

NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 6072
St. John's, Nfld.
A1C 5X8

709 753 0220

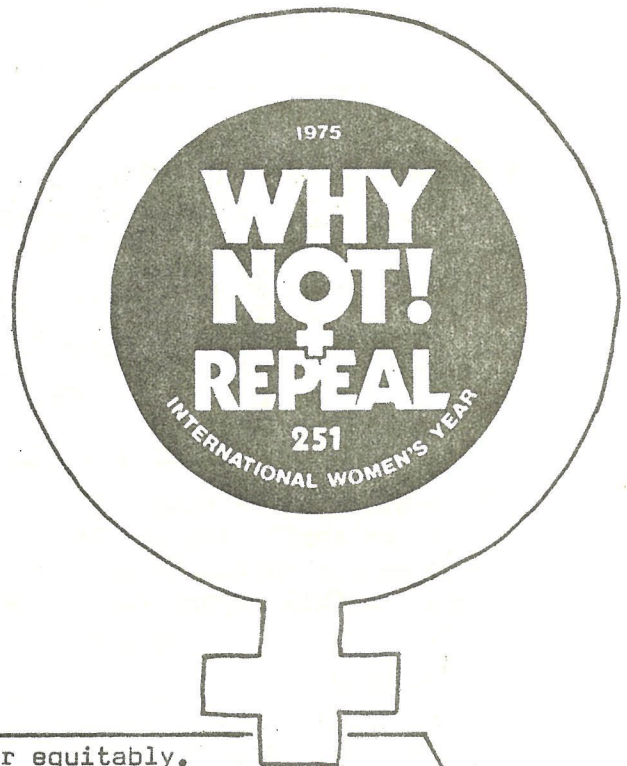
Y. W. C. A.
RESOURCE CENTRE

May 1975
Volume II, No.5

WOMEN'S CENTRE
77 Bond St.

What is the abortion law ?

Section 251 of the Criminal Code forbids Abortion except when in the opinion of the Therapeutic Abortion Committee of an approved hospital, "continuation of the pregnancy would or would be likely to endanger her (the woman's) life or health".



Why repeal it?

Because the law is not applied fairly or equitably.

What we have now is "Legal Abortion with Obstruction!"

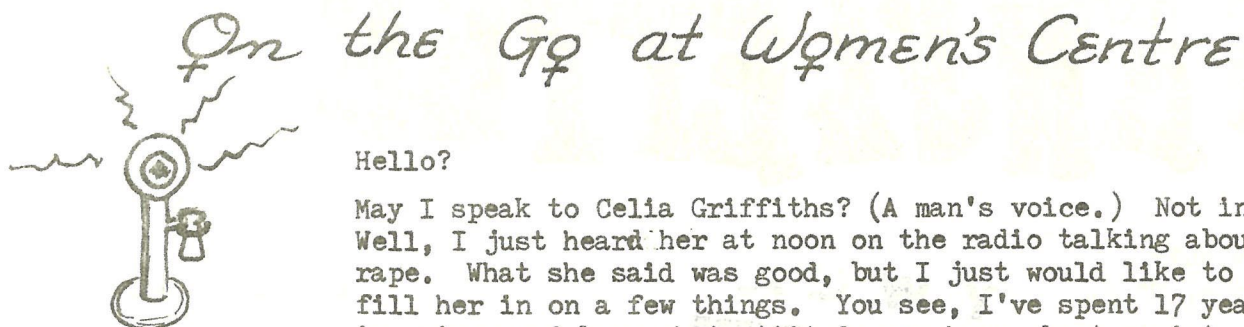
Only 259 of 1359 hospitals in Canada have established Therapeutic Abortion Committees. Some hospitals and doctors trying to serve the public within the law have been picketed, and intimidated by pressure groups and by the Minister of Justice.

The World Health Organization definition of health has been accepted by the C.M.A.: "Health is a complete state of physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity". At the time the law was passed Parliament was aware of this definition, and made no decision to modify or revise it.

Most hospitals do not apply the W.H.O. definition. Wealthy women can usually obtain abortions. Women who are poor, or live outside larger cities are frequently refused or forced to travel great distances. Turning a desperate woman to a quack abortionist certainly endangers her life or health.



Canadian Association for Repeal of the Abortion Law → Join NOW !

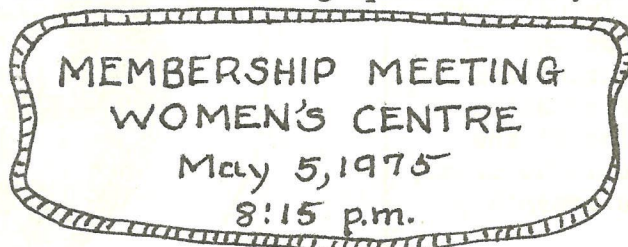


Hello?

May I speak to Celia Griffiths? (A man's voice.) Not in? Well, I just heard her at noon on the radio talking about rape. What she said was good, but I just would like to fill her in on a few things. You see, I've spent 17 years in prison and know what attitude men have about rapist. A rapist is treated badly by fellow prisoners. By the way, there's lots of raping taking place in St. John's that never gets reported. Women should be very careful about going out alone in isolated streets.

The above is a sample of what we might get when answering the phone at the WOMEN'S CENTRE these days.

May we share more of these interesting episodes with you at our ---



The 2 sessions on PROBLEMS OF DIVORCE as announced in the April Newsletter were held on April 14th and 21st. The turnout showed there is a need for women to have a chance to ask questions and discuss with others their problems. A full report will be made as to the outcome on May 5th.

♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀

COURSES underway - Metric conversion; Issues in the women's movement; Yoga

COUNSELLING SERVICES

5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Thursdays

Phone ahead to the Women's Centre if you want to take advantage of our counselling services. Professionals will help you with problems of health-care, the law and discrimination.

This issue of the NSWCL Newsletter was produced by Marian Atkinson, Jan Black, Sally Davis and our contributors. We invite contributions of original works for our next issue. The deadline to have them turned in at the Centre is May 15, 1975.

WOMEN'S CENTRE

DROP IN
*anytime
between*

9am - 5pm

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

1st Monday of each month

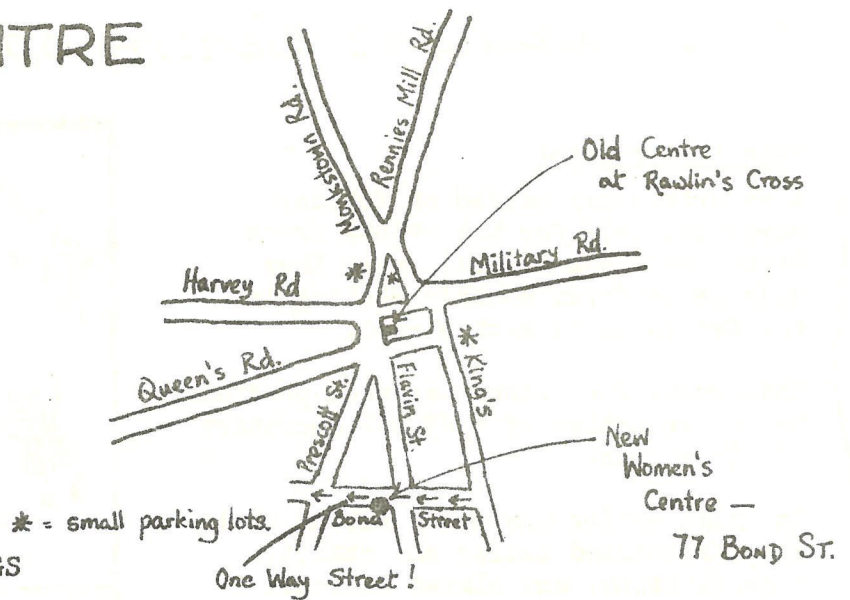
May 5th this month

EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

Most Wednesdays

8:15 pm until the wee hours

members welcome, too



Try us Saturdays
in the afternoons &

ON THE GO AT THE WOMEN'S CENTRE - continued

Our general membership meeting on the 7th of April was attended by about 30 members. We managed to whip through the business and turned the meeting into a tribute to Shirley Goundrey. Readings from Helen Porter, Ann Betz, Jull Schooley and Sally Davis told of the many trials and triumphs in the last few years. A very large cake and other assorted goodies finished off the evening.

The Women's Centre, amidst the constant flurry of activities, has been working hard on the Day Care issue. Ads in the newspapers and house to house petitioning has produced much support for the proposed Day Care Act which is now before the Cabinet. If you haven't already done so, please write to Hon. Ank Murphy, Minister of Social Services, Confederation Building, showing your interest in quality Care for all children. Ask when the proposed Act will come before the House. SEE FORM LETTER, LAST PAGE.

New Women's Centre opened

From Corner Brook

A milestone was passed on Tuesday March 18, 1975 for the Corner Brook Status of Women Council, when they held their first monthly meeting in the Centre on 31 West Street.

This renting of rooms was made possible by the reception of a \$3,007 Secretary of State grant.

On short notice the women put up their sign, assembled tables and chairs, hung curtains, and placed suitable reading material on walls and shelves.

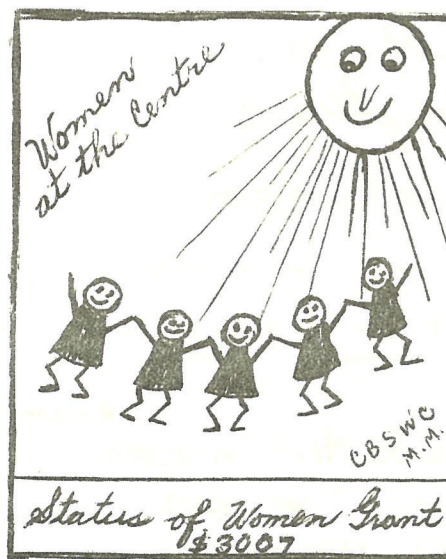
The special guests were three gentlemen who accepted an invitation to address the gathering.

They were Arch Brewer and Peter Hardy from the employment opportunities Division of the Department of Social Welfare, and Mark McLearn, president of the Corner Brook Branch of Early Childhood Development Association, who spoke on day care centres. Mr. Brewer and Mr. Hardy also stressed the need for a homemaker service.

Due to the length and importance of the discussion, many items on the monthly agenda had to be postponed for a future meeting (April 26).

After learning that the government may finance day care and homemaker service in Newfoundland, the members of the Council feel strongly that a fair share of this money, should be spent in this second city, for these facilities so sadly lacking. (Why not!)

Mary MacIsaac
Convenor for the
Literary Committee



Furniture Repair for Low-income Families.

There is a Local Initiatives Project sponsored by Probation Officers to provide work for juveniles on probation. It is called "Furniture Repairs" and will be in operation until July. These workers will repair and refinish furniture for low-income families free of charge. In some cases, there might be a small charge for materials. They cannot undertake upholstering, other than recovering chrome chairs, etc. If they do not get sufficient response from low-income families, they will do refinishing for others in higher income brackets for the cost of materials plus a small donation. For further information, phone 579-5991. The address is 232 New Gower St., formerly the F.J. Wadden Building.

Men will want to obtain from the Public Library or bookstores -

A MALE'S GUIDE TO WOMEN'S LIBERATION



OIL?

Margie Kirkham Smith, your friendly Golden Eagle woman, would like your support. In the last few months she has had as many as 15 customers refuse oil from her because she is a woman. The company backs her up completely and tells those people to buy their oil elsewhere but she would like to fill in the vacancies. Her route covers all points north of Harvey Road, as far west as Kenmount Rd., and east up Carpasian and Portugal Cove Rd. (see map at Centre). Golden Eagle's oil is refined in Holyrood and billing is done locally unlike other "come from away" companies. If you would like to buy your oil from Margie just call the office and let them know.

NO



Helen Porter (with 2 other women) has a grant to prepare an anthology of Newfoundland women's writings (poetry, short stories and articles). The women need not have been born here.

If you have written or read anything suitable she'd like to hear about it. (10 Penmore Drive, Mount Pearl, 368-3051).

SEEKING poems
stories
articles

FEMINISM

Women have been working for their rights for many years. The suffragettes fought for the right to vote in the early days of feminism.

Traditionally, women have been forced into the home. They have always cooked, cleaned, sewed, taken care of children, gathered food, and done any other odd little jobs which the man of the house could not possibly do after an "exhausting" day ploughing the fields. Women also chopped firewood, milked the cow, fed the animals, cured their hides, made clothes from them, and prepared the meat. Meanwhile, the husband was out hunting; a most fatiguing job.

Throughout the ages, women have been put down and had the work they did regarded as nothing. The men, however, have always been respected and revered for their feats of destruction; they were the warriors, the killers. It's time that people became recognized for what they did to build the world, not destroy it.

Personally, I have been put down by people because I believe in equal rights for women. Girls seem to think that I am 'threatening' their 'femininity'. Boys call me such things as queer, lizzie, and pansy plus other choice names. I am not saying that all people are like this; some have good attitudes towards feminism, and it is to these people I turn to save our future and self-respect so that I may continue to fight for the rights of all women.

Catherine Betz
Age 12.

CN Launching A Program For Equal Opportunity.

Montreal. Canadian National is launching a program to improve the status and involvement of women within the Company. As the first step seminars are to be held for senior management across the System to make them aware of any unconscious biases there may be against the recruitment development and promotion of female employees.

This was one of the subjects discussed by Robert A. Bandeen, president and chief executive officer, when he met with senior managers here in February.

The president said that to succeed the Company had to use the resources of all its employees - men and women - to the fullest. Last year, on its own initiative, the Company had brought in a firm of consultants to discover if female employees were being prevented from achieving their full potential because of prejudice, out-of-date attitudes or unwarranted concepts.

The consultants had interviewed 120 men and 190 women at all levels in System Headquarters and in the Great Lakes region. They looked at personnel policies and procedures, assessed the attitudes of management and female employees on the issue of women in the Company, and recommended action to meet any problems.

The findings were "devastating," said Mr. Bandeen.

Although about one-third of the Canadian workforce is female, only four per cent of CN employees are women.

In general workforce women hold 14.3 per cent of the managerial positions and 41.2 per cent of the professional and technical positions. In CN the number of women in senior management is less than one half of one per cent.'

The consultants said that there was a lack of expressed commitment by senior management to improve the standing of women in the Company.

The president made it clear the Company is committed to a policy of equality of opportunity for all employees - men and women.

"If we do not take steps to eliminate any handicaps that women in the Company may be suffering from we are denying ourselves of a pool of talent that we badly need," he said.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Having problems finding children's literature for your children? Books like "Make way for ducklings", "Ferdinand the Bull", "Whistle for Willie", "Madeline", "Curious George", and other proven favourites?

The Book Corner is stocking up in inexpensive paperbacks for children so try them first and support a women's enterprise.

THE BOOK CORNER

 Corner of Prescott & Water Street.

CONFERENCES

WOMEN AND HUMAN RIGHTS ----- Elinor Neubauer

Attitude of Under-Secretary of State, Mr. Jean Boucher, towards promotion of women in Federal Civil Service

The Secretary of State's Office recently sponsored a WOMEN AND HUMAN RIGHTS conference which I attended. Hugh Faulkner's deputy minister, Jean Boucher, commented in reply to a question by one of the delegates regarding what opportunities there were for promotion of women in the federal civil service that he felt by placing a few women in responsible positions, they would "demonstrate" their ability and competence and eventually more and more women would be promoted.

I challenged Mr. Boucher on this theory, pointing out that I regarded it very unjust that my promotion would have to depend upon the job performance of my female colleague in the next office. A man's promotion certainly does not depend upon how well or how badly other male employees perform.

He shrugged his shoulders and said "that's the way it is and that's the way it is with French Canadians and blacks, too." I pointed out that it still does not make it right and places the French Canadian woman or black woman at a particular disadvantage.

He told me I was "a young woman in a hurry" and "speak to him in 25 years time" as I would see a "big difference."

As I turned away I told him I didn't have 25 years to wait!

FEMINIST NEWS SERVICE ----- Sally Davis

There were 26 representatives of Women's Centres, women's presses, women publishers and other interested sectors present March 28 - 31 in Winnipeg to hammer out details for setting up a FNS.

The main obstacle as usual is finances, but the hope is to set up a centre in the eastern part of the country and another in the western half. When final plans are made the NFSW Council will present to the membership the full details. It will be up to our membership to decide to endorse the policies and procedures set up by the News Service or not. If we do decide we approve, we then can become a member and an integral part of the operation. Otherwise we can for a fee, become a subscriber and receive the packets of news articles, research papers, reports, etc. compiled from coast to coast on feminist doings.

I met some interesting and vital women from across Canada. If this concept can become a reality the Women's Movement will really make its message reach into every corner of Canada.

Of This And That

EVALUATION OF NEWFOUNDLAND SECONDARY SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS by OFY Project

An OFY Project submitted by Jane Goundrey and friends has been approved!

Six project workers (3 women and 3 men) propose to evaluate history, geography and English texts of the Nfld. Secondary Schools.

It is felt that school books must be free from prejudice, bias, and distortion of facts as much as possible. An investigation into possible racism, sexism as well as political, cultural and historical bias will be undertaken.

The workers will also look at alternate texts and evaluate and propose any that are considered suitable to replace the current texts.

The workers also propose to compile a bibliography of resource material for teachers to supplant present texts that are deficient.

A booklist with the findings of the project will be compiled & distributed to the appropriate people in Newfoundland.

PROGRESSIVE WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The first monthly meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee to form the Progressive Women's League will be held on Sunday 15 May, 1975 at

7:30 p.m. in the Women's Centre.

Further information will be available within two weeks, or call 754-0275.

MUN Film Society Presentation: WOMEN AND THE MOVIES - May 5 to 9

Arts and Culture Centre - 8 pm

Rarely, if ever, will you have the chance to see such a selection as this. The series includes:

ANTONIA, A DOLL'S HOUSE, THE FEMALE OF THE SPECIES, FOOLISH WIVES
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE, A WOMAN REBELS, ADAM'S RIB, SHE DONE HIM WRONG

ROSEMARY BROWN IS COMING TO ST. JOHN'S SOON

Watch for the announcement of the appearance of Rosemary Brown, leadership candidate for the N.D.P. Besides being a politician, Rosemary is a feminist and a socialist

A Poem

I married a millionaire
Because I wanted security
He gave me a diamond ring and a mink coat,
For washing dishes.
He lost his money in a recession.

I married a politician
Because I wanted power
While he campaigned I stayed home and cleaned floors.
He was defeated in a bye-election.

I married a lawyer
Because I wanted justice.
But while he was in court I baked pies and cakes.
And he became a Q.C.

I married a poet
Because I loved beauty.
But while he wrote I did the laundry.
No one bought his poems.

I have learned that I will not be given
Security
Power
Justice
And that I must create my own beauty.

Muffett Knowling 1975.

YOUTH and the FUTURE

Allied Youth!!!

I'm sure many of you reading this Newsletter will not have heard of Allied Youth. I didn't until I was asked to speak at their annual meeting held in Gander during the week of April 2 - 5th. These are groups of young people from the ages of 12-17 who have formed an organization and call themselves "Allied Youth." They are sponsored by the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Association of Newfoundland and Labrador. They have branches throughout the Island and once a year, representatives from all centres come together for the annual meeting and election of officers.

This year, the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Association contacted the Women's Centre requesting speakers on the topic of International Women's Year - this at the request of the Allied Youth Members. Del Texmo, Ruth Pierson and myself attended a one-morning session, each of us taking a different topic on women's issues. Del spoke on Dating, Love and Marriage, Ruth on the Working Woman, and I spoke on what the Women's Movement is doing here in Newfoundland, and Women and the Law. Each of us had a group of approximately 50 boys and girls, and in each group one person was selected to give a summary of our discussion to the total group at the end of the session.

Well, let me tell you that the enthusiasm, the uninhibitedness and the interest of each group was tremendous. Intelligent questions were asked, lively discussion persisted throughout the sessions and in general, the whole atmosphere was incredible, just incredible.

Del, Ruth and I left Gander feeling just wonderful - We couldn't help but feel that if this group, the next generation, could retain their healthy, liberated ideas throughout the next few years, we need not worry about the future. However, many of them still have the crucial high school years ahead - where the dating game becomes for so many the be-all and end-all. We only hope that they remember our discussions, the discriminations we pointed out to them, the ideas of a career and economic independence.

Only time will tell!!!

Marian Atkinson



Canadian Association for Repeal of the Abortion Law



"The Purpose of CARAL is to ensure that no woman in Canada is denied access to safe, legal abortion.

"Our aim is the repeal of all sections of the Criminal Code dealing with abortion, and the establishment of comprehensive contraceptive and abortion services, including appropriate counselling, across the country.

"We regard the right to safe, legal abortion as a fundamental human right".

I WANT TO JOIN CARAL!

NAME (Print)..... Phone.....

ADDRESS (Street)..... City.....

Name of Federal Riding or Member.....

Enclosed is my financial contribution of \$ _____

(Be as generous as possible --- programs like this are costly.

Minimums - individual \$5.00, family \$10.00, group \$50.00.

Students, senior citizens, unemployed \$1.00 minimum).

I AGREE WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF CARAL

Signature.....
(individual or officer of group)

Please return application and cheque to:

C A R A L, Box 424, Cambridge (P), Ontario. N3H 4T3

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Speak ☐ Write ☐ Telephone ☐ District ☐ Give ☐ Canvas ☐ Other ☐
Letters Co-Ordinator Money

What can **WE** *do ?*

- (1) Write to Dr. Henry Morgentaler, 118658 Bordeaux Jail,
800 Grovin Blvd.O.
Montreal, Quebec
- (2) Write to your local member, to cabinet ministers and the Prime Minister.
- (3) Tell him clearly that you favour removal of abortion from the criminal code or that you wish to make abortion a private matter between a woman and her doctor or that you favour the repeal of Section 251 of the Criminal Code. The present law is inequitable and prone to obstruction. The Criminal Code is only for criminals.

On The Road with Marian

Marian Atkinson, a member of the NSWC executive committee and more recently recognized for successfully executing an all day International Women's Day event in St. John's, is about to embark on a new project.

Marian has been hired by the International Women's Year Secretariat to spend from May 20th to the end of July visiting Newfoundland communities as far away at the Northern Peninsula. She and a second woman, Jenifer Soper, will go to Ottawa May 7th for training in the use of audio-visual materials and equipment, and in the art of public speaking. On their return they will equip a van with resources such as displays, films, slides, brochures, etc. supplied for them federally. There is a third person hired, coordinator Diane McIsaac, whose job will be to pave the way by visiting communities ahead of the van's arrival, and making the necessary arrangements.

Marian feels she will be learning a great deal about the present mood of women in our Newfoundland Communities and be able to help women with information on finding ways to alleviate their problems, whether they be health, education, or welfare.

ON THE ROAD WITH MARIAN could

very well be the heading for a column in our summer Newsletters

We wish you a rewarding experience, Marian!

un. un. un. un. un. un. un. un. un. un.

ADDITIONS to the LIBRARY

Marie Antoinette by Stephan Zweig

A biography of a woman who led a life of simple mediocrity and luxury until she was forced into involuntary acceptance of a heroic role.

Everything a woman needs to know to get paid what she's worth by Caroline Bird

Facts about the female job ghetto.

H.E.L.P. Home Emergency Ladies Pal

Deals with home emergencies from first aid to plumbing, electrical, etc. with simple step-by-step instructions.

Family Planning - Readings & Case Materials. Edited by Florence Haselkorn.

A source book and case material for social work education.

Family property (Working Paper 8)

Presents the views of the Law Reform Commission of Canada.

Divorce. Report of the Special Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Commons. June 1967.

Recommendations, Canadian divorce law & laws of other countries, grounds for divorce, procedure and jurisdiction, draft bill.

A REMINDER FOR THOSE WITH OVERDUE BOOKS

If your initials follow, please check your shelves for a book that needs to be returned to the Women's Centre.

J.C., A.B., J.H., D.S., J.B., C.M.,

F.Q., E.N., L.C., P.R., F.F.

un. un. un. un. un. un. un. un. un. un.

DAY - CARE

CLIP OUT AND SEND TO:

The Hon. Ank Murphy
Minister of Social Services,
Confederation Building,
St. John's,
Newfoundland.

Address: _____

Date: _____

Dear Sir:

The Children of Newfoundland and Labrador need Day Care Centres! Now is the time to act.

The Newfoundland Cabinet has in its hands a copy of a proposal for a Day Care Act which will begin to provide centres for all parents desiring this service regardless of the family income.

I would like to see Day Care for the Children of Newfoundland and Labrador. When will the people of this province get a Day Care Act to provide the necessary regulations and funding?

Sincerely,

WOMEN MUST HAVE FREEDOM OF CHOICE

Clip out and send to:

National Repeal Day
April 12/75

The Honourable Otto Lang, Minister of Justice, Ottawa.

Sixty-two percent of all Canadians over 18 years of age believe that the decision whether to carry a pregnancy to full term or to terminate the pregnancy must be made by the individual woman concerned. (Gallup Report October 1974).

I therefore ask that you support the repeal of Section 251 of the Criminal Code of Canada and encourage all hospitals to provide facilities.



NAME

ADDRESS

Womens Information Centre
165 Spadina Ave.
Toronto
Ontario

NSWC
P.O. Box 6072
St. John's, Nfld.
A1C 5X8

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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE NEWFOUNDLAND STATUS OF WOMEN COUNCIL

Name _____ Ph.# _____

Address _____

Donation _____ Renewal ()

New Member ()

I wish to support NSWC and the
WOMEN'S CENTRE financially by
pledging each month a sum of \$ _____

We publish a NEWSLETTER -

members	free
libraries	\$5.00/yr.
organizations	donation
Non-member donation	\$ _____
Send Newsletter ()	