

NAC 236



National Action Committee on the Status of Women
Comité canadien d'action sur le statut de la femme

March 17, 1992

Past Presidents

Dear NAC Supporter,

1988 - 1990
Lynn Kaye

First mourn, then work for change.

1986 - 1988
Louise Dulude

Every child a wanted child.

1984 - 1986
Chaviva Hosĕk

Votes for women.

No means no.

1982 - 1984
Doris Anderson

From the times of Emmeline Pankhurst to Gloria Steinem, these are voices of the women's movement.

1981 - 1982
Jean Wood

A movement that has, inch by inch, issue by issue tried to make a safer and secure life for all women.

1979 - 1981
Lynn McDonald

A movement that has been sustained and strengthened by your financial support.

1977 - 1979
Kay Macpherson

And, as NAC celebrates its 20th year of work in promoting equality for women, I want to say thank you -- on behalf of all our past presidents and members -- for your essential contribution.

1975 - 1977
Lorna Marsden

And today, I'd like to urge you to continue your support of NAC by making a donation to our 20th Anniversary Renewal Campaign -- a Campaign that must raise \$250,000 by December 31st.

1972 - 1974
Laura Sabia

I feel great pride and warmth when I think of wonderful, dynamic women like Nellie McClung, Agnes McPhail, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Emily Stowe.

Current President

Judy Rebick

All were visionaries -- women who pioneered efforts to end discrimination against women, while being discriminated against themselves.

We share a lot with them.

We use the same tactics and strategies that women used 100 years ago. They wrote slogans, designed

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campaigns, marched in protest, prepared briefings, and lobbied governments.

We do the same.

They were often jeered at and made fun of -- told to go back to more genteel pursuits, told to be happy with what they had, just like most women were.

Today, we are told to stop being shrill or no one will listen. Told to stop asking for too much or we'll get nothing. Told that no one supports our platform, and that we do not represent women.

This kind of backlash is being spread despite the fact that individuals like you are giving more financial support to women's organizations than ever before in history.

When NAC began its work in 1972, the federal government -- in an effort to promote women's equality -- supported NAC financially.

One of the most trying issues NAC has had to deal with in the last five years is the dramatic reduction of this type of support, and the government's weakening commitment to end discrimination against women.

Now donors like you are contributing to NAC like never before -- providing over 60% of all our funding.

Each one of your donations contributes to researching the realities of women's lives, lobbying to improve working conditions for women. And each dollar you give helps organize women across the country, and provides a forum for those who seek change in government policies.

Just as women with economic independence have more control over their own lives, NAC's growing financial independence from government means we have more control of our own future.

Your support has made us stronger and more secure.

It is now an essential part of NAC's work.

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In my experience with the women's movement, I've discovered that many people play many different roles and speak out in many different ways.

Some women march in protest.

Some women research the technicalities of the law and how it affects women.

Some women struggle to raise their children to view a world where both little girls and little boys feel they can grow up to be anything they want to be.

As a financial supporter of NAC, you have chosen a vital way to contribute to the women's movement.

And we make every one of your dollars work for you.

At any given time, NAC is carrying out its work on several fronts and reaching out to women across the country.

In response to the fundamental concerns women raise about society and their place in it, NAC is currently:

1. Mobilizing for a "No Means No" law.
The new rape law will go before the Justice Committee in April. We will be there fighting to strengthen the bill that will clarify the notion of consent to sexual activity, and we'll be pushing for judicial reform.
2. Helping ensure 50% of the participants in the constitutional conferences were women.
For the first time in Canada's history women were proportionally represented at a conference of national significance. The input from these women who came from all walks of life was tremendous.
3. Making a difference at constitutional conferences.
NAC's views have gained support from many delegates at these conferences. Our perspective includes respecting diversity within Canada, trying to protect the social programs -- through a social charter or some other means -- that mean so much to

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women in Canada, and the urging of a meaningful inherent right to self-government for aboriginal peoples.

4. Lobbying for an elected, effective and representative Senate. For the first time in Canada's history, NAC, in coalition with other groups, brought forward the idea of 50% Senate representation for women in a meaningful way. At the constitutional conferences, NAC pushed for a Senate representative of smaller provinces, women, visible minorities, disabled people and other under-represented groups. The conferences supported proportional representation as an electoral method to ensure inclusivity but stopped short of guaranteeing 50% women. More work needs to be done.
5. Sponsoring a national debate on violence against women to develop a multi-level policy for ending violence against women.
6. Sponsoring a one day national conference on June 5th featuring workshops on "Changing Economics: Employment for Women", "Changing Governments: Canadian Constitution, Women and Electoral Politics" and "The Future of Women's Work". We will hear the concerns and frustrations of women across the country and work to devise strategies that promote women's equality in the workplace and representation in government.

NAC's political activities cover a broad range of issues from economic discrimination to child care to violence against women.

Each issue we address is based on a sound, well-researched framework and presented with a passionate commitment to women's equality.

This work is made possible by your support.

Won't you renew your commitment to NAC today?

Your donation of \$40, \$75, \$100, \$150 -- or whatever amount you can manage -- covers the cost of skilled researchers and organizers, lobbying, public education, media briefings and coalition building.

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Or you can join NAC's ACTION FUND. By authorizing easy automatic withdrawals from your chequing account of \$10, \$15 or \$20 a month you can give NAC the financial security it needs to continue being a strong and consistent voice on behalf of Canadian women.

Hundreds of NAC donors, including myself, have joined the ACTION FUND.

It's economical because cuts down on our administrative costs, it's less wasteful because it cuts down on mailings and it offers NAC financial security.

I am proud to say that over 60% of NAC's funding now comes from donors like you.

But I also want you to know your continued support of NAC is absolutely essential.

Together we will make gains inch by inch, issue by issue just like the women who worked for women's equality a century ago.

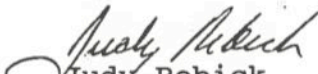
Our silence will not work for us.

We must act now.

Your donation of \$40, \$75, \$100 or \$150 will help keep women's concerns at the forefront of political life in Canada.

Please send your contribution today.

Yours sincerely,


Judy Rebick
President

P.S. As we celebrate 20 years of work on behalf of the women of Canada, I want you to know that the majority of our funding now comes from donors like you. Each dollar you give contributes to researching the realities of women's lives, organizing women across the country and providing a forum for those who seek change. Won't you please send a contribution to our 20th Anniversary Renewal Campaign today?