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I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE SOME COMMENTS ON THE REPORT WHICH IS REALLY SO DETAILED THAT I MUST CONFESS IT HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN THE THOROUGH STUDY IT DESERVES, BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THIS REPORT IS THE KIND OF LANDMARK ACCOMPLISHMENT THAT WILL AFFECT OUR LIVES AND ATTITUDES FOR A LONG TIME TO COME. THERE ARE VERY FUNDAMENTAL EXPOSITIONS IN THIS DOCUMENT, AND THERE IS A LOT OF WORK TO BE DONE ON SPECIFICS.

IT IS PARTICULARLY REALISTIC FOR THOSE WHO PREPARED THE REPORT TO ACCEPT THE PRINCIPLE THAT IT IS IN EFFECT A CONTINUING MANIFESTO FOR EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY, LABOUR PRACTICES, AND RELATIONSHIP TO SOCIETY IN GENERAL. I AM THINKING OF ONE PARTICULAR POINT WHICH SEEMS SO OBVIOUS THAT WE MAY WONDER WHY WOMEN PUT UP WITH THIS SITUATION FOR SO LONG. I REFER TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OR RATHER ~~LACK OF ESTABLISHMENT~~ OF CREDIT RATINGS FOR WIVES BASED ON THEIR HUSBAND'S CREDIT STANDING. THIS IS RIDICULOUS, IT IS BAD BUSINESS.

I TOTALLY AGREE WITH THE CONTENTION THAT IT IS TIME WE STOPPED THIS FOOLISHNESS AND FACED REALITY.

WHAT I THINK YOU ARE UP AGAINST, AND BY YOU I MEAN ALL OF US, CITIZENS AND TAXPAYERS OF THIS NATION; WHAT I THINK IS OUR MAJOR PROBLEM IS INERTIA, THE INABILITY OF GOVERNMENTS TO REALIZE THAT AS USUAL THEY ARE LAGGING BEHIND PUBLIC OPINION BY YEARS, AND IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE BY GENERATIONS.

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THERE ARE THINGS SO FUNDAMENTAL THAT THEY MUST BE PROCEEDED WITH IMMEDIATELY. AND I AM SURE THAT YOU WILL NOT ALLOW THIS REPORT TO BECOME DUST-HIDDEN ON SOME SHELF IN PROVINCE HOUSE; IT IS AND MUST REMAIN A WORKING DOCUMENT.

AND MAY I MAKE THE SUGGESTION THAT YOU DO NOT GET UPTIGHT ABOUT LOSING A LITTLE GROUND WHILE YOU GAIN A LOT OF GROUND. IN ANY PUBLIC EFFORT, IN ANY EFFORT TO INFLUENCE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL ATTITUDES, YOU WILL FIND THAT JUST A LITTLE BIT OF THE SPIRIT OF COMPROMISE WILL WORK WONDERS. I AM NOT SUGGESTING THAT YOU ACCEPT HALF MEASURES, OR THAT YOU BE GOOD GIRLS AND ACCEPT WHAT SMALL IMPROVEMENTS MAY BE OFFERED. AT THE SAME TIME YOU CAN CONTINUE TO PRESS YOUR POINT, TO DEMAND ACTION ON GUIDING PRINCIPLES WITHOUT THE SLOTH OF CONDESCENSION. LEAVE THAT KIND OF THING TO THE OTHER HALF OF SOCIETY, WE HAVE HAD THOUSANDS OF YEARS OF PRACTICE.

GETTING AWAY FROM PRINCIPLES, FOR THE MOMENT ONLY, I SUPPORT THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN GENERAL TERMS AND I REALIZE THAT SOME OF THESE IDEAS WILL HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT CAREFULLY, BUT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO ARGUE WITH THE NEED FOR DAY CARE PROVISIONS FOR THOSE NEEDING THEM, NOT JUST ON A HAPAZARD BASIS AS SEEMS TO BE THE CASE AT PRESENT. AND CERTAINLY THE JOB OF RUNNING A HOME SHOULD BE INCLUDED AS A GAINFUL OCCUPATION BY THOSE WHO WRITE THE RULES FOR THE CANADA PENSION PLAN.

THE REPORT NOTES THAT IN THIS PROVINCE, WOMEN OCCUPY ONLY ONE PERCENT OF THE JOBS WHICH PAY IN EXCESS OF TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS A YEAR, AND I REALIZE ALL TOO WELL THAT MANY WOMEN ARE IN THE KIND OF JOBS THAT GIVE THEM FULFILLMENT, THE KIND OF SERVICE THEY WANT TO DO

AND SOMETIMES FOREGO HIGHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE SATISFACTION OF SERVICE TO OTHERS. AT THE SAME TIME, IS THERE ANY REASON WHY HALF OF OUR POPULATION IS RELEGATED TO A SORT OF SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL GHETTO BECAUSE OF GENDER.

IT IS POSSIBLY A BIT FACETIOUS, BUT I NOTED RECENTLY THAT LEFT-HANDED PEOPLE HAD TOUGH TIMES GETTING NECESSARY EQUIPMENT, FURNITURE AND SUCHLIKE, BECAUSE THEY WERE VERY MUCH IN THE MINORITY. AND IT STRUCK ME THAT IN SOME CASES, WOMEN ARE IN THE SAME DIFFICULT DILEMMA; THE WORLD SEEMS GEARED TO MEN AND I CAN ILLUSTRATE THIS WITH SOME OF THE ATTITUDES I HEARD EXPRESSED WHEN AUTOMOBILES FIRST CAME OUT WITH AUTOMATIC DRIVE INSTEAD OF THE MANUAL GEARSHIFT.

AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERS SAID AT THE TIME, AND SAID IT OUT LOUD TOO, THAT THE AUTOMATIC DRIVE WAS A FEATURE THAT WOULD ENCOURAGE MORE WOMEN TO DRIVE, TO BUY THEIR OWN CARS, OR PERHAPS PERSUADE THEIR HUSBANDS TO BUY CARS FOR THEM. IT WAS ASSUMED, I SUPPOSE THAT THE GENTLER SEX WAS GENERALLY UNABLE TO OPERATE A GEAR SHIFT PROPERLY. NOW IF THAT IS NOT MALE CONDESCENSION, THEN I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS; AND BY THE WAY, THESE COMMENTS ARE IN NO WAY FACETIOUS. I AM DEADLY SERIOUS, BECAUSE THESE THINGS ILLUSTRATE THAT IN MANY WAYS, SOCIETY HAS LONG ACCEPTED BIGOTRY AND DISCRIMINATION, AND YES, SELFISHNESS, WITHOUT SEEING MUCH WRONG WITH THESE ATTITUDES.

WE KNOW HOW MUCH PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DISCRIMINATION IN OTHER AREAS; IT IS NOW TIME FOR THE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN TO BE STOPPED IN ITS TRACKS. I KNOW THAT WE CAN NEVER ACHIEVE PERFECTION, BUT WE CAN ENSURE THAT MOST PEOPLE GET A FAIR SHAKE WHEN IT COMES TO JOBS, TO OPPORTUNITIES, TO THE RIGHT

TO A DECENT PENSION AND ADEQUATE LIVING CONDITIONS.

I NOTE THAT THE REPORT CALLS FOR APPOINTMENT OF A MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE STATUS OF WOMEN, TO PROVIDE A FOCAL POINT FOR THE ISSUES AFFECTING WOMEN AND THE FAMILY. THIS IS IN PRINCIPLE A GOOD IDEA AND SHOULD BE PRODUCTIVE BUT MAY I SUGGEST, WITH RESPECT, THAT A MORE IMMEDIATE NEED, IN FACT IT SHOULD HAPPEN RIGHT NOW, IS THE APPOINTMENT OF A SENIOR PERSON TO THE PROVINCIAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, WITH ABSOLUTE AND DETAILED RESPONSIBILITY FOR WOMENS' RIGHTS.

I MUST EXPRESS COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH THE REPORT'S DEMAND THAT WOMEN BE GRANTED FULL MEDICAL SERVICES AND THAT M.S.I. BEAR THE COST OF AN ANNUAL MEDICAL EXAMINATION. YOU MUST EXCUSE MY MALE IGNORANCE BUT I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THIS WAS THE CASE NOW.

AND I DO NOT FEEL IT NECESSARY TO TELL YOU THAT IN RECENT YEARS THERE HAVE BEEN GREAT STRIDES IN THE MEDICAL PROCEDURES FOR DETECTION OF CANCERS IN WOMEN; THE FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT MUST BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ALL, AS PART OF OUR PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM. PERHAPS WE MAY GO A BIT FURTHER AND DEMAND THAT A SENIOR PERSON BE APPOINTED TO THE PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WITH SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS IN THE DETECTION AND TREATMENT, THROUGH ESTABLISHED SERVICES, OF WOMENS' DISEASES IN WHICH NEW PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN PROVEN BENEFICIAL.

WE REALLY HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO, AND YOU MUST REMEMBER THAT THERE WILL BE TIMES OF DISCOURAGEMENT AS WELL AS TIMES OF ACCOMPLISHMENT.

I HAD SORT OF PROMISED MYSELF NOT TO MAKE ANY POLITICAL COMMENT IN THESE EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN FOR THE STATUS OF WOMEN; BUT IT SHOULD BE SAID THAT A FEDERAL REPORT, COMPLETED FIVE OR SIX YEARS AGO HAS BEEN MORE HONOURED IN THE OMISSION THAN IN THE OBSERVANCE.

I MENTION THESE DISCOURAGING ELEMENTS REALLY TO MAKE YOU ALL THE MORE DETERMINED TO PRESS FOR REFORM, FOR EARLY ACTION ON DISCRIMINATION, AND FOR SOME SPECIAL CONSIDERATION IN SITUATIONS WHEREVER INEQUALITY EXISTS, MORE THAN EQUALITY WITH MEN. IT WILL NOT BE AN EASY TASK, BECAUSE YOU MIGHT AS WELL FACE REALITY RIGHT NOW - THERE ARE THOSE IN OUR SOCIETY WHO WILL OPPOSE YOUR VIEWS, NOT OUT OF INERTIA, BUT OUT OF ANTAGONISM. AND THESE OPPONENTS ARE NOT ALL MALES.

AND MAY I SUGGEST A CAUTIONARY POINT IN YOUR RELATIONS WITH THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL. THERE IS A FINE LINE BETWEEN DEDICATION AND FANATICISM; AND THE TROUBLE WITH CROSSING THIS LINE IS THAT YOU CAN OVERPLAY YOUR HAND, YOU CAN ANTAGONIZE THE VERY PEOPLE WHO WANT TO SUPPORT YOU, WHO WILL TAKE THE POSITIVE VIEW. BUT DO NOT MAKE THE MISTAKE, AS HAS BEEN MADE BY A GOOD MANY ORGANIZATIONS IN VERY RECENT TIMES, DO NOT MAKE THE MISTAKE OF PUTTING YOUR CASE SO STRONGLY TO THE PUBLIC THAT THE INEVITABLE REACTION BEGINS: THE ATTITUDE THAT YOU ARE PRESSING TOO HARD.

YOU HAVE THE BEST CASE IN THE WORLD, BUT YOU HAVE TO PRESENT IT WITH STRENGTH AND REASONABLE RESTRAINT. IF THAT SOUNDS LIKE AN IMPOSSIBLE TASK, IT IS NOT. BUT NEITHER IS IT AN EASY JOB. YOU HAVE TO PAUSE OCCASIONALLY AND ASSESS YOUR EFFORTS, TO MAKE AN IMPARTIAL JUDGEMENT OF YOUR CAMPAIGN.

THIS GRATUITOUS ADVICE IS OFFERED WITH THE BEST OF GOOD WISHES, AND I KNOW YOU WILL BE SUCCESSFUL. HOW FAST YOUR PROGRESS WILL BE CANNOT BE PREDICTED AT THIS TIME. BUT YOU MUST DEVELOP THE RESILIENCE TO ACCEPT TEMPORARY DEFEAT, AND MOVE ON TO ONE SUCCESS AFTER ANOTHER.

YOU KNOW IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO BE MILITANT, ALTHOUGH MILITANCY HAS ITS USES IF CONFINED WITHIN CIVILIZED LIMITS. YOU WILL HAVE MORE EFFECT ON EVENTS, YOUR COUNSEL WILL BE OF MORE WEIGHT, IF YOUR VIEWS ARE PRACTICAL, AND STRONG, AND YES, WITHIN THE REALM OF POSSIBILITY. I THINK IT WOULD BE OF VALUE FOR YOU TO MAKE A CAREFUL REVIEW OF YOUR CAMPAIGN TO CONVINCING THE PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENT THAT YOUR CAUSE IS JUST AND IMMEDIATE. THERE IS NOT MUCH POINT IN PREACHING TO THE CONVERTED, YOU MUST PROVIDE OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE THAT YOU HAVE THE ALTERNATIVE.

IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO PRESENT IDEAS, THERE MUST BE SOLID RESEARCH, AND DEFINITE RECOMMENDATIONS, PERHAPS BACKED UP WITH FINANCIAL ESTIMATES AND CAREFUL STUDIES OF THE CONTINUING IMPLICATIONS OF SUCH CHANGES IN POLICY. THIS KIND OF THING IS NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO DO; THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE IN WOMENS' ORGANIZATIONS WHO PROBABLY ARE BETTER PLANNERS THAN ANYONE ON THE MALE SIDE. THEIR SKILLS MUST BE PUT TO USE.

I THINK THE ANSWER TO SUCCESS WILL BE IN CONTINUING PRESSURE, IN THE CONSTANT FLOW OF INFORMATION AND IDEAS TO GOVERNMENTS AND TO THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL.

WHAT I BELIEVE YOU MUST NOT ALLOW TO HAPPEN, IS THE PRESENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS WITHOUT POSITIVE ACTION. IT WILL NOT BE ENOUGH TO PRESENT THIS VALUABLE AND CONSTRUCTIVE REPORT AND THEN

NOR WILL IT BE ENOUGH FOR YOU TO KEEP PRESSURE ON POLITICIANS TO IMPLEMENT SOME OR MANY OF THESE IDEAS.

YOU MUST BECOME CLOSELY INVOLVED WITH THE PROCESS OF GOVERNMENT. YOU CANNOT COMPLAIN ABOUT WOMEN NOT HAVING ENOUGH INFLUENCE IN POLITICAL CIRCLES WHEN NOT ENOUGH WOMEN TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN POLITICS AT ALL LEVELS. AND BEFORE YOU RISE UP IN ANGER, LET ME ADD THAT I REALIZE THAT PRESENT CONDITIONS, SUCH AS THE LACK OF ENOUGH DAY CARE CENTERS AND MANY OTHER DISCRIMINATORY SITUATIONS, PRECLUDE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION BY MANY WOMEN WHO HAVE THE CONTINUING JOB OF RUNNING A HOME AND EARNING A MAJOR PART OF THE FAMILY INCOME.

PERHAPS AS WOMEN GET A BETTER OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE PART IN POLITICAL LIFE, WE CAN EXPECT MORE CONSIDERATION FOR WOMENS' RIGHTS. THAT WILL BE ALL TO THE GOOD, BUT WE MUST FIRST DO WHAT WE CAN, IN FACT A BIT MORE, TO MAKE SURE THAT WOMEN HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS AS MEN IN TODAY'S SOCIETY. THERE MUST BE NO SECOND-CLASS CITIZENS IN THIS DEMOCRACY.

SO, WILL YOU TAKE MY COMMENTS AS AN EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FOR YOUR AIMS, AND SOME IDEAS ON HOW TO GET YOUR PROPOSALS PUT INTO ACTION. AND IN CASES WHERE MY VIEWS MIGHT SOUND CRITICAL PLEASE REMEMBER THAT WE ARE ON YOUR SIDE, AND CRITICISMS FROM YOUR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS ARE HONESTLY BELIEVED EVEN IF NOT AS WELL EXPRESSED AS WE MIGHT HAVE WISHED.

IT MAY BE CLOSE TO HERESY FOR A POLITICIAN TO SAY THAT ALL THE TALK IN THE WORLD WILL ACCOMPLISH VERY LITTLE. BUT YOU NEED ACTION AS WELL AS TALK TO GET ANYWHERE. AND YOU HAVE TO GAIN THE CONFIDENCE OF THE PUBLIC WHO ARE REALLY ON YOUR SIDE ANYWAY, IF THEY ARE GIVEN THE FACTS IN THEIR PROPER PERSPECTIVE.

I NOTE THAT IN A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE ON SATURDAY, THE COMMENTATOR, LOIS BURKE SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE FOOLISH FOR ANY GOVERNMENT TO PUT ASIDE ACTING ON THESE RECOMMENDATIONS, HOPING AS SOME MEN DO (THE WORDS ARE HERS), THAT THE WHOLE THING WILL EVENTUALLY BLOW OVER. SHE SAYS THAT WOMEN ARE HERE TO STAY AND WILL WITHOUT ANY DOUBT CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR THEIR FREEDOM AND THEIR RIGHTS.

IT COULD NOT BE EXPRESSED BETTER. IT IS TRUE THAT SOME MEN HOPE THAT REPORTS WILL BE FORGOTTEN AND CONTROVERSIES BLOWN OVER. AND I SUPPOSE TO BE FAIR ABOUT IT, SOME WOMEN THINK THAT WAY TOO..... WE ARE ALL PART OF THE HUMAN RACE AND SUBJECT TO ALL THE WEAKNESSES AND STRENGTHS OF THAT PARTICULAR SPECIES.

TO SUM UP, MAY I MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS.

FIRST, A FULL-TIME SENIOR ADDITION TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION BE APPOINTED WITH SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN.

SECOND, I AM NOT ENTIRELY IN AGREEMENT WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIAL MINISTRY FOR WOMEN. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MINISTRIES FREQUENTLY SERVES ONLY TO CREATE A BUREAUCRACY WHICH, WHILE IT MAY IN PRINCIPLE APPEAR TO MEET A PARTICULAR NEED, FAILS TO MEET THAT NEED BECAUSE IT TENDS TO SERVE AND PROMOTE ITSELF RATHER THAN SERVE AND PROMOTE ITS PRIMARY NEED FOR EXISTANCE.

THIRD, WITH RESPECT TO LEGISLATIVE REFORM, I SUGGEST THAT THE COMMITTEE WHICH PUT YOUR REPORT TOGETHER MEET WITH THE PROVINCE'S LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL TO DRAFT PROPOSED LEGISLATION. IF THAT AVENUE IS NOT OPEN TO YOU I WILL BE GLAD TO ARRANGE A MEETING BETWEEN YOU AND OUR LEGAL

COMMITTEE FOR THE PURPOSE OF DRAFTING LEGISLATION FOR INTRODUCTION INTO THE LEGISLATURE. FROM YOUR POINT OF VIEW IT IS PREFERABLE THAT YOU WORK WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF GOVERNMENT, IF ONLY BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT IS IN A BETTER POSITION THAN WE ARE TO GUARANTEE THE PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION. HOWEVER, AS I SAID, IF THEY ARE NOT PREPARED TO ASSIST IN THIS WAY, THEN WE CERTAINLY WILL.

FOURTH, I BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT FOR YOUR COMMITTEE TO MEET WITH THE PROGRESSIVE/^{CONSERVATIVE} MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND I WILL BE GLAD TO ARRANGE SUCH A MEETING WHEN THE LEGISLATURE RECONVENES EARLY IN MAY. SUCH A MEETING WILL SERVE A USEFUL PURPOSE BOTH FOR YOU AND FOR THE MEMBER OF OUR CAUCUS.

FIFTH, WE AGREE IN PRINCIPLE WITH THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES YOU HAVE SET FOR THE ATTAINMENT OF EQUALITY FOR WOMEN WITHIN OUR SOCIETY AND OFFER CONTINUING SUPPORT IN THAT ATTAINMENT.

MAY I CONCLUDE WITH THE SINCERE HOPE THAT WOMEN CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR THEIR FREEDOM AND THEIR RIGHTS, AND ALSO GAIN EARLY AND NOTABLE SUCCESS.

THANK YOU.