

MURIELLE YOUNG'S ADDRESS

TODAY, I HAVE THE PLEASURE OF SHARING SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL WITH YOU. NETWORKING - I BELIEVE IN IT, AND I WANT TO CONVINCE YOU THAT THE POTENTIAL OF NETWORKING SURPASSES ALL BOUNDARIES. THE WORD ITSELF, "NETWORKING", IS A CATCHY WORD THAT ATTRACTS MANY INTEREST

ADDRESS

GIVEN TO

JEANNE GELDART, A FOUNDING MEMBER OF A NETWORK
THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT
EXISTING IN "FEDERAL OF WOMEN AND SPORT IS A

BY

MURIELLE YOUNG

AND

ELLEN KING

NOW MARILYN FERGUSON, AUTHOR OF "AQUARIAN CONSPIRACY", HAS A FILE OF APT PHRASES TO DESCRIBE NETWORKS. SHE SAYS "THEY ARE THE ANTIDOTE TO ALIENATION". "IT'S OFFERING EMOTIONAL, INTELLECTUAL, SPIRITUAL AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT". "IT IS AN INVARIABLE HOME". "IT'S A PROCESS, NOT A FROZEN STRUCTURE".

CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I.
JUNE 28, 1986

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

BY WHICH YOU REACH OUT AND COMMUNICATE JUST ABOUT WHATEVER YOU WISH TO COMMUNICATE. WHETHER IT'S A REQUEST, ADVICE, AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION, AN EXCHANGE OF RESOURCES, OR EVEN AN OFFER OF FRIENDSHIP.

MURIELLE YOUNG'S ADDRESS

TODAY, I HAVE THE PLEASURE OF SHARING SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL WITH YOU. NETWORKING - I BELIEVE IN IT, AND I WANT TO CONVINCE YOU THAT THE POTENTIAL OF NETWORKING SURPASSES ALL BOUNDARIES. THE WORD ITSELF, "NETWORKING", IS A CATCHY WORD THAT ATTRACTS MANY INTERESTS.

JEANNE GELDART, A FOUNDING MEMBER OF A NETWORK EXISTING IN FREDERICTON, SAYS THAT NETWORKING IS A NORTH-AMERICAN PHENOMENON WHICH HAS DEVELOPED IN RECOGNITION OF THE VALUE OF SHARING EXPERIENCES AND INFORMATION AMONG WOMEN. IT IS LINKING THE WOMEN YOU KNOW, TO THE WOMEN THEY KNOW, IN AN EVER-EXPANDING COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.

NOW MARILYN FERGUSON, AUTHOR OF "AQUARIAN CONSPIRACY", HAS A PILE OF APT PHRASES TO DESCRIBE NETWORKS. SHE SAYS "THEY ARE THE ANTIDOTE TO ALIENATION". "IT'S OFFERING EMOTIONAL, INTELLECTUAL, SPIRITUAL AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT". "IT IS AN INVISIBLE HOME". "IT'S A PROCESS; NOT A FROZEN STRUCTURE".

SO, WE CAN SAY THAT NETWORKING IS A SELF-HELP ACTIVITY BY WHICH YOU REACH OUT AND COMMUNICATE JUST ABOUT WHATEVER YOU WISH TO COMMUNICATE. WHETHER IT'S A REQUEST, ADVICE, AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION, AN EXCHANGE OF RESOURCES, OR EVEN AN OFFER OF FRIENDSHIP.

WHO BELONGS IN A NETWORK:

ANY AND ALL WOMEN FROM A VARIETY OF BACKGROUNDS, REPRESENTING THE MULTIPLE ROLES THAT WOMEN PLAY IN OUR SOCIETY, BELONG IN THE NETWORK. THESE WOMEN WANT TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES AND EXPERTISE, AND BROADEN THEIR HORIZONS. SO, THE MAIN PURPOSE BEHIND THE NETWORK IS TO LINK TOGETHER WOMEN WHO ARE ACTIVE IN THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN PROVIDING FORMAL AND INFORMAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES.

THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE NEW BRUNSWICK WOMEN'S NETWORK IS TO STRENGTHEN THE POSITION OF ALL THE WOMEN IN THE PROVINCE. THAT IS: IN THE HOMES, ON THE JOB, SOCIALLY, ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY. IN ORDER TO DO THIS WE HAVE 8 OBJECTIVES. THESE ARE:

- TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION AMONG MEMBER GROUPS TO A PUBLICATION, IN WHICH ALL ARTICLES WILL BE PUBLISHED IN ENGLISH AND FRENCH.
- TO EXCHANGE RESOURCES AMONG MEMBER GROUPS, AND TO CREATE NEW RESOURCES THROUGH A RESOURCE CENTER OR OTHER MEANS.

- TO FACILITATE COMMUNICATION AMONG MEMBER GROUPS; SO THAT, COALITIONS ON RELATED WOMEN'S ISSUES CAN BE FORMED.

- TO FACILITATE MEETINGS OF MEMBER GROUPS TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC ISSUES.

- TO PROVIDE A FORUM FOR DISCUSSION AND TO PROVIDE TRAINING SESSIONS.

- TO OBTAIN INFORMATION FROM OTHER JURISDICTIONS AND TO CIRCULATE THIS INFORMATION TO MEMBER GROUPS.

- TO WORK FOR IMPROVEMENTS DESIGNED TO CHANGE LEGISLATION, ATTITUDES AND CUSTOMS THAT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST ABORIGINAL WOMEN, AND TO INSURE THE PROTECTION OF ABORIGINAL RIGHTS.

- TO WORK FOR IMPROVEMENTS DESIGNED TO CHANGE LEGISLATION, ATTITUDES AND CUSTOMS THAT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST ANY AND ALL WOMEN AND TO INSURE THE PROTECTION OF THESE RIGHTS.

THE ROLE OF THE N.B. WOMEN'S NETWORK IS TO UNITE ALL WOMEN. THESE ARE WOMEN THAT ARE ALREADY ORGANIZED; THEY ALREADY HAVE ASSOCIATIONS; THEY ARE ALREADY TOGETHER AND WE WANT TO REGROUP UNDER AN UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION; SO THAT, THEY CAN COMMUNICATE. IN OTHER WORDS, WE WANT THE LEFT HAND TO KNOW WHAT THE RIGHT HAND IS DOING. SO, ANY WORK DONE TO IMPROVE THE STATUS OF WOMEN IS OUR ROLE, AND IT'S DONE IN SEVERAL WAYS.

THE FACT THAT WE ARE A PROVINCIAL ORGANIZATION, GIVES US CLOUT WHEN GOING TO GOVERNMENT, ON DIFFERENT ISSUES, AND ENABLES US TO SENSITIZE THE POPULATION ON WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH THE ISSUES SO IMPORTANT TO THE WOMEN IN OUR PROVINCE. LET'S GO ON TO THE BENEFITS OF NETWORKING.

THEY ARE REALLY TREMENDOUS BECAUSE THE BASIC FUNCTION IS TO BREAK THE BARRIER OF ISOLATION. WE ALSO PROVIDE UNITY OF PURPOSE AND STRENGTH OF VOICE. "WHERE THERE IS UNITY, THERE IS STRENGTH". THIS CERTAINLY APPLIES TO NETWORKING. IT IS THE COMING TOGETHER OF WOMEN WHO HAVE NOW REALIZED THAT IT'S GOOD TO HAVE FRIENDS AND THAT IT COUNTS A GREAT DEAL. A COMMUNITY OF WOMEN, IN A MALE DOMINATED WORLD, SHARING IDEAS, MAKING CONNECTIONS, SENSITIZING EACH OTHER, AND HELPING THEMSELVES BECOME MORE EFFECTIVE, HAS CERTAINLY GIVEN US A GREAT DEAL MORE SELF-CONFIDENCE. IN EFFECT, WE ARE CHALLENGING A SYSTEM, THAT STILL FAR TOO OFTEN, ISOLATES WOMEN.

OUR NETWORK IS ONE OF MANY THROUGHOUT CANADA. THEY ARE ALL BASED ON A COMMON DESIRE THAT A MORE ORGANIZED GROUP WILL IMPROVE THE STATUS QUO, AND WOMEN IN GENERAL WILL GET SUPPORT FROM EACH OTHER WHICH IS VERY INTERESTING AND VERY STIMULATING. WOMEN SHOULD KNOW THEIR OWN STRENGTH, AND HOW TO CAPITALIZE ON THAT STRENGTH.

FROM ONE END OF THE COUNTRY TO THE OTHER, WOMEN ARE GETTING TOGETHER TO GET AHEAD. WOMEN ARE PHENOMENALLY UNDER-UTILIZED RESOURCES. WE HAVE TREMENDOUS STRENGTH AND WE NEED TO BRING THOSE QUALITIES OUT FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY.

NETWORKING IS BECOMING TO THIS DECADE WHAT CONSCIOUSNESS-RAISING WAS TO THE LAST. WE ARE DISCOVERING THAT MUTUAL SUPPORT GROUPS CAN HELP TO CREATE CHANGE.

WOMEN ARE SEEKING OUT OTHER WOMEN FOR INFORMATION, ADVICE, AND MORAL SUPPORT BECAUSE ONLY WOMEN CAN TRULY UNDERSTAND WOMEN.

PROBABLY ONE OF THE GREATEST BENEFITS OF EFFECTIVE NETWORKING IS PSYCHOLOGICAL. NETWORKING PROVIDES A SENSE OF COMMUNITY, AS OPPOSED TO THE FEELING OF SEPARATENESS, WHICH SO MANY WOMEN EXPERIENCE IN A MAN'S WORLD. TO FIND ROLE MODELS, TO SEE HOW SUCCESSFUL WOMEN TALK AND ACT, CAN GIVE YOU A TREMENDOUS UPLIFT.

THREE VERY IMPORTANT THINGS I WOULD LIKE YOU TO REMEMBER ARE: POWER, REFERRALS AND FEEDBACK.

REMEMBER THAT INFORMATION IS POWER. WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW CAN HURT YOU, AND THE LARGER YOUR NETWORK, THE BETTER YOUR CHANCES OF FINDING OUT EXACTLY WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW.

REFERRALS. SOMETIMES THE BEST KIND OF INFORMATION IS A REFERRAL. KNOWING WHO TO CALL IS ALMOST AS GOOD AS KNOWING THE PERSON.

FEEDBACK. FEEDBACK HELPS YOU CHECK OUT YOUR BEHAVIOUR, YOUR IDEAS AND YOUR STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS.

NETWORKING IS A PROCESS OF MAKING THINGS HAPPEN.

HOW DOES ONE START A NETWORK? I CAN ONLY SHARE WITH YOU WHAT WE HAVE DONE AT THE NEW BRUNSWICK WOMEN'S NETWORK. WE HAVE BEEN OPERATING FOR 1 1/2 YEARS AND WE STARTED BY ADVISING EVERYBODY THAT WE WERE FORMING A NETWORK. WE INVITED PEOPLE TO JOIN. WE ALSO CONTACTED OTHER EXISTING NETWORKS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND FOUND OUT HOW THEY OPERATED. WE SOUGHT THE HELP OF THE PRESS WHENEVER WE HAD A CHANCE.

IN ADDITION TO RADIO, TELEVISION, AND NEWSPAPERS, WORD OF MOUTH WAS ESPECIALLY HELPFUL. TALK ABOUT IT, LET PEOPLE KNOW WHAT NETWORKING IS; SELL THEM ON THE IDEA BECAUSE ENTHUSIASM SELLS.

TEAM SPORTS, BY THEIR VERY NATURE ARE AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF A GROUP OF PEOPLE COMING TOGETHER WITH A COMMON GOAL. NETWORKING TAKES ON MANY FORMS AND THERE ARE ALREADY IN EXISTENCE MANY LOCAL, PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WHICH HELP TO PROMOTE CHANGE AND MAKE THINGS HAPPEN. ONE OF MY PROVINCIAL COUNTERPARTS IS HERE WITH ME TODAY. ELLEN KING WILL ELABORATE ON THESE ORGANIZATIONS.

ELLEN KING'S ADDRESS

GOOD AFTERNOON. IT IS A PLEASURE TO BE HERE AND TO PARTICIPATE IN YOUR CONFERENCE.

AFTER HAVING LISTENED TO MURIELLE YOUNG'S PRESENTATION ON NETWORKING, I AM SURE THAT MANY OF YOU RECOGNIZED SEVERAL OF THE KEY INGREDIENTS OF NETWORKING.

AFTER ALL, PARTICIPANTS IN SPORTS HAVE BEEN NETWORKING EVER SINCE THE VARIOUS SPORTS EVOLVED.

TEAM SPORTS, BY THEIR VERY NATURE ARE AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF A GROUP OF PEOPLE COMING TOGETHER WITH A COMMON GOAL, ASSESSING THE STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF MEMBERS AND DEVELOPING A COORDINATED EFFORT TO SUCCEED.

INDIVIDUAL SPORTS AS WELL, SUCH AS TRACK AND FIELD, SWIMMING AND ARCHERY PROVIDE AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO NETWORK THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL, REGIONAL, NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL TRAINING AND COMPETITION.

FOR MANY YOUNG WOMEN, THEIR FIRST EXPERIENCE OF NETWORKING EMERGES THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL OR COMMUNITY SPORTING EVENTS.

WOMEN IN SPORTS, WHETHER IT BE WOMEN PARTICIPATING IN A SPORT FOR THEIR OWN PLEASURE OR AS AMATEUR OR PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES, HAVE FACED MANY OF THE BARRIERS, BOTH ATTITUDINAL AND SYSTEMIC, WHICH WOMEN IN OTHER AREAS HAVE FACED.

IN READING THE CAAWS BROCHURE, IT IS EVIDENT THAT CAAWS IS ALSO A NETWORK OF ATHELETES, COACHES, PHYSICAL EDUCATORS, AND PROFESSIONALS WHO SHARE A COMMON CONCERN AND HAVE JOINED TOGETHER TO TRY TO IMPROVE A PARTICULAR SITUATION.

THE SPECIFIC ISSUES WHICH CAAWS IS TRYING TO ADDRESS MAY BE DIFFERENT THAN THE CONCERNS OF OTHER WOMEN'S GROUPS, HOWEVER, THE UNDERLYING PRINCIPLE IS THE SAME - EQUALITY.

WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS ACROSS CANADA AND IN EVERY PROVINCE/TERRITORY ARE CONTINUING THEIR EFFORTS TO PROMOTE EQUALITY FOR WOMEN. THIS EFFORT WAS STRENGTHENED BY THE INTRODUCTION IN APRIL 1985, OF SECTION 15, THE EQUALITY PROVISIONS OF THE CANADIAN CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS.

IN FACT, ONE OF THE WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS WHICH I WILL DESCRIBE SHORTLY, LEAF, ASSISTED A 13 YEAR OLD ONTARIO GIRL TO BRING FORWARD A CHARTER CASE TO CHALLENGE AN ONTARIO HOCKEY ASSOCIATION REGULATION, AND A SECTION OF THE ONTARIO HUMAN RIGHTS CODE THAT EXEMPTS ATHLETIC CLUBS FROM EQUAL RIGHTS REQUIREMENTS.

ALTHOUGH INITIALLY UNSUCCESSFUL, AN APPEAL DECISION HELD THAT THE PARTICULAR SECTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS CODE WAS INCONSISTENT WITH THE EQUALITY PROVISIONS OF THE CHARTER, HOWEVER, THE GIRL HAD NO PRACTICAL RECOURSE SINCE THE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION WAS A NON-GOVERNMENTAL BODY.

THIS CASE SERVED TO FOCUS CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC ATTENTION ON THE ISSUE. DURING THE COURSE OF THE CHALLENGE, THE LIBERAL GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD REPEAL THE SECTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS CODE THAT PREVENTS WOMEN FROM PLAYING ON MEN'S TEAMS. I AM HAPPY TO SAY THAT THE YOUNG GIRL WAS SELECTED TO PLAY HOCKEY ON THE ALL-BOYS TEAM FOR WHICH SHE HAD TRIED OUT.

WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO DO NOW IS BRIEFLY OUTLINE THE ROLES OF SOME OF THE NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL ORGANIZATIONS WHICH ARE CONCERNED WITH WOMEN'S ISSUES. MANY PEOPLE IN THE GENERAL PUBLIC ARE PROBABLY NOT AWARE OF THE CONCERNS OF YOUR GROUP. THIS IS WHERE NETWORKING AND EVENTUALLY LOBBYING CAN BE AN IMPORTANT TOOL. IT IS BECAUSE WOMEN'S GROUPS MAKE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN, JOIN TOGETHER, NETWORK AND LOBBY, THAT PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS PROMOTING WOMEN'S CONCERNS ARE ABLE TO TAKE THESE CONCERNS FORWARD TO GOVERNMENT.

AT THIS TIME I SHOULD OUTLINE THE FEDERAL/PROVINCIAL SCENE WITH RESPECT TO WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS:

WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS
FEDERAL/PROVINCIAL OVERVIEW

JURISDICTION

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

ORGANIZATION

STATUS OF WOMEN CANADA

- ADVISES THE FEDERAL MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE STATUS OF WOMEN ON THE POTENTIAL IMPACT ON WOMEN OF ALL PROPOSED FEDERAL POLICIES AND PROGRAMS.

- WORKS CLOSELY WITH OTHER FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND WOMEN'S GROUPS OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT TO INTEGRATE THE NEEDS OF CANADIAN WOMEN INTO LEGISLATION, POLICIES AND PROGRAMS.
- INITIATES AND OFTEN COORDINATES STUDIES/RESEARCH ON VARIOUS ISSUES OF CONCERN TO WOMEN.
- LIAISES WITH PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL WOMEN'S DIRECTORATES/SECRETARIATS.

WOMEN'S PROGRAM (SECRETARY OF STATE)

- PROVIDES FUNDING FOR WOMEN'S GROUPS FOR RESEARCH, CONFERENCES, AND PUBLICATIONS ON WOMEN'S ISSUES.
- WOMEN'S BUREAU (LABOUR CANADA)
- PROMOTES EQUALITY FOR WOMEN IN THE LABOUR FORCE BY CARRYING OUT RESEARCH, MONITORING FEDERAL LABOUR LEGISLATION, POLICIES AND PROGRAMS AND RECOMMENDING CHANGES AND NEW INITIATIVES.

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

WOMEN DIRECTORATES/
SECRETARIATS

- ADVISE THE MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE STATUS OF WOMEN AND RECOMMEND ACTION TO CABINET COMMITTEES.
- INITIATE AND DEVELOP GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND PROGRAMS TO ENHANCE THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STATUS OF WOMEN IN NEW BRUNSWICK
- ANALYZE AND ASSESS THE IMPACT ON WOMEN OF ALL LEGISLATION, POLICIES AND PROGRAMS.
- MONITOR AND REVIEW PROGRAMS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF IMPROVING THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE PROVINCE.
- LIAISE WITH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, OTHER PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL WOMEN'S DIRECTORATES AND PROVINCIAL WOMEN'S GROUPS.

ADVISORY COUNCILS

CANADIAN ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE
STATUS OF WOMEN

- ADVISES THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF THE ACTIONS IT DEEMS NECESSARY TO IMPROVE THE POSITION OF WOMEN AND INFORMS THE PUBLIC ABOUT MATTERS OF INTEREST AND CONCERN TO WOMEN.

PROVINCIAL ADVISORY COUNCILS

- SIMILAR MANDATE AT PROVINCIAL LEVEL.

NATIONAL/REGIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS

NATIONAL ACTION COMMITTEE ON THE
STATUS OF WOMEN (NAC)

- VOLUNTARY FEMINIST ORGANIZATION CONSISTING OF MORE THAN 180 NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ACROSS CANADA.
- WORKS TO IMPROVE THE POSITION OF CANADIAN WOMEN BY ADVOCATING REFORM IN LAWS AND PUBLIC POLICIES, INFORMING THE PUBLIC AND FOSTERING COOPERATION AMONG WOMEN'S GROUPS.

- WOMEN'S LEGAL EDUCATION AND ACTION
FUND (LEAF)

- NATIONAL ORGANIZATION WHICH SUPPORTS TEST CASES IN CANADIAN COURTS BASED ON THE CHARTER WHICH WILL ADVANCE WOMEN'S EQUALITY.

- PROVIDES LEGAL REPRESENTATION FOR WOMEN INVOLVED IN LEAF SPONSORED COURT CASES.

- UNDERTAKES RESEARCH AND PUBLIC EDUCATION ON EQUALITY FOR WOMEN.

CANADIAN CONGRESS OF LEARNING
OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN (CCLOW)

- VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATION WHICH PROMOTES LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN, NETWORKING, INVESTIGATES NEEDS, IDENTIFIES BARRIERS AND COMMUNICATES FINDINGS TO THE PUBLIC.

CANADIAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (CRIAOW)

- VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATION WHICH PROMOTES RESEARCH FROM A FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

- MANY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AT THE LOCAL, PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL LEVELS PROMOTE WOMEN'S CONCERNS REGARDING CHILD CARE, EDUCATION, HEALTH, PEACE, PORNOGRAPHY, SPORTS, IMMIGRANT/VISIBLE MINORITY WOMEN, ETC.

PROVINCIAL/LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

- AT THE PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL LEVELS THERE ARE NUMEROUS WOMEN'S GROUPS. I.E. IN NEW BRUNSWICK: NEW BRUNSWICK NATIVE WOMEN'S COUNCIL, VOICE OF WOMEN, DAMES D'ACADIE, WOMEN WORKING WITH IMMIGRANT WOMEN, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN, THIRD THURSDAY NETWORK, AND NEW BRUNSWICK WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.

ONE OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDES GOVERNMENT'S AFFIRMATIVE RELATED POLICIES WITH NO OF WOMEN IN THE CIVIL IMPLEMENTATION BY DEPART OF ACTION AND PREPARES AN ANNUAL REPORT TO BE TABLED IN THE

- IN PARTICULAR, THE NEW BRUNSWICK WOMEN'S NETWORK, OPERATES AS AN UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION, PROVIDING THE OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN FROM A WIDE VARIETY OF GROUPS TO NETWORK AND WORK COOPERATIVELY TOWARDS COMMON GOALS.

I AM OFTEN ASKED TO DESCRIBE HOW THE ROLES OF THE NEW BRUNSWICK ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN AND THE NEW BRUNSWICK WOMEN'S DIRECTORATE DIFFER. THE ADVISORY COUNCIL IS A STRUCTURE EXTERNAL TO GOVERNMENT. IT'S ROLE IS TO CONDUCT RESEARCH ON MATTERS OF CONCERN TO WOMEN AND TO BRING THESE CONCERNS BEFORE THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND THE GOVERNMENT.

THE WOMEN'S DIRECTORATE IS AN INTERNAL GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE OR MECHANISM ESTABLISHED AS A PART OF CABINET SECRETARIAT IN 1984. THE DIRECTORATE ACTS AS A CATALYST IN THE ENTIRE GOVERNMENT SYSTEM. "MANAGING CHANGE" EFFECTIVELY AND SYSTEMATICALLY IS REALLY OUR FUNCTION.

THE DIRECTORATE HAS WORKED CLOSELY WITH THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN OVER THE YEARS. OUR GOALS ARE THE SAME - TO IMPROVE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS FOR NEW BRUNSWICK WOMEN AND OUR FUNCTIONS COMPLEMENT ONE ANOTHER.

TO GIVE YOU A BETTER IDEA OF THE SCOPE OF OUR WORK AT THE WOMEN'S DIRECTORATE, LET ME TELL YOU A BIT ABOUT OUR AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY.

ONE OF THE MAIN AREAS OF THE DIRECTORATE'S RESPONSIBILITY INCLUDES THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW BRUNSWICK GOVERNMENT'S AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EMPLOYMENT EQUITY PROGRAM AND RELATED POLICIES WITH RESPECT TO THE EMPLOYMENT AND ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN IN THE CIVIL SERVICE. THE DIRECTORATE MONITORS THE IMPLEMENTATION BY DEPARTMENTS OF THEIR AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PLANS OF ACTION AND PREPARES AN ANNUAL REPORT TO BE TABLED IN THE LEGISLATURE BY THE MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE STATUS OF WOMEN. I WOULD ALSO POINT OUT THAT THE WOMEN'S DIRECTORATE PREPARED A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ON AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IN THE NEW BRUNSWICK CIVIL SERVICE WHICH WAS TABLED IN THE LEGISLATURE ON MAY 9, 1986.

THE OTHER MAJOR AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY, WHICH AT FIRST GLANCE APPEARS OVERWHELMING, IS OUR POLICY MANDATE. THE DIRECTORATE HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH PROMOTING, DEVELOPING, AND EXPEDITING, IN CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, ALL GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES, POLICIES AND PROGRAMS WHICH AFFECT THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN AND THE SERVICES TO THEM. THE DIRECTORATE WORKS TO ENSURE THAT THE COMPLETE RANGE OF WOMEN'S ISSUES RECEIVES CONSIDERATION AT THE POLICY FORMULATION AND MINISTERIAL LEVELS. IN ADDITION, THE DIRECTORATE PROVIDES THE MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR WOMEN'S ISSUES, CABINET AND CABINET COMMITTEES WITH ASSISTANCE AND AN ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT OR IMPLICATIONS FOR THE STATUS OF WOMEN OF THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION, POLICIES AND PROGRAMS PUT FORWARD BY VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.

FORMAL AND INFORMAL TIES WITH GROUPS, WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, BOTH AT THE FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL LEVELS ENABLE THE DIRECTORATE TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH REGIONAL, PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL INITIATIVES.

AS SO MANY ISSUES TRANSCEND BOTH FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL JURISDICTIONS, IT IS ADVANTAGEOUS FOR THE DIRECTORATE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH FEDERAL OFFICIALS. CONSULTATION AND CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT OCCURS FREQUENTLY.

MY WORK AND THE WORK OF THE DIRECTORATE IS TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT OF REAL CHOICE FOR WOMEN. DEVELOPING POLICIES AND PROGRAMS TO ENSURE THAT WOMEN ARE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN NEW BRUNSWICK SOCIETY IS WHAT WE ARE ALL ABOUT. WE KNOW WE ARE NOT ALONE IN OUR EFFORTS AS A NUMBER OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES ARE CONSTANTLY TAKING PLACE. THIS CONFERENCE IS AN EXAMPLE.

A FEW OF THE ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED BY THE WOMEN'S DIRECTORATE INCLUDED A ONE DAY CONFERENCE ON WIFE BATTERING/SPOUSAL ABUSE, A WOMEN'S FILM SERIES, AN EXHIBITION OF HISTORIC MANUSCRIPTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS CALLED "DAUGHTERS THROUGH TIME" TO COMMEMORATE THE END OF THE U.N. DECADE FOR WOMEN, AND A NOON-HOUR SPEAKERS SERIES EVERY SECOND WEDNESDAY FOR THE PAST SIX MONTHS.

I WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ROLE OF WOMEN'S GROUPS IN MAKING THEIR VIEWS KNOWN AND IN HELPING THE GOVERNMENT IDENTIFY AREAS OF CONCERN TO WOMEN WHICH NEED TO BE ADDRESSED.

NETWORKING WITH OTHER WOMEN'S GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS IS EXTREMELY USEFUL AND I WOULD ENCOURAGE CAAWS MEMBERS TO CONSIDER CONTACTING AND INTERACTING WITH SOME OF THESE GROUPS.

TEN YEARS AGO WIFE BATTERING/SPOUSAL ASSAULT WAS HARDLY EVER MENTIONED AS AN IMPORTANT ISSUE. ATTENTION IS NOW FOCUSED ON THIS PROBLEM AS A RESULT OF THE EFFORTS OF WOMEN'S GROUPS HEIGHTENING AWARENESS AND THE FEDERAL/PROVINCIAL/ TERRITORIAL INITIATIVE UNDERTAKEN IN 1983 TO ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP ON WIFE BATTERING TO RECOMMEND STRATEGIES TO ASSIST BATTERED WOMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES.

THE WOMEN'S DIRECTORATE CHAIRED THE NEW BRUNSWICK WORKING GROUP AND PREPARED A REPORT ON WIFE ABUSE. I AM PLEASED TO SAY THAT NOT ONLY WAS THIS AN INTERDEPARTMENTAL EFFORT, BUT IT ALSO INVOLVED DISCUSSIONS WITH SEVERAL NEW BRUNSWICK VOLUNTEER GROUPS WHICH ASSIST OR SERVE VICTIMS OF SPOUSAL ABUSE OR BATTERERS. THIS INTERFACING, ALONG WITH A WEALTH OF WRITTEN MATERIAL SUBMITTED BY THESE VARIOUS GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS WAS EXTREMELY VALUABLE IN FORMULATING OUR RECOMMENDATIONS.

OUR FINAL N.B. REPORT APPROVED BY CABINET AND DISCUSSED AT NUMEROUS FEDERAL/PROVINCIAL MEETINGS IS NOW BEING IMPLEMENTED.

THIS EXAMPLE DEMONSTRATES THE IMPORTANCE OF MAKING YOUR GROUP'S CONCERNS AND PRIORITIES KNOWN TO OTHER WOMEN'S GROUPS AND PROVINCIAL OR FEDERAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS.

NETWORKING ENCOURAGES, DEVELOPS, COORDINATES AND COMMUNICATES INFORMATION RELATING TO THE CONCERNS AND INTERESTS OF WOMEN. AS WELL, IT FACILITATES AND PROMOTES STRATEGIES FOR ACTION, PROVIDES STRENGTH IN NUMBERS, LIGHTENS THE WORKLOAD THROUGH SHARED INFORMATION AND RESOURCES, BROADENS HORIZONS AND OFTEN PROMOTES INCREASED EFFECTIVENESS.

NETWORKING AND LOBBYING CAN TAKE MANY DIFFERENT FORMS. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU CHOSE METHODS WHICH ARE SUITED TO YOUR GROUPS OBJECTIVES, TALENTS, RESOURCES AND EXPERIENCE. CHOOSE PRIORITIES AND FOCUS. MEASURE COMMITMENT AND DECIDE ON ACTION - WHETHER IT BE SUBMITTING BRIEFS, PETITIONS, LETTER WRITING, AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS OR ANY NUMBER OF STRATEGIES.

NETWORKING WITH OTHER WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS AT ALL LEVELS AND LOBBYING ARE INCREASINGLY BEING USED AS METHODS OF ADDRESSING CONCERNS. I HAVE TRIED TO PROVIDE YOU WITH SOME BRIEF BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS WHICH MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR ESTABLISHING INITIAL CONTACTS. ANOTHER SPEAKER, ROSELLA MELANSON, WILL BE PRESENTING INFORMATION ON WHAT LOBBYING MEANS AND HOW IT MIGHT WORK FOR WOMEN'S GROUPS.

IN CLOSING, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND INVITATION AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE SOME OF MY THOUGHTS WITH YOU. MY CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU AND I WISH YOU CONTINUED SUCCESS IN YOUR ENDEAVOURS.

CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I.
JUNE 28, 1986

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY