



## Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women



VOL. 1 No. 1

FEBRUARY 1975

# Child Care Report

In June 1974, I reported in ACTION on the Child Care situation in Manitoba, the formation of the Manitoba Child Care Association (M.C.C.A.) and MACSW'S concerns and action regarding day care. The mood at that time was of anger, uncertainty, active concern and hope that the Manitoba Government would revise its restrictive and uncomprehensive day care program before doomsday—implementation September 1st—which became November 1st. The proposed program, however, limped into existence as feared with the anticipated features and limitations, some minor revisions but nevertheless a giant step ahead of the state of affairs in child care a year ago. Users and providers are not happy with the provisions of the program. Neither, apparently, is the "public," whose re-actions as received by the government are ten to one against day care period. With all this in mind I'll try to bring you up to date.

The M.C.C.A. held its second conference with a major shift of emphasis (more on this later). MACSW'S briefs and concerns and goals gather dust along with other groups submissions to government. Universal day care giving mothers a choice and young families the assistance they deserve and require is a long way off.

### The Program :

The Co-ordinator, Child Day Care is Roxy Freedman. The Child Day Care office is at 204-960 Portage Avenue, Ph. 775-8021. There are seven regional offices disseminating forms and manuals.

\$10,960 is the net income for a family of four above which there is no subsidy. This figure is just above two net minimum wages (take net income, subtract \$3,600 for the 1st adult, \$720 for the 2nd, and \$720 for each dependent under 18 years; divide the difference by 2 for the family contribution toward day care costs; the

government subsidy equals the total cost of day care—\$1,300 for each pre-school child—minus the family contribution. The two parent family of four with 2 pre-schoolers has \$5,760 in exemptions. If net income is \$10,500 (approximately 2 minimum wages)  $\$10,500 - \$5,760 = \$4,740$ ;  $\$4,740 \div 2 = \$2,370$  = family contribution; government pays  $\$2,600 - \$2,370 = \$230$ . The family with one parent and net income of \$6,000 pays \$480 toward day care, government adding \$2,120.

This is great for the single parent but not for the mother who must or wants to work and needs quality day care at reasonable cost.

If both parents work and net family income is such that there is no subsidy (over \$10,960 with two children) the parents bear the total cost of child care which if there is one or more pre-schoolers may be \$5, \$10 or \$15 if the children are to attend a day care centre. As day care is usually an expense related to the second income which is usually the mother's and almost always the lower income, the burden is such that alternative care must be found or mother stays home. Why can't the program subsidize the second and third child in day care regardless of the amount of the greater income?

**CHILD CARE (Continued)**

## A letter from Norma McCormick, former Chairman of Day Care Sub-Committee

We arrived in Algeria in mid December after spending almost 4 months in France awaiting housing and the commencement of Stephen's program. I have been teaching the seven school aged children in our group — aged five to eleven, and have enjoyed the job and the children—it is so "pressure-free" as compared to the day care scene in Winnipeg. I am starved for news of that situation—how I hope the Government is co-operative.

You doubtless know the condition of women in Moslem countries. For Algerian women, I feel it is particularly tragic as the women fought alongside the men for the liberation of their country. Following the expulsion of the French there was a concentrated effort toward "Arabization" which included increased emphasis on the *proper* role of women in a Moslem society. The women wear veils as a symbol of their fidelity to their husbands—no other man should see

their faces. It is common for a man to have up to four wives. Girls (except those from wealthy families) receive only minimal schooling—enough to serve them in the market place. The entire society is male oriented. Men only are allowed in cafes—you *never* see an Arab woman in a restaurant! The men stand about discussing important things—or nothing at all. The women on the streets are always hurrying somewhere with their shopping or a big bundle of wood for fire. There are some good things about the society—one is the relationship of men to children. It is not unusual to see men out with their children (from babies onward). They treat their children in so patient and kind a way—and with obvious pride.

Norma's address is: I.A.P.  
Rue D'jatout Freres  
Annaba, Algeria.



# Report of Education Sub-Committee

**Members:** Linda Asper, Madeleine Bourgouin, Eyla Rogers, Dagmar Martens, Muriel Smith, Betty Feniak, Martha Colquhoun

## **Terms of Reference:**

1. To survey organizations and groups involved in the education of girls and women regarding their policies, present practices and personnel involved in the improvement of the status of women in education.
2. To formulate a plan of action based on the survey responses to improve the status of women in education in Manitoba.
3. To implement the plan of action at the public school, college and university levels in the educational system.

The committee has held three meetings during 1974-75 to begin implementation of the terms of reference. A series of letters have been sent to various educational organizations to survey their involvement re: women's issues in Education. Six replies have been received to date which indicate the need for follow-up by the committee. Various educational groups have also been contacted regarding plans for International Women's Year.

The committee has undertaken the organization of a fall conference on "Equality in our Schools: Why Not!" Tentative plans regarding program, place, and date have been made.

Anyone interested in the work of this committee is invited to participate. Phone Linda Asper at 269-2030 (home, or 474-9053 (work)).

## **WOMEN IN LABOR FORCE**

The detailed Provincial Labour Force Data show that in November, 1974, there were 148,000 or 40.0% of the Manitoba women aged 14 and over in the Manitoba labour force, comprising 35.2% of the total Manitoba labour force. The greatest participation rates were for the women in the 20-24 (56.5%) and 25-44 (49.1%) age groups.

The Women's Bureau has recently released a publication called "Mothers In The Labour Force—Their Child Care Arrangements" which is available from the Women's Bureau, 241 Vaughn Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba. R3C 1T6, free of charge.

Julie Bubnick  
Research Officer  
Department of Labour  
Women's Bureau

The family child care alternative in the program has many problems. It will be a while getting off the ground. The parent is above who has a family care arrangement for, say, \$3 per child, may be faced with a hike to \$5, because a subsidized parent paying for example \$2 herself can be subsidized up to \$5 by the government. There is no question that the family child care worker deserves pay commensurate with a day care centre worker's income, (it's possible in fact for this person to earn more if she cares for 5 children not her own, the maximum allowed). Nevertheless, this poses an obvious dilemma for the unsubsidized parents earning two necessary but not high incomes.

Centres previously subsidized by LIP and PEP grants are no longer being funded under these programs. They must meet the provincial plan criteria to qualify for subsidy. 21 (15 Winnipeg) centres have been funded to date, others are in the process of fulfilling requirements.

Start-up grants were extended to existing and new centres and the recommended usage expanded to include salaries of personnel instrumental in starting up —

planning and preparation people only, not day care worker salaries.

As centres come into the provincial program they are experiencing a drop in enrollment. The M.C.C.A. is attempting to conduct a write-in campaign so that those parents who withdraw their children because of the program will so inform the government. The Day Care office is also conducting studies of this and why some centres attendance rates have risen subsequent to the initial drop. The answers thus obtained are crucial to the central issues and goals involved in the Manitoba child care program. Could it be that those centres that were previously subsidized under LIP and PEP programs and which have now raised per diem rates from \$2 or + to \$4 or \$5 are beyond the means of unsubsidized parents?

Lunch and after four programs are not included in funding and subsidy for child care.

The plan was amended to include as a working mother, farm mothers who work for no pay and who meet the income criteria. The self employed unpaid woman on the other hand, such as the small store owners wife is not included.

## **Conference**

The M.C.C.A. conference November 22nd and 23rd at the University of Winnipeg was oriented toward providing information on two areas. Roxy Freedman, the new co-ordinator of Child Day Care, Manitoba Government, outlined the provincial program. At the same time, several workshops dealt with the resources necessary to parents and staff directly involved in creating the child care environment.

Howard Clifford, Day care consultant, Federal government, addressed the conference Friday night. Some of his remarks included the following:

"Morally we owe mothers the duty to tell them that to be on welfare involves a higher risk of having children of mothers who work for the same amount of money." This statement was supported by data and examples and pointed to the benefits of a day care arrangement that facilitates the latter possibility. Mothers should be allowed a choice not to work.

Day care should not be a substitute parent. Parent control and involvement should be encouraged.

A good day care environment is one in which ethnic and other identities are not destroyed or undermined. multiple models are necessary, no possessive professionals a must. Segregating the poor is bad, as is female (mother substitute) orientation only.

We can no longer justify day care in terms of what it does for some other institutions, poverty, the school system, mothers, etc.

The approach to day care most conducive to meeting children's needs today is "all children are mine."

At the conference many questions were raised which challenged the adequacy of the Manitoba government Day Care program. At the M.C.C.A. general meeting, Saturday, November 22nd a number of resolutions were passed including that the M.C.C.A. make strong representations to the Provincial government for the inclusion of lunch and after four, nursery school and other related services in the provincial program; that they discuss with the government the special problems of self employed unpaid working women and press for immediate inclusion of these women under the category of working mothers so that they can be eligible for day care subsidy; and that M.C.C.A. acquire from the Federal government (Canada Assistance Plan) necessary information on their day care guidelines.



# Reflections on the Women's Movement

At the heart of the Women's Movement — at least in the beginning — was a dissatisfaction with lack of opportunity. This lack derived from the inequality between the sexes. From that philosophical foundation — i.e. a quest for greater equality, the Women's Movement has proceeded to its present stage of development, at which time two important comments can be made about it: firstly, many women — and many men — feel that the Women's Movement has "arrived." Witness the cigarette commercial: "You've come a long way baby!" The fact of the matter is that the Women's Movement is still in its infancy. A recent study of high school girls in Winnipeg indicates a total lack of consciousness and awareness of the changing roles of women. Secondly, the philosophical foundations of the Women's Movement have been completely forgotten if in fact they were ever really comprehended by most women.

The idea of equality, which nurtured the original "women's libbers" is now forgotten by the sole beneficiaries of the Movement to date — that is, white middle class women who now have a somewhat greater opportunity to do what the men have long done. These women, by and large, have forgotten that the soul of the Movement was the quest for equality — and that quest cannot be restricted to white middle class women. Large numbers of the officially recognized poor of this country are women — what is the Movement doing for them? At least half of the native people of Canada are women — what has the Movement done for them? Why has the Movement never realized that the quest for greater equality and dignity and justice for women in our North American society is only a

part of a larger quest — for equality, dignity and justice — which must be waged for the very large minority of Canadians who do not share in the 'goodies of our society, who do not have the opportunities which are rightfully theirs.

The Women's Movement — being a struggle for equality and justice — must align itself with ALL those in our society who are denied equality and justice. The empty sloganeering of the advertising industry — "You've come a long way baby!" — is a disgusting little ditty and an attempt to buy us off and make us feel we've arrived. The Women's Movement won't have arrived until the ideals upon which it was originally based are realized by all Canadians — of all races, of all classes, as well as of both sexes.

The danger is that the daughter of the middle class family who now has the opportunity to become a bank manager or airline pilot, will react to the society in which she lives in the same way as most of today's bank managers do — i.e. she will assume all is well — the "after all, I worked hard to get when I am" syndrome — and she will lose sight of the injustice against which her female predecessors railed so loudly and so gallantly. She will lose sight of the fact that many women don't yet share in the good things of life. They don't because they are poor and disadvantaged, as well as because they are women. If any women should benefit from the Women's Movement then ALL women should benefit, and if all WOMEN benefit, then so should ALL PEOPLE. Women must recognize that they are only a part of the oppressed of this society — and must refuse to remain silent, must refuse to cease their criticisms and their struggles — until those original and noble

goals of the Women's Movement are realized. Those women who have benefited from the Movement, and then forgotten their fellow women who have not yet so benefited, and also forgotten the many others of society who remain oppressed are not deserving of the commendation of the Women's Movement.

The goal therefore is not to get more women in the board room — rather the goal is to get more women in the board room and have them do different things. The point of the Women's Movement is to remove the oppressor — oppressed relationship. It is NOT to substitute one oppressor for another. The woman who gains entry to the board room and then perpetuates the policies of her male predecessors is not doing anything to solve the problems about which the originators of the Movement complained. If in fact we're satisfied with having women play the same games that men have always played, perpetuating the same kinds of injustices which so recently saw us as victims, then the whole movement has missed the point and honest women must abandon it.

The Women's Movement must align itself with other movements of the oppressed: Where was the voice of the Women's Movement last summer when Kenora area Indians occupied Anicinabe Park? Do they not suffer the same oppression as we? Where is the voice of the Women's Movement on the whole question of poverty? Do we not feel that the fact that from 1/4 to 1/3 of Canada's population lives below the poverty line is injustice and inequality? And is it not injustice and inequality against which we fight? Do they not suffer from the same oppression as we?

Let me just briefly summarize the two main points that I'm emphasizing here today. First, I consider slogans like "You've come a long way baby." a patronizing insult as well as an inaccuracy. We have made some progress, it's true, but let's not be duped into complacency by the slick slogans of the advertising industry. We still have a lot further to go. And second, as we continue along the path that we've started, let's not, those of us who have benefited from the changes brought about this far, lose sight of the original driving force behind the Women's Movement, that is, the search for justice and equality? and let's keep in mind that if women are deserving of justice and equality so are all others in our society who presently feel its lack.

— Lesley Silver

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## UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CLUB OF WINNIPEG

The University Women's Club of Winnipeg has received a federal Government grant to support the club's special project for International Women's Year, a conference for Grade XI girls to be held on May 16, 17 and 18th at the University of Manitoba. The Conference is entitled "Facts/Fantasies/Futures," and Jean Carson is heading up the Planning Committee.

Arrangements have been made with the University of Manitoba to use their residences to accommodate about 250 Grade XI High school girls from Greater Winnipeg and from all over Manitoba, representatives from their schools who

will report back to their classmates the findings of the conference. The purpose is to show the girls the opportunities that are open to them for further training and study to equip them for life in a rapidly changing world — providing them with *Facts not Fantasies for the Future*.

Special speakers will include Barbara Shields, Education Officer, Women's Bureau, Ontario Department of Labour, and Dr. Mary Kinnear, Dean of Students, University of Manitoba. In addition many others will be involved as group leaders, resource personnel, and women representing various professions and trades.



# Muriel Smith—1975 Chairperson Speaks

Another year and the Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women (the Action Committee) is off and running.

Where have we come from and where are we heading? In a very real sense, we've come from the mists of the distant past: at least from Biblical times when women slaves sold for 6 ducats a piece, men for 10! Specifically, we sprang up in response to the Royal Commission Report on the Status of Women when we realized good ideas were not enough. Governments had to be persuaded to move and women helped on issues of special concern to women to act on their own behalf.

Where are we heading? In a very real sense the purpose of M.A.C.S.W. is to put itself out of business. If on the one hand we can press governments to make the necessary legislative and institutional changes by whatever means we can muster, and if on the other hand we can help create more options for ourselves, acquaint one another with those options, then learn to take action on our own behalf, we will have accomplished the purpose of M.A.C.S.W.

To a very real extent, some of these objectives have already been met. This year, spurred by the special funding and favourable climate of International

Women's year, there is an exciting array of events for and about women and their changing status. NOT all of these are special M.A.C.S.W. events, but many of them are indirect spinoffs from conferences, literature or personal short term involvement throughout the past few years.

We have a tendency to berate ourselves for not doing enough. There is so much to be done, and there are never enough people, hours or dollars to accomplish all we'd like to do. Most of us are carrying other responsibilities; jobs, studies, home. Let's stop looking at the negatives and build on our strength. We share a commitment to the goal of equality for women. We draw strength from one another. We are accomplishing outreach: our regular Newsletters; Linda Shirray's newspaper column, and colourful pamphlets; last summer's rural outreach project; a small but regrouping Labour caucus who have performed miracles in labour education and union liaison with a small but faithful core and many short term helpers, a well organized education Subcommittee busy planning a one day fall conference and engaging in ongoing lobbying activities; a day care group who mobilized to prod the government as

appropriate; a now defunct political committee whose educational programs spurred its members to direct action in women's caucuses within the political party of their choice; a loyal executive who share the planning co-ordinating chores; and a part time secretary who keeps tabs on membership and performs the secretarial functions which keep our life blood circulating.

We are very much alive and thriving. Let's do what we can with the resources we have. Inspired by our outgoing President, Betty Feniak—our warmest thanks Betty—who juggled a multitude of professional and personal duties so skillfully to make way for M.A.C.S.W. priorities, let's not run away from the work ahead. Let's see rather opportunities to accomplish our goal and bring closer the day when M.A.C.S.W. will no longer be necessary.

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## Streets of Regina to honor women

City Council decided to mark International Women's Year by naming streets after prominent women in the community.

The number of streets to be so named was not determined.

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## CHILD CARE (Concluded)

One resolution was defeated, indicating a major shift of emphasis in M.C.C.A. goals. It was an important resolution, hesitantly presented, vigorously discussed but unfortunately misunderstood. It read "that the M.C.C.A. leave resource development to the Provincial program and concentrate on working on the needs of users of day care." Because resource development and the management and operation of day care services was considered an important aspect of M.C.C.A. goals and not an area to be left solely to the direction of government departments the motion was defeated.

The real gist of the resolution was that the purpose of M.C.C.A. had been originally to fight for a decent program for children and users (working parents) and that the emphasis on resource development and the scramble to adapt to an unsatisfactory government program however necessary all that is, has usurped the energies needed to pursue the original function.

Where has all the anger gone? The program isn't much if any better than when 200 angry parents fired off their protest

telegrams to both Federal and Provincial government in June 1974. The Federal government hasn't moved an inch on its guidelines and policy which in turn have restricted the provincial government severely in its efforts to produce an adequate but still cost-shared program. To the province's discredit there is no real excuse for a long overdue comprehensive — if not yet free — program with which the province could be proud and independent of Federal control. Of course, single parents, ill parents, student parents and "special needs" parents should be subsidized. But all parents who need or choose to work should have access to high quality, low cost day care for their children. Nor should the community volunteer and mother who works at home raising pre-schoolers be ignored.

The government program is a welfare and a ghetto program. It is a welfare program because it is aimed at a small percentage of the eligible Manitoba children and very imaginatively excludes all but the most desperate and needy. Ghettoization is due to the income criteria which results in concentration of low income families utilizing the facility. The next level of

income (above \$10,960.00 net) is not enough to pay \$5.00 per day per child and the middle class child is excluded because of the desperate need of poorer counterparts.

According to government figures 60% of Manitoba's 105,000 pre-schoolers are now eligible for part or full time subsidy. 5% are expected to participate in the program at a cost of \$5.6 million. The government estimates that full utilization of a free universal program would cost \$65 million. It is unknown what percentage utilization to expect under a fully subsidized day care system. It is the potential 100% that petrifies government.

Whatever the potential usage, organized child care is a fundamental requirement in today's world of employed women. The stated goals of the Federal council of the New Democratic Party include "free, community-controlled child care centres open 24 hours a day for children of all ages." (Free Press January 20th.) The program being implemented by Manitoba's N.D.P. government has a long way to go. Meanwhile it can only be better.

Marilyn McGonigal



# National Women's Press Conference

## March 28, 29, 30 & 31

A Woman's Place, Winnipeg will be hosting a National Women's Press Conference.

The conference will include representatives from Women's Centres, Newsletters, Feminist Magazines and Newspapers. It is hoped that representatives from the Canadian Women's Educational Press and Vancouver's press gang will attend.

In late December the first conference of this nature was held in Saskatoon. Over 30 women from Victoria to Toronto attended. Aside from newsletter representatives, women from the *Other Woman*, *Branching Out*, and the Canadian Women's Educational press attended.

Much time was spent discussing the problems and situations of the Women's Movement in various centres. It was agreed that a solid net work of communication was needed to effectively link all feminist groups across the country. In order to have a strong and effective movement it is essential for women to be informed of events concerning them all over the country. It was also noted that when news does reach us it is often outdated.

### Status of "A Woman's Place"

Since it was announced that the centre would not be funded, Woman's Place has had numerous calls of support. In a sense this 'crisis' situation has brought the movement together. Active members have put in much time organizing around the situation (see article 'McKenzie Stalls,' January Issue *Women's Liberation Newsletter*) and many women who have never been to the house have called in their concern.

A meeting was held January 8th at which time a roster of volunteers was set up to staff the house. More volunteers are needed, particularly to act as a "pair" in the event that the regular volunteer for some reason is unable to be there.

There have been no paid staff at A Woman's Place since the end of November. The Newsletter is able to continue functioning as there is a relatively good newsletter collective but here again there is room for more people. Subscriptions coming in regularly pay for most of the costs involved. There is enough money to pay for the rent and utilities of the house for several months, although there is not enough to pay salaries. Although the house was closed for much of December hopefully we will

if an effective news exchange network can be formed, women across the country can respond to and organize around issues of importance immediately. A good example of news lag and its consequences is Otto Lang's interference with the Saskatoon Women's Centre grant. The situation did not become general knowledge in some cases for several months after the event.

A second conference was organized in order to include as many women's groups as possible. If there is adequate representation it is hoped that a national structure can be formed, perhaps a feminist news service.

Part of the conference activities will include workshops on various aspects of printing and publishing.

For more information about the conference please contact Pam Ainikov at A Woman's Place 786-4581.

Copies of an interesting discussion paper written by two Alberta women, "The Need for a Feminist Information Network in Canada" are available at A Woman's Place.

continue to be open although for limited hours only. As it stands now the house is staffed by volunteers from 10 am to 10 pm from Monday to Thursday. Friday and Saturday the house is open from 10 to 2 pm.

Many calls are referred to A Woman's Place by various establishments including the CBC. In November 1974 we had just under 200 calls (not counting calls for the Country Reels project or Personal calls).

### International Activities

Shirley G. E. Carr, Executive vice-president of the Canadian Labour Congress was elected workers' vice-chairman of the International Labour Organizations 10th regional conference of the Americas held in Mexico City. Representatives of Labour, management and government discussed improving the living and working conditions of peasants and strengthening tripartism within the organization and the nation states. The ILO is the oldest of the UN agencies and the only one in which government, employers and workers are represented. Mrs. Carr was elected CLC executive vice-president at the national convention of the Congress held in Vancouver last May.

*News Release, Canadian Labour Congress*

## Greetings from the Executive Committee

Here's to a successful International Women's Year. Let's hope that 1975 will generate sufficient understanding and goodwill and momentum to bring about real and lasting progress in the improvement of the status of women.

I am pleased to extend greetings and good wishes to members, supporters and interested readers in this first number of 1975. This promises to be an ACTION packed year. Do become knowledgeable and involved!

Elizabeth Feniak, Chairperson 1974

### Women and Law Conference

The Second Annual Conference on Women and the Law was held at the University of Manitoba, Friday, January 31st to Sunday, February 2nd. The theme was "Women and Labour." Friday the sessions concentrated on problems of Women in the Labour Force. Saturday, Human Rights and Legislative reforms. Sunday morning delegates met in a plenary session to form the National Association of Women and the Law.

Those who attended could agree that speakers such as Madeline Parent and Nancy Morrison were most stimulating and informative. It was evident that law, labour, and lobbying groups outside Manitoba are very active. Were those Manitobans attending the conference more sparked to organize, and lobby more effectively OR shall they remain passé women again in 1975?

### Some Firsts and Nearly Firsts For Women

*Lieut. Beverly Campbell*—appointed as aide to Lieutenant-Governor W. J. McKeag, the first time a woman has served in the post in Manitoba.

*Mary Staub*—Winnipeg Transit's newest bus driver.

*Constable Carol Briggs*—the first woman member of the R.C.M.P. posted to the detachment at Winnipeg International Airport.

*Mrs. Lorna Leader Elias*—appointed as Manitoba Civil Service Career Planning Co-ordinator with emphasis on promoting equal employment opportunities for the physically and mentally handicapped, the socially disadvantaged and women, in the Manitoba Civil Service.

*Mrs. Jeannette Cyr*—has been appointed Justice of the Peace for Selkirk.



# Women's Film Festival

**MARCH 12 & 13  
WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY**

Women make movies. Women made movies will be shown at a mini-film festival March 12 & 13! An important aspect of the women's movement is culture, finding our culture— making our culture.

The event will be a celebration!!

Refreshments? Of Course!

Women's groups and individual women artists are invited to display/sell their information and work.

Admission: Donations *Please*

The festival is sponsored by Winnipeg Women's Liberation and country reels, a feminist video group. We have tried to choose from the available films items that include a broad spectrum of interests and concerns. Most of the films have never been shown in Winnipeg. Wednesday and Thursday's program are identical.

For further information please contact Pam Atnikov, Jean Dunmire, Sara Berger, or Francine Geraci from Country Reels. c/o A Woman's Place 143 Walnut Street, Winnipeg R3G 1P2 Telephone: 786-4581.

DATE: March 12 & March 13  
TIME: 7:00 P.M. Onward (10?)

PLACE: University of Winnipeg, Lockhart Hall Theatres.  
(Ellice Street entrance is the least confusing)

## Women's Week in Flin Flon, Man. November 4th to 8th, 1974

The Business & Professional Women's Clubs normally hold "Business Week" across Canada, the first week in November of each year. In Flin Flon, we decided to join with Women's Action Committee and jointly hold Women's Week in place of the usual Business Week.

We had both luncheons and evening sessions, all open to any interested people in the community. We advertised on the radio, in the newspaper, and sent letters to the larger employers in our area inviting them to partake in all or some of our programs.

We tried to formulate a program that would have something of interest in it for everyone.

After each session our speakers were available for discussion, questions and answer periods.

The speakers that we arranged to have in Flin Flon were very inspiring and informative. Our committee was enthused with the excellent audience participation and the cross section of our community which turned out. We had young, old and in between, and they came back for more than one session.

Pamphlets were available on everything from birth control to cancer facts, Judging by how our stock was depleted many people took advantage of the information provided to them.

*Rose-Marie Ariko*

## Other Points of Interest on Day Care

Mary Eady of the Women's Bureau, Department of Labour wrote a brief and informative report on "Mothers in the Labour Force: their Child Care arrangements." Recommended reading.

The Free Press reported January 21st that it has been recommended that the City of Winnipeg require licensing of family Day Care providers where care lasts 3-14 hours per day, limiting them to 5 children including their own and regulating the use of basement and third stories for day care.

### Family day-care providers scarce

The difficulty currently being experienced by the parent eligible for partial or total subsidy is that the day care office can't handle all the requests for approved family day care providers. Homes must be approved before subsidy is granted. The criteria for approved homes includes a report from the Medical Officer of Health, a report from the Fire Inspector and a personal assessment of the provider from a personal service worker. Such criteria have of course been a necessary part of the Family Bureau Program and Foster Family programs. This is an understandably slow growth area of the provincial program. More private care

## 1975 Executive

The Table Officers and the six Members at Large were elected at the Feb. 6 Annual Meeting.

The following persons have been nominated and seconded and have indicated their willingness to serve the following positions:

CHAIRPERSON	Muriel Smith
VICE-CHAIRPERSON	Martha Colquhoun
TREASURER	Linda Shirray
SECRETARY	Lynda Yanz
MEMBERS AT LARGE	Patrice Pratt Pat Armstrong Randi Ahoff Marilyn McGonigal Vera de Bues Susan Currie

## New Appointments

The Hon. Marc Lalonde, in his capacity as Minister responsible for the Status of Women, announced the appointment of four members of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women. The new appointments to the Council are *Marthe Vaillancourt* of Arvida, Quebec, *Ruth Ann Spence*, of Yellowknife, N.W.T., *Mary Casey* of Halifax, Nova Scotia, and and *Sarah Sark* of Rocky Point, P.E.I. The appointments bring the Council to its full membership of 30 members.

arrangements are needed, more people encouraged to register and benefit from assistance and training available for approved homes. Meanwhile the eligible parent is denied the necessary day care subsidy.

"The absence of child-care centres is creating an economic gap" as women pour into the work force (U.S.) due to the inflationary pressures on family incomes. "Mothers needing work — and qualified to do it — are disqualified for lack of suitable places to leave their children while earning money to educate them."

*From an article by Elio Janeway,  
Economist, Free Press  
January 18, 1975*

MANITOBA ACTION COMMITTEE  
ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN  
447 WEBB PLACE  
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA R3B 2P2

