

File NAC

March 5, 1985

RECEIVED MAR 11 1985

ATTENTION: NAC MEMBER GROUPS

ACTION: THE NAC EXECUTIVE ENDORSES THE ENCLOSED MATERIAL
AND ASKS FOR YOUR IMMEDIATE SUPPORT IN THIS CAMPAIGN.
(The enclosed material has been drafted by
The Feminists of London, Ontario)



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Feminists of London,
P.O. Box 1044,
London, Ontario
N6A 5K1

February 25, 1985

Dear Friends,

Our new federal government needs to hear from you! The women's movement needs your immediate help!

Decisions of funding and policy regarding issues crucial to improving the status of women and our families are currently being made.

Many members of the new government have never heard from those of us interested in maintaining our progress toward women's equality in the family, the workplace, and our institutions. Instead, many messages have been received from groups and individuals requesting funds to block the way to equal pay for work of equal value, the maintenance of reproductive choice, affirmative action and day care. Even the equality clause of the Charter of Rights is being challenged.

Specifically under threat is the integrity of the Women's Program, Secretary of State, Studio "D" of the National Film Board, and the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, among others.

You can help by:

- 1) signing and mailing the attached letter today;
- 2) BUT before you do that, make copies for members of your organization and friends - don't forget your mother and sisters;
- 3) AND write your own letter explaining how federal assistance has benefited you or your organization in achieving improvements for women;
- 4) organize your own local ACTION;
- 5) please send donations to us to help finance this national mailing.

Don't delay! Our new federal government needs to hear from you today!

Feminists of London

The relevant addresses are on the back of this letter.

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DON'T FORGET THAT LETTERS TO FEDERAL MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT DO NOT NEED STAMPS!

Honourable Walter McLean
Secretary of State
Minister Responsible for Status of Women
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario

Honourable Marcel Masse
Minister of Communications
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario

Studio "D"
National Film Board of Canada
P.O. Box 6100
Montreal, Quebec H3C 3H5

Women's Program
Secretary of State
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0M5

Don't forget your own Member of Parliament!

For an inexpensive night letter, call your local CN/CP Telecommunications and ask for information regarding TELEPOST

The Right Honourable Brian Mulroney
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Mr. Mulroney;

I am writing to indicate my appreciation for the government support of agencies, projects and research directed toward improving the status of women. The Women's Program, Studio "D" of the National Film Board, the National Action Committee on the Status of Women and other worthwhile projects and institutions funded by your government not only advance the status of Canadian women, but have also given Canada a progressive international profile in the push for women's equality.

It concerns me that funding for these agencies may be in jeopardy, or that funds may be redirected to groups not endorsing the equality awarded to both women and men in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

As a key participant in the United Nations sponsored End of Decade for Women, to be celebrated this summer in Nairobi, Canada must maintain its progressive stance. I ask you to continue, indeed strengthen, your support of Canadians working to ensure fair treatment for women, by continuing to fund only agencies committed to true equality for women in all facets of Canadian life.

Sincerely:

FACT SHEET

R.E.A.L.° Women of Canada describes itself as an "organization of independent women concerned with the well-being of women and the preservation of family values." It opposes equal pay for work of equal value, universal day care, freedom of choice on abortion, easier divorce, and affirmative action for women.

Recently R.E.A.L. Women stepped up its anti-feminist political activities. Its prime targets are Secretary of State's Women's Programme and the National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC) which, it claims "will break up marriages and destroy family life." It has attacked some mainstays of the feminist press, including Hysteria and Horizons, on the grounds that they are anti-male, pro-choice, and pro-homosexuality. Studio D, the women's studio of the National Film Board (Not A Love Story; If You Love This Planet; Abortion Stories, North and South; Behind the Veil:Nuns) is another target, one likely to receive increasing attention in the near future. Already the issue of the "appropriateness" of Studio D's "morally offensive propaganda" has been raised in the House of Commons by PC MP Bill Gottselig (Moose Jaw).

Our immediate concern is that R.E.A.L. Women has been unrelenting in lobbying the new federal government since it took office last fall. Its members, and other neo-conservative groups with whom they are connected, have swamped Prime Minister Mulroney and all MPs with letters and telegrams demanding that they receive funds from the Women's Programme. This is a demand that the government redirect money from feminist groups to them. The major groups funded by the Women's Programme have been identified and attacked as part of this campaign.

The campaign is bearing fruit. R.E.A.L. Women claims to have the support of at least 60 MPs, and the press is beginning to ask Secretary of State why the group receives no funding from the Women's Programme. The difficulty is that so far feminists have not responded with the sort of counterpressure that would make it politically possible for the federal government to resist the lobbying efforts of R.E.A.L. Women. The present letter-writing campaign is meant to provide exactly that sort of counter-pressure.

° Realistic Equal Active for Life