



# SASK. WORKING WOMEN

The Saskatchewan Working Women (SWW) came out of a Saskatchewan Federation of Labour womens conference in February 1978. The organization was officially founded in September of 1979 based on the understanding that there is a need for working women to become more organized and more active in fighting for changes in the situation of working women.

Membership is open to all women, unionized or non-unionized, paid or unpaid, who agree with the objectives of the organization.

## OBJECTIVES

♀ providing a network of solidarity, in particular with women workers, but also on a broader basis with other women and men in and out of the labour force.

♀ uniting women in the organized labour movement and encouraging unorganized women to organize.

♀ working to gain equality for women and end discrimination in the workplace.

♀ improving working conditions, wages, hours of work, job security, daycare and other benefits of importance to women.

## OUR PRIORITIES

The Annual Conference also set priorities for the work of SWW in the coming year:

- + working to obtain quality daycare available to all parents; Publishing a pamphlet on problems and goals.
- + working with unions to provide information, strike support and workshops on issues particularly as they affect women at work.
- + working to educate the public through publications and publicity on women's issues; developing skills within SWW.

## ABOUT SASKATCHEWAN WOMEN

- + Working women experience discrimination, lack of maternity benefits, low wages, and mistreatment by employers.
- + Unemployment for women is 58% higher than it is for men and those who do find jobs do not get equal wages for similar work.
- + Saskatchewan's Equal Pay laws have never been fully enforced. Housekeepers at Wascana Hospital went for four years before a settlement was reached bringing them up to par with male housekeeping staff.
- + Women in the workforce are concentrated in only a few jobs -- 65% are found in nursing, teaching, clerical and service orientated jobs. These jobs are demanding, offer no promotional opportunities, and are underpaid, -- in effect job ghettos for women.
- + Two-thirds of women work out of economic necessity but there is no recognition of this fact in the government policy on daycare. Subsidies are inadequate and daycares cannot receive maintenance grants. The lack of adequate, accessible childcare forces many women to remain at home, some on welfare, or to settle for poor childcare.



The situation for women is not getting better, it is getting worse. The present austerity program of the federal government means that more and more women are being driven out of the labour force through lay-offs, cutbacks, and so on. UIC cuts will affect women as they are defined as "secondary" income earners.

The Provincial government is not about to solve the problems for us. We do not see ourselves as working through an electoral party or joint committees with government and/or management in order to resolve the specific problems of women.

We believe there is a need for women to become more organized and more active in fighting for changes in the situation of women.

The SWW has a Provincial Board. Four officers: the Chairperson, Vice-chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer are elected at the Annual Conference. The rest of the Board is made up of one representative from each local.

The local structures are determined by the needs of each local but includes an executive and committees which carry out work around the priority areas. You can get involved in a number of ways, and we want as many women as possible to become involved. If you are interested please contact:

SASKATOON - Lois Berry - 242-7384  
REGINA - Denise Kouri - 569-2594  
PRINCE ALBERT - Diane Chabot - 763-2544  
SWIFT CURRENT - Lil Thompson - 773-7919

SASKATCHEWAN WORKING WOMEN  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I am aware of the main principles and objectives of SWW and I am in basic agreement with them. I hereby apply for membership in the organization.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work)

Union membership (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Other organizations \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Membership is \$5.00. Cheques payable to SWW.  
Saskatchewan Working Women,  
P.O. Box 7981,  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan