

Report on the general membership meeting Tuesday January 12, 1982.

1. We will definitely put up a display for International Women's Day. Phone Marylou with your suggestions.
2. We will decide which community groups may use the Centre for a meeting place on a group by group basis.
3. We will do some preliminary work on gauging interest in, and the amount of work involved in, organizing a tour to Montreal to see The Dinner Party by Judy Chicago at the musee d'art contemporaine. Call Marylou at the Centre if you're interested.
4. Kathleen Howes will be our representative on the CARAL Board of Directors.
5. We will send \$3.00 to the Women's Health Education Network to be put on their mailing list.
6. We will check out interest in an intensive 12 hour weekend course in self-defense for women. Call Marylou if you're interested.
7. Ruth Reyno will replace Deborah Knuff as the Women's Centre member on the Board of Directors at the Sudbury Community Legal Clinic.
8. Responding to a request from the Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses, we will write to area M.P.P.s to urge their support for an all-party committee of the provincial legislature "to look into all aspects of wife abuse, including specific legislation affecting the funding of transition houses and improved general welfare assistance affecting their residents."

General Membership meetings

1. Tuesday, January 9 at 7:30 pm This will be a business meeting, including the adoption of the first by-law of the corporation.
2. Tuesday, February 23 at 7:30 pm. Guest speakers will be Marjorie Partington, Director, and Maureen Lacroix, board member, of the YWCA.

Committee Meetings

1. Resource Committee. Meets the second Thursday of each month at noon. In February - Thursday February 11.
2. Workshop Committee. Meets the first and third Wednesday of each month at noon. In February, the 3d and the 17th.
3. Membership Committee. Meets the second and last Tuesday of each month at noon. In February, the 9th and the 23d.
4. Fundraising Committee. Will meet Tuesday February 2 at noon.
5. Political Action Committee. No date has been set. Call the Centre.



February newsletter 82

38 Beech Street West, Sudbury, Ontario P3C 1Z3

telephone: (705)-673-1916



CHANGING THE SYSTEM: WOMEN AND A FAIR DEAL

by Joanne Jackson

Pension reform comes once in a working life-time. The last major reform was the development of the Canada Pension Plan system, instituted in 1963-4. Fortunately, both the Ontario Government and the Federal Government are now in the process of looking at current pension systems with an eye to changing the legislation. Women can now, if they speak with one voice, change the system to be equitable.

What are the changes to push for? Which changes will safeguard our future 30 years from now?

The Basic Changes

The best of all possible solutions would be the institution of a flat universal benefit set at a rate which would ensure each Canadian a decent standard of living. This benefit would come to all residents 65 years of age or older, regardless of previous work history, wage level or years of residency in Canada, and would be financed out of the general tax system the way Old Age Security is now. However, waiting for present governments to institute the universal benefit is like waiting for the second coming. So we must turn to revamping the current system.

Public pensions, private pensions and savings are the three tiers of the present system. Legislation can profoundly affect the private and public sectors of the pension field, as well as affecting the way we save for retirement.

Government pension systems should be restructured to provide an income of at least up to the poverty line for single pensioners. Two can live cheaper than one, but currently singles receive only 56% of a couple's benefit. Until a universal benefit system granting every pensioner a livable income is introduced, singles should receive 60% of a couple's benefit, as a temporary measure.

CPP can be revised to allow a "child-care" or dependant-care" drop-out period from the 47 years a person currently is considered available to the workforce and on which her pension is calculated.

Pensions for housewives should be given serious thought. One option, described by Louise Dulude in Pension Reform with Women in Mind, allows homemakers into CPP with wages assessed at one half the average Canadian wage (\$16,500 in 1980) and contributions to the plan collected from the wage or salary of the chief beneficiary of the homemaker's work, usually the husband.

Immigrant women with less than 40 years residency in Canada cannot receive full government benefits even at their current level. Residency requirements should be changed or we will

quickly create a second-class citizen, namely the immigrant woman pensioner.

Private pension plans need more reform. The Ontario Pensions Benefit Act should be amended to make a 60% survivor benefit automatic, unless both spouses wish otherwise.

Insurance companies sell money purchase pensions which give you an annuity. Women get less of an annuity for the same money because the companies use sex-based annuity tables. Women do not need less to live, so companies should introduce uni-sex tables to ensure an equal and non-discriminatory return for all people.

"Vesting" or "locking in" of benefits in a company plan ensures that some level of benefits will be paid by the company when the employee retires. Because of women's higher mobility in the workforce, an earlier vesting period would be to our advantage. Saskatchewan recently required vesting when the worker's age and length of employment added up to 45 years. This should be required nationwide as a minimum requirement.

If you could take your pension with you, you could get the benefit of all your years of labour. This portability factor can work to provide people with larger pension, if government and private companies can work out the practical difficulties of recognizing each others' pension credits. Protection against inflation of your pension, before and after you receive it, is very important these days. If the employer was required to use inflationary interest to pay pension increases, that would institute some inflation protection.

These are only a few areas where pension reform can be effected. For further information, Pension Reform with Woman in Mind, written by Louise Dulude, is an excellent study of the pension system as it is and as it should be. This book is available in English and French at the Women's Centre.

1982 SUDBURY WOMEN'S CENTRE MEMBERSHIP

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTAL CODE _____

TELEPHONE _____

\$5.00 Employed

\$3.00 Student

\$1.50 Unemployed

MAIL TODAY OR RENEW AT THE
FEBRUARY 21 POT LUCK AT 8 BAKER ST.

4

The Sudbury Women's Centre received the following resource material in January:

1. Women: Caring and Curing. Submission of the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women to Health Services Review '79. June 1980.
2. Women With Handicaps. Brief to the Special Committee on the Disabled and the Handicapped, CACSW' August 1980.
3. Priorities, Volume IX, No.6, November-December, 1981.
4. Position Paper of the CACSW on Reproductive Hazards in the Workplace, June 1980. 15pp.
5. Occupational Health Hazards to Women - A Synoptic View. CACSW. October 1976, 128pp.
6. Recommendations of the CACSW by Subject. January 1981. 104pp.
7. A whole mess of minutes etc. from NAC including the December 1981 NAC Memo
8. Communiqu'elles. Vol. 7, No. 8, December 1981.
9. Grapevine. Newsletter of the Lesbian Mother's Defence Fund. Fall 1981.
10. Report on Sexual Assault in Canada. CACSW. 87pp.
11. Pension Reform for Women. A CACSW discussion paper, December 1981, 19pp.
12. Healthsharing: A Canadian Women's Health Quarterly. Winter 1981.
13. ACTION: Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women. December 1981.
14. ACTION: Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women. January 1982.
15. Kinesis. December-January 1982.
16. CCCA (Concerned Citizens for Choice on Abortion) newsletter, No. 1 December 1981.
17. Canadian Labour. November-December 1981.
18. A Woman's Calendar (from A Woman's Place, Halifax) January 1982.
19. Hysteria. Vol 1. No. 3 Winter 1981.
20. Towards Equality For Women. booklet published by Status of Women Canada.
21. Action: A Publication of the Right to Privacy Committee, Vol. 1, No. 5.
22. package of information from the Women's Health Education Network.
23. Perspectives on Women: A Study Guide on the Status of Women. Secretary of State, Women's Programme.
24. I'm in Training to be Tall and Blonde. Nicole Hollander. 1979.
25. Have a Natural Christmas. Rodale Press. 1981.

Welcome these new members to the Centre!!!

Pat Tobin Kingston	Sandra Hathaway Sudbury	Linda Simpson Sudbury	Diane Beatty Sudbury	Joanne Nother Sudbury
Helen English Sudbury	Vivianne Dembiski Sudbury	Diane Paquette Sudbury	S. Labrosse Sudbury	
Anne-M. Bernier Sudbury	Joan Mulcahay Sudbury	Angela Farrell Sudbury	Margaret Yonick Chelmsford	
Lucille Malette Sudbury				

Workers at the Centre

Two student placements are busy busy at the Centre these days. Sandra Hathaway, a social work student at Laurentian, is working with the workshop and membership committees. Lynn Morin, a student in animation communautaire at Cambrian, is co-ordinating the revision of the Alternatives to Hysteria handbook.

Come and Visit

Every Thursday evening in February the Women's Centre will be open until 1:00 p.m. If you can never make it down to visit during the day, take this opportunity to drop in and see what we've been up to. (P.S. You can renew your membership at the same time.)

International Women's Day

DATE CHANGE International Women's Day will happen Sunday March 7, 12:00 - 5:00 pm at the Steel Hall on Frood Road.

Film Night: A cartoon and A Wive's Tale will be shown Thursday March 4 at 8:00 pm at the Sudbury Public Library in the auditorium.

Soup's On

Come to the Women's Centre every Friday for lunch from 12:00 - 2:00 pm.

Pot Luck supper

Yes, another scrumptious dinner! Bring your favourite dish to a Women's Centre pot luck supper Sunday February 21, 7:00 pm at 8 Baker Street (off Mackenzie past the Sudbury Public Library).

Volunteer Training

Volunteer training is under way at last. Dolores D'Amour of the Pastoral Institute will be conducting the first session on listening and communication skills. This will take place Wednesday afternoon, February 3 from 1:00 - 4:00. Everyone is invited. Call Marylou for more information.

Volunteer Training

Register now for the first volunteer training session and learn how to improve your communication and listening skills.

Wednesday, February 3
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Dolores D'Amour, of the Pastoral Institute, will be the session leader.

OPEN

yes we're

OPEN

till 10:00 pm.
every Thursday
in February

Come and visit !!!!!!!!

Come to a ...

6.

POT LUCK

Sunday February 2
7:00 pm
8 Baker Street

Workshop Workshop Workshop
WOMEN & DEPRESSION

Thursday, February 25
7.30 - 10.00 p.m.

Church of the Epiphany
(85 Larch St.).

daycare available

please register in advance
call 673-1916

WOMEN & DEPRESSION
WOMEN & DEPRESSION
WOMEN & DEPRESSION

FEBRUARY AT THE WOMEN'S CENTER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		12.00 Fundraising Ctee.	12.00 Workshop Ctee. 1-4 Volunteer Training *	We're open till 10.00 pm 11	SOUP'S ON	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	4.30 IWD	12.00 Membership Ctee. 7.30 Membership Meeting		12.00 Resource Ctee. till 10.00 pm. 18	SOUP'S ON	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Women in Trades 7.30 Steel Hall.		12.00 Workshop Ctee.	Rape Crisis 1.30 Forum (SPL) 25	SOUP'S ON	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
* Pot Luck 7.00 8 Baker St.		12.00 Membership Ctee. 7.30 Membership Meeting		Depression * Workshop till 10.00 pm.	SOUP'S ON	
28						

* see page 514.



38 Beech Street West
Sudbury, Ontario P3C 1Z3

telephone: (705)-673-1916

1982
II

5



Hysteria
Box 2481 Stn. B
Kitchener, Ontario