities proposed in the New Delhi Plan of Action include:

- encouraging and supporting the organization of women and shelter meetings and exchanges at grassroots, local, national, regional and inter-regional levels;
- encouraging and supporting the use of methods such as the Study Circle method for organizing women around shelter issues;
- co-ordinating documentation of the global situations of women with respect to access, retention and inheritance of land and dwellings;
- co-ordinating analysis of macro-economic effects of women's access/lack of access to land, shelter and services;
- campaigning for the dis-aggregation of housing data by type and terms of tenure and dis-aggregation of household statistics including sex collected by national, regional and global organizations;
- campaigning to ensure women's equal access to shelter construction skills and training;

- producing a newsletter for network distribution in Spanish, French, English and other languages as necessary.

In Canada we have the NAC Newsletter which can be used in national communication networking around specific activities. If you are interested in or are working towards secure/adequate housing for women in Canada we would like to hear from you. If you have specific resources and/or abilities to carry out any of the above activities or are presently working in any of these areas please let us know. Even a brief description of your experiences or projects published in the NAC Newsletter can inspire and put you in touch with others across the country. If you have any questions, drop us a line.

Pam Sayne
NAC Housing Committee





Women Plan Toronto

As a municipally oriented women's network we defended those women whom the City of Toronto threatened with prosecution last year for living in basement apartments which violated city zoning by-laws. We helped win two individual battles, but lost the first round of our battle for a general amnesty for such apartments. We are preparing for a second round: let's test the City's new "reform" council.

Other WPT housing actions:

- a submission on housing intensification (part of Metro Toronto's Official Plan review process);
- a response to Ontario's proposed Affordable Housing Policy;
- a protest against a huge density bonus in a Scarborough development;
- a collection of housing recommendations arising from our discussions with women;
- participation in AHAG (Affordable Housing Action Group) and WITCH (Women in Toronto Creating Housing).

Women as the majority of elderly, poor and care givers, have distinct needs around housing (as well as transportation, planning and all other concerns of local government). We intend to express these wherever our energy, awareness and means allow. Call us if you're interested in getting active at this level—we're glad to share what we know: (416) 588-9751.

Reggie Modlich
736 Bathurst Street
Toronto, Ontario M5S 2R4

There's No Place Like Home Women and Housing

Video directed by Janine Fuller and Diane Urquhart

Produced by Emma Productions

There's No Place Like Home is a wry feminist postscript to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. Single mothers, Native women, Black women, and low income women describe their personal collisions with the "housing crisis," and tell stories of racism, abuse and slum landlords. Together with housing activists, they analyze the twin bedfellows—the real estate market and government—and clearly outline the ways in which women's rights and lives are eroded by poor or non-existent access to affordable housing. The new work begins with footage of activist and single mother Amber Cooke, setting up a pup tent in front of Toronto's City Hall, with the help of her daughter and a small group of hostel residents and workers. Homeless for almost two years, Cooke's action vividly illustrates the absurd lengths women must go to in order to obtain suitable housing. Footage from rallies, marches and protest actions illustrate the organizing being done by labour, the women's movement and low income groups. Even Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz, who had her own personal housing crisis, makes an appearance. Not wishing to go into a crowded hostel, she clicks her heels primly and demands a home.

For rental or purchase information contact V-Tape, 183 Bathurst Street, 2d floor, Toronto, Ontario M5T 2R7. (416) 863-9897



- What would you do when the money runs out and the cheque is late?
- What kind of service or program would you use if you were on welfare?

THE POVERTY GAME

A workshop that dramatically parallels life under the poverty line. Please contact Jeanette Brown, Opportunity for Advancement, 801 Eglinton Ave. West. #301, Toronto M5N 1E3 (416) 787-1481



Nellie's Housing Project

Thirteen years ago Nellie's opened it's first hostel followed by Havelock House in 1978, Trerise in 1985, and Communal House at Constance Hamilton Women's Co-op in 1985.

In addition to developing second and third stage housing programs, Nellie's historically has been involved in initiating and participating in other related community projects. Jessie's Centre for Teenagers, Margaret Frazer House and Community Housing Support Services are three such projects. Nellie's also participates in Homes First, East Area Mental Health Coalition and the Supportive Housing Coalition of Metro Toronto.

The goals of Nellie's Housing Projects include:

1. providing affordable transitional housing for women ,
2. providing a safe, supportive atmosphere where women can enhance their self-esteem and develop independence,
- 3 providing an opportunity for women to co-operate in a mutually supportive living environment and,
4. increasing women's awareness of and access to existing community services

For more information write to : 229 College Street, Suite 207 Toronto, Ontario M5T 1R4

Single Mothers Housing Network

The Single Mothers Housing Network operates out of Richmond Family Place in Richmond, BC, serving the lower mainland, primarily the Richmond, Delta area. The program was created 3 years ago to aid single mothers to find homesharing partners.

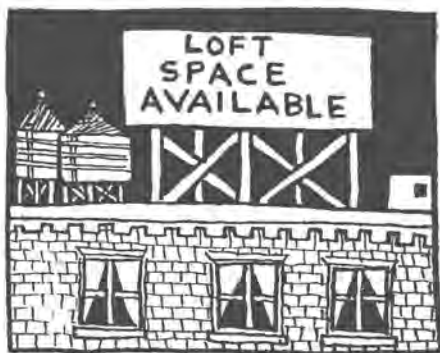
This non-profit organization matched 60 families in 1988. Participants are required to register through an interview with a social worker, after which they receive information about other single mothers who want to homeshare in their area. The screening process helps to match people with similar interests and backgrounds; it takes time as homesharing involves a number of considerations.

Once two families decide to homeshare then they either look for accommodation together, or if one of them owns their home, they move in together. The program can cut down on the cost of living considerably for single mother families, as well as being a source of support for the participants.

For further information contact:

Elaine Shearer, Single Mothers Housing Network, Richmond BC (604) 278-8033.





Sheltering Ourselves: A Women's Learning Experience

Sheltering Ourselves empowers women to take control of their lives by participating in creating housing and economic opportunities in their communities. It brings together women who see housing as a key issue: consumers and owners, planners, architects, builders; financial and legal experts, economic and community developers.

Sheltering Ourselves was formed by women who believe that housing is a precondition for women's full participation in all aspects of community life—from social and spiritual to economic and intellectual. Toward this end we must educate ourselves and other women about housing and the development process as a means of addressing the social problems of poverty and violence and the related issues of homelessness and unemployment that affect the lives of women worldwide.

Our members are committed to developing and implementing new models of housing and community design that foster relationships of human equality and ecological balance, and that provide places of refuge and renewal, dignity and economic security for women and their families.

Communicating and consulting network:

Sheltering Ourselves identifies, gathers and distributes information on resource persons, materials and successful projects. The network includes:

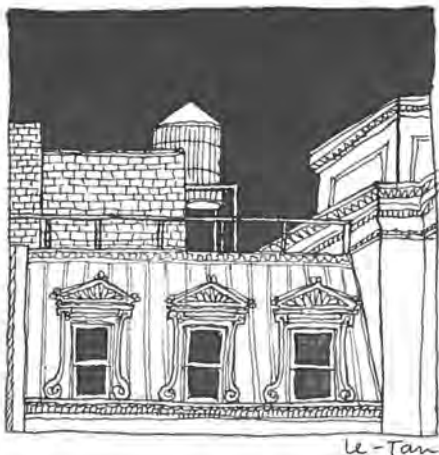
- individuals and organizations who can offer technical and personal help in housing and economic development processes to local groups;
- women in need of housing who have already organized around housing;
- professionals who are working in conventional structures and looking for alternatives;
- professionals in training who want to integrate their skills into a more collaborative vision;
- women already in alternative structures who want to make linkages.

Research and publishing:

Sheltering Ourselves evaluates public policies affecting housing and neighbourhoods; critiques architectural design; documents housing innovations; and produces educational materials in accessible forms (eg print and video), accessible to a variety of audiences.

Education: **Sheltering Ourselves** provides practical, theoretical and technical information through sponsoring seminars, workshops, site visits and conferences.

Canadian contacts for **Sheltering Ourselves**: Gaye Alexander, Annette Salem, Pam Sayne. They can be reached via the NAC Housing Committee.



Entre Nous Femmes Housing Society

We currently own and operate three non-profit rental communities in Vancouver which were designed to meet the needs of single parent families. Our first project, **Alma Blackwell's**, was developed under CMHC's 56.1 program and completed in August 1986. Our second project, **Beatrice Terrace**, completed December 1987, was developed under the BC Provincial Social Housing Program. Our third project, **Antkiw Court**, again non-profit rental under the auspices of BCHMC, was completed in October 1988. And we are presently preparing submissions for the 1989 Provincial proposal call.

Approximately 60% of our current tenants are single parents. We have tried to maintain a mix of family type and income as we feel this contributes to a wholesome community. We believe safe, secure, appropriate and affordable housing are fundamental to a family's well being. A sense of community adds greatly to the quality of life and opens up many opportunities that might otherwise be impossible for single parent families.

We want to continue providing workshops and educational programs that will benefit our tenants and communities. We encourage communication by fostering newsletters and providing access to office and meeting space; we also encourage tenant initiatives in child care, food co-ops and recreational programs.

From February to October 1987, ENF administered a Canada Employment Job Development Program to train property managers. Two of the three trainees (all single mums) are now working in this field, while the third has gone on to University. We are now developing further job training programs relevant to single parents and housing.

Since our inception we have acquired much resource information on property management, development, families and housing in general, which we will continue to share and develop. Our current affiliations include the Non-Profit Network, the BC Housing Coalition, and the BC Women's Housing Coalition.

Within a framework that lends support and encouragement to families, we feel mothers (and fathers) parenting alone will be under fewer stresses and thus able to participate more fully at home and in the world outside their homes. We hope that their children will find positive role models, a nurturing, motivating environment and opportunities to participate in the community at large.

**Entre Nous Femmes Housing
Society**
1656 Adanac Street
Vancouver, BC V5L 2C6

**BUILDING A NATIONAL WOMEN AND HOUSING
NETWORK**

FOLD HERE

A Goal of the NAC Housing Committee is to build a national network on Women and Housing. We see this Network as a vital step if we are to grow strong in our demand for secure affordable housing. Through networking we hope to identify systemic blockages to this right and share effective strategies to overcome these blockages. Towards this end we are inviting all organizations and people working in the field of women and housing to complete and return the following questionnaire. The information will hopefully be used to create a women and housing directory for your local, national, and international use.

**BE SURE TO STOP BY THE HOUSING
COMMITTEE BOOTH AT THE N.A.C. ANNUAL
GENERAL MEMBERS MEETING, (MAY 12, TH
13TH, AND 14TH IN OTTAWA), FOR MORE
INFORMATION.**

RETURN ADDRESS:

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

C/O National Action Committee
on The Status of Women
NAC HOUSING COMMITTEE
344 BLOOR ST. WEST
Suite 505
TORONTO, ONTARIO M5S 3A7

FOLD HERE

PLEASE FILL OUT THE SURVEY BELOW. REMOVE IT FROM THE NEWSLETTER. FOLD. TAPE OR STAPLE CLOSED. PUT A STAMP ON IT AND DROP IT IN THE NEAREST MAIL BOX.

NAME:(organization/individual) _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER(S): _____

(CIRCLE YOUR RESPONSES)

(1). TYPE OF SERVICE: 1) Housing, a. long term b. short term
2) Legal 3) Peer support 4) Counselling 5) Advocacy 6) Skilled Trades
7) Financial a. personal b. project 8) Research/Analysis
9) Tenant Assoc. 10) Developer 11) Planning 12) Government Program
13) Other _____

(2). COST FOR SERVICE(S): 1) Volunteer 2) Non-profit a. Sliding Scale
b. set rates 3) Profit a. sliding scale b. set rates
4) Donations accepted.

(3). TARGET POPULATION: _____

(4). The target population is reached through 1) agency referrals
a. government b. non-government 2) individual contacts/inquiries
a. government b. non-government

(5). Is the setting primarily 1) Urban or 2) Rural or 3) Both.

(6). Could you and/or your group assist other community members, agencies, individuals, or government attempts to provide support for women's housing related initiatives by:

(PLEASE CHECK YOUR RESPONSE)

_____ Providing a Brochure about your housing project
_____ Participate on panel discussions about providing for housing needs based on your experiences.
_____ Talking informally to individuals or groups who are addressing women's housing needs.
_____ Financially assisting women and housing initiatives
_____ Volunteer or paid consulting: describe _____
_____ Hosting a tour or visit from (Please Circle) a. local community b. out of province visitors c. international women addressing housing provisions/rights.
_____ Discussing with other women organizing strategies learned.
_____ Other: describe _____

(7). What particular innovative features does your housing service have that others may want to know about?

(PLEASE CHECK YOUR RESPONSE)

_____ Financing schemes.
_____ Sound insulation methods.
_____ Allergy proofing of the environment.
_____ Security: locks, design, planning, etc....
_____ Childcare programming.
_____ Recreational activities.
_____ Community Development including (Please circle response)
_____ neighbourhood design planning
_____ dealing with racism
_____ dealing with classism
_____ dealing with ageism
_____ dealing with sexism
_____ dealing with neighbourhood and community economic issues
_____ dealing with land use and housing rights
_____ dealing with violence against women
_____ dealing with isolation
_____ other (describe) _____
_____ Member and Community Education Models and Programs (describe) _____

(8). How does the service offered empower women???

(9). Other Comments???

Thank You!!!



Women's Housing Matrix

In the Spring of 1988 five women formed an organization to discuss issues around the housing crisis for single women and single women with children in the City of Guelph. Our common ground was Guelph's unemployed self-help centre and its "subsidiary" housing initiative—The Matrix Project.

We held weekly lunchtime meetings as Women's Housing Matrix, setting goals and objectives which are aligned with those of NAC's Women's Housing Manifesto. Most of us had wrestled with poor housing conditions, discrimination because of our status and an awareness of the no-option situations have we lived in. We spent time brainstorming experiences, making a gripe list and clarifying the mysteries of the Ontario Housing Corporation's extremely long waiting list.

The housing vacancy rate in Guelph is .02%. The need for affordable housing is immense. There is little or no emergency housing. One of our members was a Board member of the non-profit housing corporation called Matrix Affordable Homes for the Disadvantaged Inc. which had already submitted applications to the Ministry of Housing. In the summer we took over a majority of Board positions on Matrix Affordable Homes, and about the same time we received conditional approval for a 20-unit housing project.

We have contracted a development consultant and an architectural firm; our offer to purchase an acre of land in a good location has been accepted; we have submitted drawings to the Ministry, have applied to the City for a zoning change, and have negotiated a mortgage with Canada Life to cover the land purchase until March 31, 1989.

We will remain in the Board for as long as it takes to complete this (first) Women's Housing Matrix project. As part of that completion we will establish a new non-profit corporation specifically designed to own that 20-unit project; and we will establish a format for a tenants' association which will operate the community within.

We are just at the end of Phase I and have high hopes for proceeding through construction into the reality of a small, stacked-townhouse complex that will provide homes for 15 single women and 5 single mothers with children. The site is near to the central part of the City, close to schools, shopping and public transportation.

There is much work still to be done. A petition of disapproval is being circulated in the neighbourhood. Many emotional irrational reactions have been expressed, stigmatizing "unwed" mothers. It is hard to wrestle with these "facts." As a single mother, I feel outrage. As this wild dream becomes a reality we find ourselves facing repair work long before construction starts.

The BC Women's Housing Coalition

The Coalition is composed of individuals and groups who believe that:

Safe, secure, adequate affordable housing is a universal right and a public responsibility. The BC Women's Housing Coalition is working together to represent the particular needs of women in housing, to see that this housing is obtained, and to see that women are involved in the process.

The Coalition was organized as a result of a public forum on Women and Housing, held in Vancouver in May 1988. Ninety women participated, establishing as a priority that a coalition be formed to continue work in organizing, educating and taking action towards change.

We have been meeting once a month since then. Activities have included:

- discussion and action planning around particular developments in housing in the City and Province;
- delegations were sent to Vancouver City Hall regarding Concord Pacific

Development proposals for the North Shore of False Creek;

- networks have been established with other housing groups and coalitions;
- politicians running in the 1988 federal and local elections were interviewed for their positions on housing. This information was compiled and distributed to our membership and to community centres and groups.

The Coalition is involved with other groups on projects such as:

- establishing an emergency shelter for women in the Vancouver Downtown East Side;
- cosponsoring, with Entre Nous Femmes Housing Society, a study of home ownership and equity building opportunities for women.

The Coalition is developing a newsletter which will focus on access to housing, information on groups who are developing alternative forms of housing, and reports on current housing policies.

Contact us by writing to:
BC Women's Housing Coalition, 2-1909
Bayswater St., Vancouver BC V6K 4A6.



Last fall WITCH defined its primary objective as the development of feminist, alternative housing models. These are conceived as both conceptual models and real built forms. The group plans to explore and experiment with the concept of housing adapted to meet community needs in particular. The idea is to create housing which benefits the users, which empowers women, and which creates an environment in which resources, information, and emotional support can be shared. Actual projects, sites and funding sources are being considered.

WITCH also wants to ensure that women involved in creating feminist housing alternatives are adequately paid and valued for their work. While WITCH members currently volunteer their time, energy and skills to the organization, and may continue to do so for some time, they hope that through a process of networking, advocacy and empowerment, WITCH may eventually provide remunerative employment for women creating housing.

Barbara Sanford
505 Glen Park Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M6B 2E9
(416) 787-2169



Historique: Information- Ressources Femmes et Logement

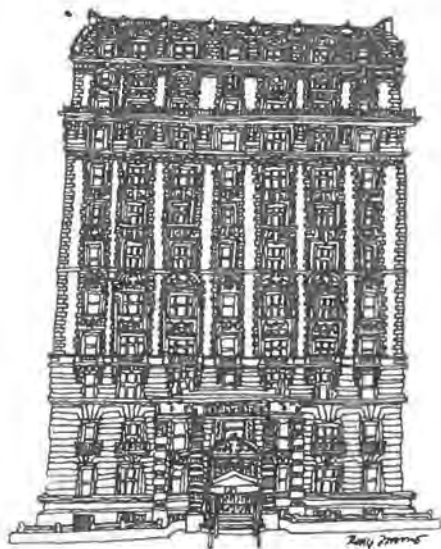
Une enquête* parue en 1986, à Montréal, sur la situation des femmes locataires, aboutissait à une consultation provinciale (auprès de dizaines de groupes et individus) visant à recueillir des recommandations sur la question. Cette consultation provinciale, menée par trois femmes, eut comme résultat immédiat la publication de 75 recommandations pour améliorer le sort des femmes locataires au Québec.**

Ces recommandations, en plus de cerner globalement l'ampleur de la problématique des femmes et du logement, permettait à l'équipe en place d'observer que le dossier "Femmes et Logement" n'était, en réalité, la responsabilité de personne en particulier, au Québec.

There is need for many more projects like this. If we can continue to be a source of strength for each other, Women's Housing Matrix will do more.

Betty Anne Reeve

(A Registered Nurse for 23 years, Betty Anne Reeve works as an employment counsellor at the Centre for Employable Workers. She lives at the year-old 66-unit Silverwood Co-op in Guelph, and is single mother to Paul and Ben.)



WITCH

Women in Toronto Creating Housing (WITCH) turned one year old in January. The group contains a wealth of diverse talent, from women architects and builders to women experienced in co-operative housing management and development, real estate, planning, housing research and tenant advocacy. Members of the group share common values and objectives with respect to women and housing, and are on the verge of defining a future role for themselves as feminists involved in the Toronto housing scene.

WITCH was formed following a meeting with the Advocates for Women's Housing (AWH) in Berwick Pennsylvania in January of 1988. That meeting involved the review of a pre-fabricated housing system capable of providing employment and affordable housing for women in the US. A handful of Toronto women active in the housing field began meeting to discuss the feasibility of such a system in Canada. Their discussions, and the group, soon expanded to address other women's issues generally neglected by the Canadian housing industry.

Two courses of action have emerged as the initial aims of the group over the past year. One involves designing and developing a housing project for women in the Toronto area, while the other involves acting as a resource group for other women in the housing field. WITCH has been exploring these options through meetings with non-profit housing developers, city planners, provincial and national women's advocacy groups and with other women's housing groups in Canada, the US, India and Sweden.



New Brunswick Native Women's Council:

The New Brunswick Native Women's Council has a mandate to address the concerns of native women with housing programs. We have received complaints from women on many reserves, ever since housing programs have been devolved to the community level. The complaints have one common thread—they are all effects of federal government policy.

These policies involve a devolution program in which selected bands were pressured and encouraged to build programs and link funding with the Province. Devolution was seen as training for a municipal type of self-government.

We believe that the devolution of administration for housing programs was too sudden. Allocations for housing which are supposedly based on need are left to band councils and are often used as a tool for power and control over

members of the community. We have seen clear examples of such misuse of power where the Department of Indian Affairs (D.I.A.) refused to become involved in "band business." Devolution is not self-government, but they have chosen to treat it as such.

Some examples:

- a married couple was given precedence for housing over a single mother with five children;
- relatives or friends of Chief and Council are given precedence over others on the waiting list;
- housing is given to people who already have houses;
- a female elder who was living in a condemned house on her own land applied for housing, and was asked to give up her land in exchange for a house on a smaller lot elsewhere on the reserve.

In the last case, the offer made to the woman is not typical. There is room on the lot for a small structure and this is all she needs. D.I.A. refused to become involved and she had to take her case to court, while continuing to live in a condemned house. Bill C-31 has also changed the housing situation on many reserves by making "actual allocation of units. . . the responsibility of Band Council."

Off-reserve housing is another concern. Since the termination of the off-reserve housing program, Natives living off-reserve have to go to the Province to obtain housing, through the Rural and Native Housing Homeownership and Rental Program. The major complaint in this program is that there is no incentive to those paying mortgages to earn more money, since increased incomes mean increased payments. Low income housing becomes a tool to keep people at that level.

Certes, plusieurs groupes et entervenantes travaillent à faire valoir les droits des locataires et des femmes locataires mais aucun d'entre eux n'avait comme mandat de susciter une prise de conscience publique autour de ces questions, d'interpeller les "décideurs" politiques en rapport avec ces problèmes et de chercher des pistes de solution concrètes. C'est alors, au cours de l'automne 1986, que l'impératif de la formation d'un groupe ayant ces mandats (et d'autres) s'est imposé! Information-ressources Femmes et Logement s'est alors défini comme un groupe féministe ayant comme objectifs principaux l'information, la sensibilisation et l'éducation en ce qui a trait au logement des femmes. Il vise l'amélioration du sort des femmes locataires par le changement des lois, de certains recours et la création de services et programmes adaptés aux besoins des femmes.

Information-ressources Femmes et Logement poursuit ses objectifs par le biais de conférences, de colloques, par des participations à des consultations publiques et à des concertations, par la distribution de documentation, par les interventions ponctuelles dans les médias, etc. Informations-ressources Femmes et Logement travaille également sur des dossiers spécifiques comme, par exemple, celui de la discrimination basée sur la présence d'enfants. Cette forme de discrimination est très répandue et touche principalement les femmes cheffes de famille monoparentale. Pourtant, à venir jusqu'à juin dernier (1988), les victimes de cette discrimination ne disposaient d'aucun recours clair pour s'en défendre. Information-ressources Femmes et logement, à force de pressions multiples, a fait débloquer ce dossier: les plaintes

sont maintenant recue à la Commission des droits de la personne du Québec et ce, sous le motif "discrimination basée sur l'âge."

A cause de leur monoparentalité, de leur pauvreté, des nombreux préjugés qu'on entretient encore à leur égard, les femmes sont défavorisées dans le domaine de l'habitation et il reste beaucoup à faire pour améliorer leurs conditions de logement. Nous croyons que ce but peut être atteint dans la mesure où les volontés de changer la situation sont claires et les réseaux de solidarités, bien établis.

Ruth Pilote

Information-ressources Femmes
et logement
1200 rue Laurier est, Local 212
Montréal, Québec H2J 1G9

*"Discrimination, harcèlement sexuel," Comité-Logement Rosemont, 1986 (Montréal).

**"Cahier de Recommandations Femmes et Logement," Information-ressources Femmes et Logement, 1986 (Montréal).



JIANNE

The recommendations of the Nielsen Task Force, which are being acted upon now, include the maintenance of existing Native housing targets; elimination of incentives through housing assistance to remain in areas of high unemployment; elimination of overlaps in programs; and basing programs on need. We believe that these recommendations are not meeting the needs of Native women, or Native people for that matter. Existing Native housing targets should not be maintained—they should be increased.

The N.B. Native Women's Council would like to see the reinstatement of the off-reserve housing programs to accommodate those who did not wish to return to the reserve. They would like to see the "ceilings" of on-reserve housing programs raised so that bands will not have to go to the Province for subsidies.

Most of all they would like to see the push for a municipal-type self-government

Gwen Orechia

Presentation to the Atlantic Women and Housing Conference, 1987

**NAC Housing Committee
Workshop at the NAC
Annual General Meeting,
Ottawa May 12-15, 1989:**

**Building a National
Women's Housing Network.**

See you there!



Coming Events

The Study Circle method for organizing around common concerns and interests will be introduced in the Women and Housing workshop at the Co-operative Housing Foundation's Annual Meeting in St. John's, Newfoundland, in May 1989.

The NAC Housing Committee is undertaking research which will include a gender, race and class analysis of "Housing as a Right" as declared by the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Anyone with ideas or experience to contribute is encouraged to contact the Housing Committee.

The NAC Housing Newsletter will continue to publicize women and housing initiatives in Canada, so please use it as a resource to build our Canadian network, to develop effective strategies and to share our experience in sheltering ourselves.



The Spring 1989 issue of the NAC Housing Newsletter was prepared by Marnie Hayes, Sylvia Novac, Elizabeth Bateman, Pam Sayne, Judith Kjellberg. Submissions for the next issue are welcome before May 31 1989.

☛ Due to the usual problem of inadequate funding, we are asking those of you who can to contribute—MOOLA! Make cheques payable to NAC (Housing Committee) and send to: Housing Committee, NAC, #505, 344 Bloor St. West, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1W9.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

HAVE YOU COMPLETED YOUR QUESTIONNAIRE?