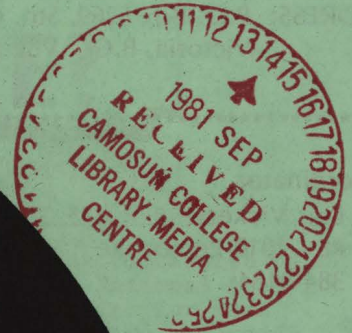
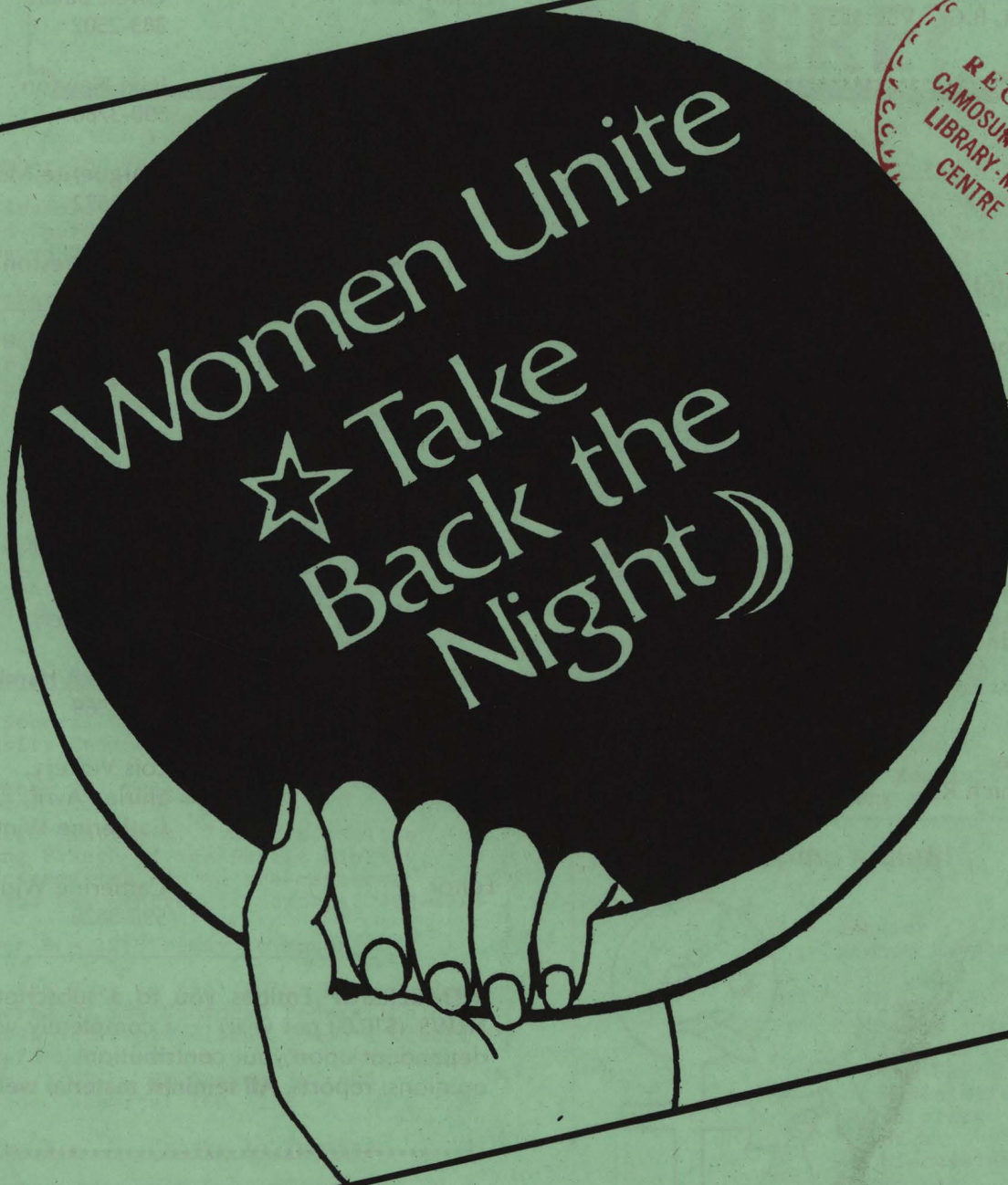


HQ 1154

CAREY ROAD S954

swag STATUS OF WOMEN NEWS



The Victoria Status of Women Action Group was formed in 1971 in order to work for the implementation of the Report of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women; to foster public knowledge of the rights and status of women and to promote full participation of women in social, economic and political life.

SWAG is a voluntary group, registered as a society with an executive elected annually.

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 6269, Stn. C,
Victoria, B.C. V8P 5L5

Co-ordinator

Lois Vickery
#6 - 1010 Pembroke
384-9134

Program Co-ordinator

Gwen Bavin
1160 Greenwood
383-2502

Media Co-ordinator

Avis Rasmussen
3050 Uplands
598-3188

Conference Co-ordinator

Liz Bristowe
4834 Townsend
479-0937

Correspondent

Pam Blackstone
9026 West Saanich Rd.,
Sidney, RR#2
656-7776

Recorder

Lynn Gough
893 Leslie Dr.,
384-7825

Treasurer

Diana Butler
2149 Granite
598-6964

Membership Co-ordinator

Sylvia Watson
129 Ontario
V8V 1M8 382-3914

Contact Persons

Each of the Contact Persons has a particular area of interest in women's issues. Members who share that interest or, have a concern or problem in that area are encouraged to make contact.

Contact Persons

Family Law

Gwen Bavin
383-2502

Education

Jean Newton
598-3786

Marguerite Mousseau
479-1572

Human Rights

Norrie Preston
598-1390

Health

Susan Moger
592-4215

Labour

Stella Lord
595-2542

Feminist History

Alice Albert
382-1536

Archives

Alice Albert

Social Services

Elizabeth Hamlet
595-2569

Newsletter Editorial Board

Lois Vickery,
Shirley Avril,
Catherine Winter

Editor

Catherine Winter
598-3620

MEMBERSHIP Entitles you to a subscription to SWAG NEWS (\$10.00 per year) — a completely volunteer effort dependent upon your contributions . . . poems, articles, opinions, reports. **All feminist material welcome.**

Meetings/Workshops SWAG meetings are held the fourth Monday of each month (except when it falls on a holiday) at the James Bay Community Centre, 140 Oswego St., Meeting Room. 2, 7:30 p.m.

WHO? WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

September 16, Wednesday

Rape/Assault Centre Benefit. 8p.m. First United Church, 932 Balmoral Shari Ulrich and David Serotta.

September 18, Friday

Take Back the Night March. 9 p.m. Starts at Central Park (next to the Crystal Pool) and goes along Quadra to Pioneer Square. Child care avail.

September 19, Saturday

Women's Network Barbecue Picnic 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Saanichton Experimental Farm, 8801 East Saanich Rd. Bring a picnic lunch, BBQ pit available. Bring recreational equipment. For information and transportation call Nancy Johl, 386-6167, Sue Hyatt, 721-0497, Sandra Aitken, 652-4359.

September 28, Monday

SWAG General Meeting. 7:30 p.m. James Bay Community Centre, 140 Oswego. Topic: BCFW

September 29, Tuesday

Marriage Contracts. 7:30 p.m. Nellie McClung Branch of the Public Library. For information and to pre-register call the Law Centre of Victoria, 388-4516

October 9 - 12, Friday to Monday

Women and Work in the '80's. Lake Louise Sponsored by the Canadian Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs. For information write to: Dr. Geraldine Farmer, 11027 - 87 Avenue No. 603, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2P9

October 9 - 13, Friday to Tuesday

World Congress of Women, Prague, Czech. Briefs can be submitted through The Congress of Canadian Women, Box 188, Station E, Toronto, Ont. M6H 4E2 (The Congress will be in Toronto in May 1982)

October 17 -18, Saturday and Sunday

Women and the Criminal Code. Sponsored by the Victoria Caucus of the National Assoc. of Women and the Law. At UVic. For more information call Joyce Johnston, 383-3485 or Lesley Sheldon, 595-6084. Register by September 25.

October 21, Wednesday

Child Prostitution Conference. At UVic. Registration \$25. For information call Alice Albert, 382-1536

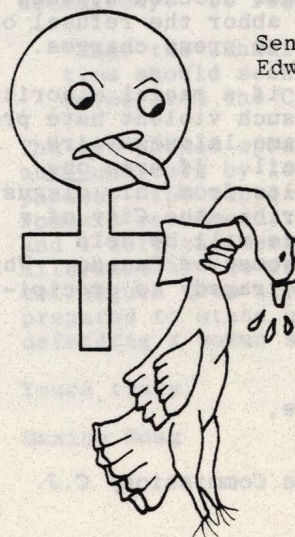
October 23 and 24, Friday and Saturday

Women and Work. The 1981 SWAG Conference. Keynote speaker G. Errington, Friday evening. 18 workshops available on Saturday Registration \$10. Registration forms will be available soon from Everywoman's Books, UVic Women's Cooperative, Camosun College Library. For information call Pam Blackstone, 656,7776 or Lois Vickery, 384-9134

Early November

Feminist History Group Meeting. Details in the next Newsletter.

Turkey of the Month!



Senator
Edward Lawson

for his
bawdy jokes
told to
the Bar
Association
in place
of a
discussion
on the
Constitution

See the
Globe and
Mail for
Sept. 3/81

Letters



Dear Mrs. Blackstone:

Thank you for your recent expression of support for the Vancouver Island Haven Society's request for a transition house in Nanaimo. I am pleased that you have chosen to share your views with me.

The development of transition houses in this province has been valuable, as these facilities provide a much needed service to women and children in crisis situations.

My staff have offered to negotiate a per diem rate with the Society to establish a transition house. However, I am sure you will understand that my Ministry receives a great number of proposals for funding, and that these must be considered in light of financial constraints, Ministry priorities and local needs.

In the meantime, my Ministry can arrange for emergency accommodation for women either in hostels or motels, or it can contract with societies for accommodation and counselling services.

I thank you for expressing your views, and send best wishes to you.

Sincerely,

Grace M. McCarthy

* * * * *

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing with regard to an article published recently by the University of Alberta Engineering Society, advocating that engineering students looking for "unusual sexual challenges" should kidnap young girls, sexually abuse them, murder them, then rape the corpses.

While we are no longer shocked at such blatant misogyny we abhor the refusal of the Edmonton Police to press charges.

We seriously doubt, if a racial minority were the target of such violent hate propaganda, that the same laissez-faire attitude would prevail. If even one sexual assault results from this disgusting misogynist diatribe, the City of Edmonton police force will be held accountable to the women of Canada. Why must it always take tragedy to precipitate action?

Yours,

Pamela L. Blackstone,
Corr. Coord.

cc: Edmonton Police Commission/ C.J.

Purvis, Mayor, City of Edmonton/ Edmonton Journal/Alberta Status of Women Action Committee

* * * * *

Dear Ms. Blackstone:

The article described in your letter of May 18, 1981 appeared in a printed publication of the University of Alberta Engineers entitled "Godiva" released in January 1981. On the basis of public complaints, and consistent with the instructions of the Attorney General of Alberta in such cases, investigators of this department obtained copies and presented them to the office of the Senior Agent for the Attorney General in Edmonton with a request that consideration be given to a charge under section 159 of the Criminal Code. We were subsequently informed, on the basis of two legal opinions, that a charge could not be supported by reason of insufficient evidence, having reference to section 159(8) of the Code which reads:

"For the purposes of this Act, any publication a dominant characteristic of which is the undue exploitation of sex, or of sex and any one or more of the following subjects, namely, crime, horror, cruelty and violence, shall be deemed to be obscene."

In other words the Crown found that the contents of the balance of the publication failed to meet the criteria and therefore prosecution under section 159 for obscenity could not be pursued.

A great many persons and organizations at the University and in the city expressed outrage at the content of this article and I understand that the individual responsible is no longer associated with the publication. A further complaint was lodged with the Alberta Human Rights Commission but the commission investigators were unable to proceed because their legislation does not extend to cover the objectionable act of publication.

I wish therefore to assure you that the Edmonton Police Department has carried out its lawful responsibility to identify and refer material believed to be obscene to the appropriate officer of the Crown. If in this instance the offensive act remains exempt from the criminal law as it presently exists then you and other persons may care to make your opinions known to your Members of Parliament.

Yours truly,

Robert F. Lunney
Chief of Police

* * * * *

Dear Mrs. Blackstone:

The Victoria Southern Africa Action Coalition has received your letter of endorsement of the current campaign to stop the sale of South African wines and liquors in B.C. Government liquor stores. The expression of solidarity by SWAG in support of this campaign to oppose the apartheid policies of the South African government is very much appreciated. With thanks,

Yours sincerely,

Peggy Monro
Secretary, VSAAC

* * * * *

Dear Sisters:

Would you like to join us in supporting our sisters of Nicaragua in their fight for liberation?

We recently went to Nicaragua and were both impressed by the decisive role that Nicaraguan women played in the revolution, and are now playing in the building of a new society.

Among many other activities, they are involved in women's battalions, women's production cooperatives, daycare pilot projects, the health campaign, the revival of their culture and an ongoing fight against sexism. They are also playing a prominent role in local defense committees (CDS), and other mass organizations, such as the agricultural workers association. Also, they have their own organization, AMNLAE.

However, they face many difficulties: lack of material resources, inadequate support facilities, limited funds, etc. Fundamentally, there is no guarantee that the gains they have made will be long-lasting. The tense situation in Central America and the possibility of a right-wing coup and/or external military intervention in Nicaragua pose a serious threat to further social change and women's emancipation.

For these reasons, support for Nicaraguan women's struggles is crucial. We would like to see all women's groups in B.C. united in: educating ourselves about the situation of women in Nicaragua; support activities, such as allowing LA VOZ DE LA MUJER, AMNLAE's newspaper, to be published again by subscribing to it, or just sending contributions; organizing a delegation of B.C. women to Nicaragua. There will be a group going next winter, Dec. 19th-Jan. 3rd.

Other ideas have also been suggested. We

have already asked AMNLAE to send us information about the health campaign. We would like you to consider this information and, if you are interested, please, contact us as soon as possible.

Yours sisterly,

Jeanne and Katherine

Phone: 525-8136 and 731-1454
Address: 1526 - 7th Avenue/New Westminster/V3M 2K3

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

I would like to correct your news article on the BCTF's annual general meeting. I attended the meeting as one of 13 Greater Victoria Teachers' Association delegates, and even lined up at the microphone to speak to the Status of Women's controversial motions. Two were passed, both by a majority of 60-70 per cent.

The first was the one referred to in the May newsletter. It read:

"That the BCTF support the right of females, regardless of age, marital status, income, or geographical location to: (a) have access to a full range of information, counselling, and medical services with respect to their health and well-being, (b) decide whether or when to have children."

This motion was the one you referred to. It is true, as you say, that "the recommendation did not include the word abortion but the debate made clear that was the issue."

However, you failed to mention that a second recommendation, which was the last to be discussed during the last session of the last day, did refer directly to abortion, and was passed just as decisively. It read:

"That the Canadian Teachers' Federation should seek to have abortion removed from the Criminal Code."

The pro-choice speakers outnumbered the anti-choicers by 10 to 1 at the microphones. The support for the Status of Women's recommendations was overwhelming, and I left the meeting inspired and exhilarated by the fact that so many of my colleagues from across the province, were prepared to stand up and be counted, in defending a woman's right to choose.

Yours truly,

Maxine Boag

Open letter to the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women

Dear Council Members:

The recent conference on Women and the Constitution was a great disappointment to me. I attended because I wanted to give a vote of confidence to the Advisory Council. The vote of confidence was based on my appreciation of past performance on the researching of women's issues as they apply to the federal government. I have found the Council always willing to take a stand for the rights of women and competently defend that position to the federal government. That vote of confidence was also based in my frustration at attending the 1981 National Action Committee Convention and finding no voice to give information concerning the perspectives of those women who had chosen to remain on the Council.

However, I now feel that my confidence was ill placed. The CACSW Women and the Constitution Conference was political window dressing: A very expensive effort to pretend that the Council speaks for the women of Canada. The panelists were excellent. But what did they say that could not have been said in February? The information was all vital, but no more current than it would have been three months ago. Then, given your extra preparation time, you still did not have complete translations of speeches, maps and signs for out-of-towners, complete texts of briefs to be presented, child care, adequate space or even the juice promised for breaks.

I was also disappointed in the conference structure. I have organized five large scale conferences for women and attended a legion more. One component is characteristic: Participants get involved. The experience is personal. This conference was rigid. We did not come together and share information, experience and strategy. We came and listened to the experts. Period. Informative? Perhaps, if you had not read the book. Energizing? No!

Questions were allowed on a limited basis, but it was clear from the structure that the Council wanted no discussion and no feedback. The Council hid behind the experts who had no responsibility beyond their presentations. Council members were not even available for questions. There we were, six hundred women in one space with virtually no interaction. Why? So the government could say, "Look how we encourage/allow women to participate?" So the Council could say, "We got all these women together, we must be doing something right?"

I would have been satisfied with much less elaborate receptions and luncheon if my accommodation could have been paid and that money could have stayed with my local group where I know that every penny counts. The excess of food and drink displayed an insensitivity to the poverty of women in Canada.

How much more profitable if the panelists could have continued their presentations as a debate or discussion for the benefit of us all and then spent time with small groups of women who had already read the position papers and Council publications on these issues. Each Council member could have chaired a group discussing her particular area of interest and expertise.

How shortsighted to have wasted Sunday. Coming from Victoria I was one of those farthest from home, yet I was in Ottawa all day Sunday due to my flight arrangements. It was absurd to bring women across the country for one day of lectures. If you had offered more than a token contact I am sure you would have found women willing to commit more than one day.

I would also have very much appreciated introductions of and background information on Council members. I did not think that conference participants adequately reflected the wide social, economic, cultural or even regional base of Canada's feminists. Now I wonder; does the Council?

The women of Canada deserve and need a representative and powerful Advisory Council at the federal level of government. Nothing less is acceptable.

In the struggle for sisterhood and liberation,

Shirley Avril

cc: Norrie Preston/National Action Committee on the Status of Women/ Kinesis/ Broadside/Kathleen Ruff/Serge Joyal/Lloyd Axworthy/Flora MacDonald/Allan McKinnon/ Pauline Jewitt/Stanley Knowles/Janice Thorsen/Stephanie Hudson/Dorothy Holme/ Diana Bellhouse/Beverly Nann

* * * * *

Dear Ms. Avril:

Thank you for your thoughtful letter of June 10.

Needless to say, I was very sorry to hear that you were disappointed with the Council's conference on women and the constitution. I was surprised too, because all of our information back on the conference,

while containing suggestions, has been very positive. Our impression is that women managed to garner a great deal of information in the one day session - information that is absolutely necessary if we are to bring our concerns forcefully to the attention of governments.

I would like to comment on several of the points you made in your letter. On the content of the conference, I agree with you, of course, that the information was vital. The reason it made more impact in May than it would have last February is that we were able to concentrate on constitutional issues - family law, custody, social services and other areas of day-to-day concern to women - other than the Charter. The February conference, although very effective, was, as I am sure you will agree, almost completely on the proposed new Charter of Rights and Freedoms. We felt, and still feel, that the Council had worked very hard, at great expense and with a high degree of success on pressing for changes in the Charter and that we ought to move on to other aspects of constitutional reform. I believe that the May conference got us off to a good start. The Council has already taken action on some of the concerns expressed by the women at the conference. We will, for example, be presenting a brief - prepared by Mary Eberts, a lawyer in Toronto and Audrey Doerr of Simon Fraser University - to the Parliamentary Task Force on Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements, early next week. We plan to have a paper prepared on how to proceed with a legal defence fund for women. (I imagine you have already heard from Mary Eberts on this.) And we are now preparing a kit to cover all of the issues raised at the conference which will be extremely useful for women in lobbying federal and provincial government for change.

The format of the conference remained the same as that planned in the beginning. The conference was designed to be informational and in this regard we believe it worked very well. I agree with you, though, on the participation and, in retrospect, I would perhaps say that the agenda was too packed. We tried to do too much in one day. I would, again in retrospect, (much the best way to plan conferences) have had a lighter program. The conference was controlled only to the extent that the agenda was tight and not because of any lack of interest in discussion of the issues by the Council. Most of the Council members attended and there were also a large number of former Council members there. I know that most of the members and former members had discussions with the women present from their region. I am sorry that you did not talk to the members but

in a crowd of over 750 people it is difficult to organize discussions between individual persons.

The conference was planned to provide information to women on constitutional reform and its effect on women and was not planned in any way as information on the Council itself. With regard to the representation of Canadian women by the CACSW, I can only say that while it is true that no one organization can represent all women in Canada (life would be simpler if that were so), I think that the Council is representative of a large segment of women. Having said this, I think it is well to remember that all of our groups and organizations together do represent all or most of the women in Canada. That is why it is very important that we work together. We need all of us. You very likely know the CACSW members in your area. Norrie Preston has been active in her community and on behalf of women for many years. Edith Nee, a business woman in Vancouver, is very active on the Council's Pension Committee and works closely with immigrant women, and Rhoda Witherly, a broadcaster in Prince Rupert works on women and employment and is involved in all aspects of the women's movement. We believe these women to be hard-working and dedicated and to represent, during their term, the interests of women in that region.

It is always difficult to comment on the social part of conferences. We receive, in all of our public events, two different criticisms. Some women feel that we are not treated in the same way as a male group in Ottawa on similar business would be treated and some feel that our arrangements are too lavish. It is all good to know in planning future meetings.

I have sent a copy of your letter to all of our members, so no doubt you will be hearing from some of them as well.

Again, I regret that you did not find the conference valuable, but I would like to thank you for troubling to give us your views. We appreciate this.

Yours sincerely,

Lucie Pepin
President

* * * * *

Dear Shirley:

Thanks for including us on your copy list. As you know, NAC boycotted the conference, and therefore it was interesting to get some perspectives on it.

The question is - what next??? We have passed two motions on this at Executive Meetings (enclosed). The first was received with enthusiasm and interest before the conference, but after the conference CACSW and Status of Women Canada appeared to be saying we can wait - "things will change."

We don't believe they will just change... we believe we have to help manage that change. We therefore passed another motion - Terry Padgham will be responsible for executing it over the summer - please write and give her your views.

Sincerely yours,

Jean Wood
President

cc: Terry Padgham

-Enclosure-

Representation of Women to Government

Progress on motion from May 2/3 Executive Meeting (cited in May MEMO):

"Moved that Jean Wood, representing NAC, will join with other national women's groups such as CCLOW, CRIAW, Ad Hoc Committee, NAWL, to approach the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, Status of Women Canada, Labour Canada Women's Bureau, Secretary of State Women's Programme, to discuss how women will be represented to the government in the next ten years. The discussion will include the structures, functions, roles, responsibilities and relationships of government groups and voluntary organizations. The results of these discussions will be made public."

All groups approached, including the governmental groups, were very supportive of the idea. Most appeared to feel that the time was right for such a review and that it would allow the women's movement in Canada to move forward with renewed purpose and vigor. The next step was to set up a meeting - this proved problematic - the voluntary sector was still interested, but the government sector, specifically Status of Women Canada and the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, appear to have currently lost enthusiasm for the idea. A response from CACSW suggested the idea might be reviewed in the fall after their internal review.

NAC has decided to proceed on its own. Another motion was passed at our June 20/21 Executive Meeting:

"That NAC establish a task force on how the

women of Canada should be represented to the Government of Canada, with participation by other national women's organizations, to invite submissions by our member organizations and any other interested groups or individuals to hold a public meeting on the issue in Ottawa on the occasion of the NAC December Executive Meeting."

TERRY PADGHAM from Edmonton, Alberta, was nominated to the chair. We intend to proceed, in as comprehensive a fashion as our resources permit. We believe our original motion provided a new way for the women's movement in Canada to work together. We are committed to fulfilling the idea with those women's groups who share our concern.

* * * * *

Dear Ms. Hall:

I am writing on behalf of the Victoria Status of Women Action Group to offer our congratulations on your victory re pro-choice motions passed at the recent BCTF Annual General Meeting.

It is heartening to know that teachers confronted with the alarming increase in teenage pregnancy will have the support of their union in making information available and assisting students to make informed choices. It is also most encouraging to hear that you plan to lobby at the federal level. The BCTF will be a powerful ally for the pro-choice movement in the ongoing battle over women's reproductive rights.

Our congratulations!

In sisterhood,

Pamela L. Blackstone
Correspondence

cc: Brian Smith, Minister of Education

* * * * *

Dear S.W.A.G.:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Women's Collective at the University of Victoria. The Collective is a newly-formed group, though most of our members belonged to the now-defunct UVic Women's Action Group. The change from WAG to the Women's Collective is due mostly to the acquisition of a room, small but equipped with phone and furniture and budget, which has become the beginning of the Women's Centre on UVic's campus. Several of us are spending much of this summer getting the Centre in order for the fall term, and the first order of business is getting ourselves known, and getting to know other groups, and thus this letter.

The purpose of our Centre is basically two-

fold. First, we would like to provide a place for UVic women to turn to for information not found other places on our campus, and to have a place for relaxation and socializing. Secondly, The Centre, the Centre provides the Collective (to which any campus woman can belong) with a base for its activities, something WAG did not have. We are setting up self-defence workshops for the fall, and, tentatively, a Women's Health Series which would cover topics such as dysmenorrhea, stress, nutrition, birth control et al. In addition, we are planning films, speakers, and social activities. At this time we are preparing a Resource list for referrals on and off campus, and we are slowly building a library of books and periodicals.

This is very briefly us - since many of us are relatively new to Victoria and/or to the Collective/WAG, will you tell us about you? What you do, who you are, any information about your group at all, so that we have a clearer understanding of everyone out there. We haven't reached the newsletter stage yet, but we do want to keep in contact. Hoping to hear from you.....

Sincerely,

Sally Gose
UVic Women's Collective

* * * * *

Dear Editor of Monday Magazine:

I am writing with regard to the latest development in the CUPE strike. While all other locals have received acceptable offers, the (mostly female) inside workers voted by a 75% majority Sunday to turn down an unfair and divisive offer, and remain on strike. The Status of Women Action Group heartily applauds this courageous move.

The offer they received - and turned down - could best be described as a divide-and-conquer tactic by management. The school aides, who - along with clerical workers - comprise this local, were offered a 46% increase. The clerical workers, however, received only a 38% offer. We were pleased to see that this attempt to divert them from their objective - wage parity with the male outside workers - failed!

At present, a janitor, with no appreciable job skills, starts at \$8.17/hour. A clerical worker receives only \$6.10/hour starting pay. The outside workers have received the \$3.15/hour increase they demanded. Had the women accepted their offer (less than \$2.50/hour more for clerical workers) the gap would be wider. These women want wage parity with their male counterparts. SWAG was pleased to see them stick together in

the face of a potentially divisive offer. We support them whole-heartedly and ask for the community's continuing support. The issue is equal pay for women.

Sincerely,

Pamela L. Blackstone
Correspondence, SWAG

* * * * *

An open letter to:

Mrs. Grace McCarthy, Minister of Human Resources/Mr. Allan Williams, Attorney General/
Mr. Jim Nielsen, Minister of Health

I am writing on behalf of the Victoria Status of Women Action Group concerning the withholding of government funding from the Victoria Rape/Assault Centre.

We are outraged that your government has chosen to cut off this organization's operating funds. The work they do in the community is vital. There is no doubt, unfortunately, that there is a crying need for this Centre's services.

We understand that your government is engaged in a dispute with the Centre concerning confidentiality and the Centre's community outreach work. The Rape/Assault Centre is committed to confidentiality for its clients, and to betray this would be to betray them. To allow government personnel open access to private files is un-thinkable. So you are calling it "evaluation"...we call it invasion of privacy. Moreover, the Centre is dedicated to not only band-aid treatment but to fighting rape through education and information. We, along with the members of the Centre, hope to see an end to rape - through making women aware of the problem. Your government's attitude is serving only to ensure a continuing demand for the Centre's services.

The "strings" attached to your funding are unreasonable and unfair. You are playing games with women's lives. Once again, your government is demonstrating its callous indifference to issues concerning women's health and safety.

Angrily,

Pamela L. Blackstone,
Correspondence

cc: Mr. Bill Bennett, Premier/Rosemary Brown, NDP MLA/Charles Barber, NDP MLA/
Gordon Hansen, NDP MLA/"Times-Colonist"/
"Monday" Magazine

* * * * *

Dear Madam:

Thank you for your letter dated June 14, 1981 expressing your concerns regarding the funding of the Victoria Rape Centre Society.

I wish to assure you the Provincial Government has not terminated funding to the Victoria Centre, nor any other Rape Centre in the Province. Signing of the 1981/82 contract between the Coalition of B.C. Rape Centres Society and the Province has been delayed, but the necessary documents are now in the possession of the Coalition and as soon as these are signed, funds will be released.

The concerns expressed by the Coalition's representatives with respect to confidentiality were discussed and resolved at a meeting in Vancouver on May 20th, 1981 and clauses have been added to the contract to ensure client confidentiality.

The evaluation itself is an effort to effectively understand the Rape Centre's operations and their relationship with other groups who have contact with rape/assault victims. The anticipated outcome of the review is improved service to the client.

I appreciate your taking the time to write and advise me of your concerns in this matter.

Yours very truly,

Allan Williams
Attorney General

cc: Honourable Grace McCarthy, Minister of Human Resources/Honourable James Nielsen, Minister of Health

* * * * *

Dear Ms. Blackstone:

I have your letter of June 14, 1981, concerning funding of the Victoria Rape/Assault Centre.

I wish to assure you the Provincial Government has not terminated funding to the Victoria Centre, nor any other Rape/Assault Centre within British Columbia. Although signing of the 1981/82 contract has been delayed, both my Ministry and the Ministry of Human Resources have issued funds to the Coalition for April, May and June, 1981.

The concerns expressed by Coalition members with respect to confidentiality of client records was agreed to by Ministry representatives at a meeting on May 20, 1981, and safeguards have been included in the 1981/82 contract.

The evaluation of the Coalition's services is not intended to breach client confidentiality. It is an effort to objectively negotiate a mutually agreeable plan of study about the Centre's operations and their relations with other groups who have contact with rape victims. The anticipated outcome of the review is improved service to the client.

I feel my Government is aware of and responsive to issues concerning women's health and safety.

Yours sincerely,

James A. Nielsen
Minister of Health

cc: Honourable Grace M. McCarthy, Minister of Human Resources/Honourable Allan Williams, Attorney General

* * * * *

Dear Ms. Blackstone:

On behalf of the Honourable Francis Fox, I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter, regarding a grant application which the Lesbian Information Line submitted to this Department for its "Lesbian Resources Project."

Unfortunately, I must confirm that the group's application cannot be approved. Assessments made by departmental officials are based on the terms and conditions of our programs as well as on our priorities, both regional and national, and the limited financial resources available to us. Given the great number of submissions we receive, it is simply not possible to agree to all requests for funds.

However, members of the organization have been encouraged to develop other projects which might qualify for funding under our Human Rights Program, and I trust they will follow up on this suggestion with our regional officials.

We appreciated being informed of your views in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Jean-Pierre Mongeau
Senior Policy Advisor

* * * * *

Dear M. Parrot:

Thank you for forwarding the copy of "Negotiations", outlining your union's position on maternity, paternity, and adoption leave being sought in the present campaign.

Your efforts to obtain fully-paid maternity leave for your female workers are most commendable. If you achieve your goal you will have set a very important precedent in Canada. SWAG supports you whole-heartedly.

Our own policy on maternity leave is in line with the recommendations of the Report of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women, 1969, obtainable at your public library or from the Advisory Council on the Status of Women, Ottawa.

We wish you luck with your campaign.

Sincerely,

Pamela L. Blackstone
Correspondence

cc: M. Andre Ouelette, Postmaster General/Chairperson, Treasury Board of Canada

* * * * *

Dear Ms. Blackstone:

Thank you for your recent letter enclosing one you forwarded to Jean-Claude Parrot regarding the negotiations that are presently taking place.

Your support with respect to maternity leave benefits has been noted and you may rest assured that they will be brought to the attention of officials concerned.

Once again, thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely,

Andre Ouellet

* * * * *

Dear Ms. Blackstone:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter expressing interest in Family Life Programs in British Columbia schools.

The Ministry of Education is aware of the need to consider Family Life programs. The Curriculum Branch has hired a coordinator to review the alternate ways to provide such programs in the province.

I appreciate the fact that you have taken the time to inform me of your concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Brian R.D. Smith
Minister

* * * * *

Dear Mr. Williams:

I am writing on behalf of the Status of Women Action Group to express our concern about the recent appointment of Robin Bourne to the position of Asst. Deputy Minister for Police Services in B.C. This man's background in "security" matters is well-known. He has made a career of harassing and "monitoring" the labor movement and the left.

In a province such as B.C. - with a relatively militant labor movement, prominent native rights activists, and a strong feminist movement - there will be many opportunities for Bourne to employ his "special" skills. We are most curious to know what use your government envisions for this person.

Can a man who's spent his life with his ear glued to other people's walls be content pushing paper? We doubt it, and call for his immediate dismissal.

Yours truly,

Pamela L. Blackstone
Correspondence

cc: Alex MacDonald, NDP Critic for the Attorney General's Dept.

* * * * *

Announcement of Funding Collective for B.C.F.W.

At the Coordinating Collective meeting in Vancouver July 18-19th, a decision was made to open a B.C.F.W. provincial office, to house funding information, the current BCFW files, and to provide a telephone and telephone answering service. The city chosen for the office is Nanaimo. The choice for Nanaimo was because Ruth Taylor, currently serving as Fundraiser for BCFW, lives and works there, as does Joy Leach, Resource Development Officer at Malaspina College. Joy recently gave a funding workshop to a Regional Meeting of BCFW, and the Funding Collective has risen from that event. The 4 Victoria women on the Collective are prepared to travel to Nanaimo for shifts in the office, but initial research will be conducted in the Victoria area. The women will be gathering information from feminist groups, concentrating on BCFW member groups, and collating this into a reference bank. They will establish contact with funding sources, and seek to gather all relevant data and keep it current.

The B.C.F.W. Vision is:

- to staff a provincial office, gathering funding information initially
- to collate BCFW member group information

and coordinate it to notify groups in order to avoid duplication in grant applications

- to act as consultants to groups seeking funding
- to develop fund-raising workshops to travel throughout B.C.
- to up-date information as soon as new programs are announced
- to research the formation of a B.C.F.W. FOUNDATION or Trust Fund to establish a source of loans & grants for feminist projects
- to lease a word-processor to record the information, providing fast access and cross-referencing
- to make the word processor available at cost to member groups
- to provide training in WP operation and information management to women from member groups throughout B.C.
- to eventually link local offices with Word Processor, Computer Access, opening a second office in Vancouver as soon as feasible

Contact members of the Funding Collective either through Nanaimo - Ruth Taylor, 754-1743(24 hr. answering service); Sharon Anderson, 381-3047; Jude Angione, 595-6340 (both in Victoria).

Dear Ms. Brooks:

Please be advised that the Victoria Status of Women Action Group whole-heartedly supports the funding application of the B.C. Federation of Women.

As one of the many feminist organizations comprising the B.C.F.W., we feel our members benefit - directly and indirectly - from the programs and activities of this organization. The B.C.F.W. represents us all, and we certainly feel they (we) are deserving of federal funding assistance.

Sincerely,

Pam Blackstone
Correspondence Coordinator

* * * * *

ARTICLES

Report on the Conference "Women's Responsibility & the New Constitution"

(Organized by the Advisory Council on the Status of Women) May 29-30, Ottawa.

"What does the Constitutional debate mean to women and what is the responsibility of women vis a vis the new Constitution?" Lucy Pepin, President of the Council, said the purpose of the conference was to inform women so that women could make government aware of our concerns during this critical second phase of constitutional discussions when Federal and Provincial Governments are renegotiating a number of shared cost programs affecting social services and the family. Mary Eberts (an Ontario lawyer), said women needed to be kept advised of upcoming issues so that we could influence the subject matter on the Constitutional agenda. Here the Advisory Council could play a valuable role in keeping women informed and in making recommendations to Federal and Provincial Governments. Women had a responsibility as citizens to get involved.

Four panels of experts dealt with various aspects of Constitutional reform: The Charter of Rights.*

Marilyn Pilkington, Professor of Law, Osgoode Hall stated that the Canada Act would bring stability to legislation by overriding conflicting Federal or Provincial laws. Section 28 (which I understand is similar to ERA and provides a guarantee of equality before and under the law) reinforces and strengthens S. 15, the non-discrimination clause. Beth Atcheson, an Ontario lawyer, disagreed. She believes that a Bliss case is still possible and that S. 28 does not extend S. 15. She said women should prepare inventories of laws and practices that are discriminatory. All governments have a 3 year period of grace to amend discriminatory legislation. Atcheson also suggested that the 3 year moratorium could be used to advantage by immediate implementation of a Legal Defence/Action Fund. Kathleen Ruff was of the opinion that women should fight the 3 year moratorium. This seems logical, for if the Charter will be all powerful and override all other legislation, why is a 3 year period necessary to amend?

* The proposed Canada Act and Charter were not available at the Conference.

Power Sharing

(Federal-Provincial Jurisdictions)

Audrey Doer, Professor of Political Science at Simon Fraser University, believes women have much to lose in areas where provincial governments reassert control. One area in particular is that of family law. Local laws have the advantage of reflecting cultural and political differences, but create havoc when parties separate or divorce. Some of the problems now encountered with marital property were graphically outlined by Carol Huddart of Victoria. Which regime applies when ex-husband and ex-wife live in different provinces? And does it apply at the start of the marriage or at the conclusion? At present there is reluctance on the part of the courts to enforce maintenance orders from other provinces and child-knapping is on the increase due to the custody disputes. (In Toronto alone 700 children were reportedly "stolen" back by their parents in 1 year.) Huddart stated that the choice women had to make was a political one. This is not a subject women can afford to be complacent about, for it looks like the most vocal group will get the laws it demands and at the moment, the women of Quebec, who favor provincial jurisdiction, seem to fit that criterion.

Employment and Pensions

Louise Dulude, an Ontario lawyer/researcher, pointed out that not only do women live longer than men, but that 2 out of 3 marriages break down and asked, "Will one pension be enough to support 2 or 3 wives?" (or husbands?). The Canada Pension Plan penalizes women who drop out of the work force and most private schemes benefit men. Both Provincial and Federal Governments can legislate on pensions - but Federal legislation requires a two-thirds majority to amend. It is important that women develop a position on this vital issue now.

The acute need for a National Day Care Act was outlined by Norma McCormick of the Manitoba Health Services Centre, who said that 1 child in 3 has a working mother. At present there is a labyrinth of Provincial, Municipal and Federal red tape and laws to circumvent in establishing day care centres.

Native Women

This issue is becoming more sensitive. Marilyn Pilkington felt 12(i)(b) of the Indian Act would eventually be unconstitutional; Beth Atcheson believes the Federal Government will delay its repeal. And Marlene Pierre, President of the Native Women's Association of Canada said Indian women want more than the repeal of 12(i)(b) - they want to "get rid of the whole damn Act." As Mary Eberts said, "Do we stand

aside now and let Indian women present their position - or continue to work for repeal of 12(i)(b)?"

Summary

It is apparent that there is a need for an "information network" of some type to prevent costly duplication of effort and money by women's groups. There will also be a very real need for a Legal Action Fund. In my opinion, however, without women in the Court, and in the Supreme Court in particular, the Charter of Rights may well prove to be as effective for women as the Canadian Bill of Rights. Women should press for judicial and senatorial appointments. Provincial Governments should be urged to ratify the Denmark Convention, and the Federal Government made to honor its commitment to the Geneva Convention. There is a lot of work to be done but as Mary Eberts said, "The future is our reward."

Lyn Gough

* * * * *

Dear Ms. Avril:

At the concluding session of the Conference on Women and the Constitution: The Next Five Years, a number of people indicated an interest in investigating establishment of a Women's Legal Action Fund. The possibility of taking this step was highlighted by Kathleen Ruff in her closing address to the Conference, following a discussion of the nature of a Fund prompted by panelist Beth Atcheson at the first session of the Conference, a session chaired by Professor Marilyn Pilkington. I have been asked by the group to serve, informally, as a coordinator of mailing and information and to begin contacts with other groups potentially interested in setting up a Fund.

As my first unofficial act, I am forwarding a list of the Conference group, (which includes the names of both of those who stayed after Kathleen's speech and also those who spoke to Beth or me on Saturday) and a copy of an article by Ruth Cowan, provided by Marilyn Pilkington, which should prove thought provoking. I shall also be contacting other groups. If anyone has any ideas about who might already be exploring this concept, please let me know as soon as possible.

Yours very truly,

Mary Eberts

* * * * *

Women's Legal Action Fund

Interested Persons from Conference on
"Women and the Constitution", Ottawa,
May 29-30, 1981.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
Ruby Mekker	RR #1 FINCH, Ont. KOC 1K0
Sheila Day	224-4th Avenue S. SASKATOON, Sask. S7K 5M5
Shirley Avril	1139 Burdett Avenue VICTORIA, B.C. V8V 3H3
Donnie Wright	35 Glengrove Avenue TORONTO, Ont. M4N 1E6
Lee Farnworth	1094 Falaise Road NEPEAN, Ont. K2E 6P8
Nancy Jackman	184 Roxborough Drive TORONTO, Ont. M4W 1X8
Balji Rattan	#505-8215-112th Street EDMONTON, Alta.
Gerlinde Calon-Van Driel	42 Bonaventure Avenue ST. JOHN'S, Nfld. A1C 3Z5
Kathleen Ruff	Hall Court Farm Cottage Bishop's Frome WORCHESTER, U.K. 088 53363 (London Area)
Marilyn Pilkington	Osgoode Hall Law School York University 4700 Keele Street DOWNSVIEW, Ont. M3J 2R5
Mary Eberts	Tory, Tory, DesLauriers & Binnington Barristers & Solicitors P.O. Box 20, Suite 3400 Royal Bank Plaza South Tower TORONTO, Ont. M5J 2K1
Beth Atcheson	Cassels, Brock Continental Bank Bldg. 130 Adelaide Street W. TORONTO, Ont. M5H 3C2
Senator Joan Nieman	The Senate Room 387 South

South Block
OTTAWA, Ont.
K1A 0A4

Aideen Nicholson,
M.P.
Room 163
Central Block
House of Commons
OTTAWA, Ont.
K1A 0A6

* * * * *

A Brief in Response to: Recommendations
for Changes to the Human Rights Code of
British Columbia

(This is an abridged version. The full
version is available from the Archives.)

In response to the discussion paper recently released by the Human Rights Commission concerning recommendations for change in the Human Rights Code, the Human Rights Committee of the Status of Women Action Group of Victoria herewith submits its proposals and recommendations. These concern Equal Pay, Discrimination in regard to Age and Pregnancy; Affirmative Action; and Enforcement. While improving the status of women is our primary concern, we believe others in the community will benefit through implementation of these recommendations and in referring to minorities generally we include natives and the handicapped and in particular, native and handicapped women, and incorporate same by reference.

Equal Pay

The discussion paper notes that equal pay is being avoided by different job descriptions or establishment of minor requirements or responsibilities which cannot be met by many women.

It is strongly recommended that the Federal standard of the concept of "equal pay for work of equal value" be adopted and enforced. This standard is to be determined by "the composite of the skill, effort, and responsibility required in the performance of the work and the conditions under which the work is performed." And employers should be required to show that a requirement or condition is necessary, not merely convenient.

Discrimination - Age

It is recommended that the definition of "age" be amended to include those of legal age and over and that applicants should not be required to furnish proof, but should be allowed instead to make a declaration that she/he is of legal age.

Removal of this barrier would greatly assist women seeking to re-enter the workforce.

Sex Discrimination - Pregnancy

Discrimination in regard to pregnancy should be specifically categorized as "sex discrimination."

Investigation of complaints should be given top priority. A newspaper report in 1979 indicated that investigation of complaints usually came too late to assist the pregnant woman who had lost her job. Moreover, remedies must be substantial to assist women who have suffered financial hardship through loss of or refusal of a job in order to deter employers from victimizing a vulnerable sector of the population.

Although the Employment Standards Act now places the burden of proof in relation to dismissal of a pregnant employee on the employer, nothing in that Act assists a pregnant woman seeking employment, who experiences special difficulties; nor does it protect any women from being subjected to a line of questioning as to whether or not she is pregnant, although under the Human Rights Code, employers cannot enquire as to marital status. Nor does the new Act protect the pregnant employee from layoffs. Pregnancy should be protected as a basic human right.

Discrimination - Affirmative Action

Affirmative action programs should be mandatory.

To date there have not been any meaningful affirmative action programs carried out in B.C. The concept of affirmative action suggests that until targets are met, bona fide qualifications may be overlooked in favor of a female/minority candidate who may lack either education or experience. It is urged that target figures be established and that where women/minorities are under-represented in any occupation or position schedules be drawn up and adhered to, to ensure that women/minorities are represented in proportion to their numbers in the workforce in the particular community.

Those doing business with the Government should be required to adopt affirmative action plans and this should be a condition of all Government contracts.

The need for affirmative action programs is particularly acute within Government and Crown Corporations. All departments and Crown Corporations should be required to file affirmative action plans with the responsible Ministry; and trends and charts showing progress, if any, should be reviewed yearly.

Enforcement

Because at present the emphasis is on settlement and conciliation, the penalties as set out in the Act are seldom invoked. The cases which are settled are not publicized or available to the public. At the same time the complainant does not benefit from anonymity; his/her identity is known to the entity complained against. In B.C. and Canada Human Rights decisions which affect a vast number of women are made behind closed doors. This has several bad effects: There is no case law and therefore no precedents; It is impossible to measure the effectiveness of either the Act or of the Branch's investigative procedures; The public is kept from seeing the results of the process, thus increasing the mystique and discouraging many persons from making claims.

The length of time which it takes to settle a complaint is another bad feature and can apparently take from one year to a year-and-a-half.

It is therefore recommended: All substantiated cases proceed to a Board of Inquiry; That each and every Board hearing any sex discrimination or equal pay complaint have not less than one woman on it and preferably 50% or better representation; That stronger penalties be incorporated into the Act; That legal counsel be provided for complainants who wish to prosecute an action.

Vicarious Liability of Employer

In Nelson v. Price, the B.C. Court of Appeal ruled that an employer is not responsible in damages for acts of discrimination by its employees because the relevant Section (17) refers to "a person" - not an employer. Mr. Justice Craig stated at page 12 in the Reasons for Judgment that "...it would have been a simple matter for the Legislature to have enacted words to the effect that any employer whose servant contravened the Act in the course of his employment would be deemed to have contravened the Act. The Legislature has not done so either expressly or impliedly." Therefore it is urged that Section 17 of the Code be amended so that employers are responsible for acts of their employees, independent contractors, or agents, and that the words of Section 17(c) "knowingly or with wanton disregard" be deleted.

Norrie Preston/Lyn Gough/Human Rights Committee, June 15, 1981

(Copies of the Recommendations for Changes to the Human Rights Code of British Columbia are available free from the Commission at 387-5024.)

Announcements

Depo Provera

Depo Provera is a hormone that circulates through the bloodstream and prevents pregnancy for 3-6 months. Although Depo Provera has been given to women all over the world, it has not been proven safe as a contraceptive. Some of its side effects are: Shown to cause breast and uterine cancer in animals; May make it difficult or impossible for a woman to get pregnant in the future; May effect the menstruation cycle; Passes through breast milk to the infants of nursing women who receive the drug; Associated with birth defects; Inhibits bone growth; Associated with headaches, dizziness and weight gain. The long term effects of this drug are not known.

The Vancouver Women's Health Collective is gathering information about the use of Depo Provera in Canada. If you have been given this drug or know anyone else who has, please phone, write, or come in. Address: Vancouver Women's Health Collective, 1501 West Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 1W6, 736-6696.

From the Canadian Human Rights Commission

A female geologist dismissed by Eldorado Nuclear from a summer survey camp in Northern Quebec has been awarded \$9,500 by an independent human rights tribunal. The tribunal found that Marthe Archambault's dismissal had been motivated partially or totally by her sex and therefore was discriminatory.

Seven Montreal area women complained that CN was discriminating against women in their hiring of coach cleaners. This is considered an entry level position for carmen training. The women won their complaint and six are now employed by CN in apprentice positions in the trades, the seventh is a mechanic elsewhere.

Canadian Advertising Advisory Board

The Board has set up a committee on Sex-Role Stereotyping and they are asking for INPUT. "Members of the public are encouraged to send to the committee complaints about advertising which they feel is not in accord with the guidelines." The guidelines are set to encourage more realistic portrayals of men and women in advertising messages. Send for the guidelines and send your complaints to: C.A.A.B., 1240 Bay St., Suite 305, Toronto, Ont., M5R 2A7.

From: North Shore Women, June 1981.

Abortion Law and B.C. Medical Association Resolutions of Concern to Victoria Doctors

An article appeared in the February 1981 B.C. Medical Journal expressing the concern of a number of Victoria doctors that both the current abortion laws and recent BCMA resolutions supporting the medical staff at Surrey Memorial Hospital may not reflect good "medical ethics." Unfortunately we don't have room for the whole article but a copy is available in the archives and at the UVic Library. The following is the concluding paragraph of the piece and the appended names.

"You will note that we have not based our case on religious dogma or conviction. We believe there is a medical conscience which dictates that a doctor respect human life in all its forms and that there must be established medical reasons for destroying life. The issue is broader than the abortion issue but no other issue has made such inroads into ethical medical practice."

Signed: F.G. Stuart/P.K. Buxton/J.H. Croft/D.G. Roberts/J.J. McLean/W.E. Martin/M.O. O'Neill/D.H. Purdon/S.S. Rhone/R.J. Sanglap/W.R. Templeton/J.M. Bell/J.H. Calder/John Quirk/Lewis Harris/A.E. Wahl/J.S. Lane/J.J. Krayenhoff/D.K. Ripley/G.E. Cox/G.L. Reilly/Myer Sim/E.H. Curran

Important Publications

Stepping Out of Line: A workshop manual and resource guide on Lesbianism/Feminism. Vancouver: Workshop Collective and Press Gang, 1981. Order from: Press Gang, 603 Powell St., Vancouver, V6A 1H2, \$6.75.

Stiehm, Judith. Bring Me Men and Women. Univ. of California Press, \$19.95. An analysis of the U.S. Air Force and its attitudes to women. The author contends that the military reflects society - men are not trained to take orders from women. Women will not be taken seriously until they have full status in the military and men start sharing in raising children.

Dowling, Colette. The Cinderella Complex. Women's hidden fear of independence. Musson, \$16.95.

The author's main thesis is "Women feel helpless. They yearn for freedom but are afraid to take it." The book is based on the author's personal experience. It has received mixed reviews.

Women's Business Directory Planned

Mary Virtue, and Susan Chang, both information consultants, are compiling a directory of women in business in the Victoria area. Planned to include women in trades, professions and services, the directory is expected to be on sale in September.

For further information: Mary Virtue, 386-5933, 78 Linden Avenue, Victoria, B.C., V8V 4C8.

Federally

The Federal Government has appointed a committee to study the incidence and prevalence of sexual offences against children and youths and to recommend improvement in laws for the protection of young people. The chair of the committee is Robin F. Badgley (Dept. of Behavioral Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto). For more information contact Bernard Starkman (613) 992-4373 or the Minister of Justice.

From: RFR "No Name Newsletter," June 1981.

* * * * *

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs has accepted the issue of battered women for study by the committee, with the support of all parties in the House. Correspondence to the Standing Committee can be addressed to House of Commons, Ottawa, Ont., K1A 0A6.

From: RFR "No Name Newsletter," June 1981

* * * * *

Pappajohn Petition Update

Last year, the North Shore Women's Centre decided to support Member of Parliament Svend Robinson, who was concerned about our weak rape laws in general, and about the "Pappajohn" decision in particular, a concern that was expressed by many major women's groups also. Mr. Robinson decided to present a Private Member's Bill which would call on the Federal government to do two things: (1) have the crime of rape reclassified as a crime of violent, physical assault, which more accurately reflects the nature of rape, and (2) make unavailable to rapists the defence plea that they believed the woman was consenting to intercourse, even though that belief was based on obviously unreasonable grounds - a defence plea which any thinking person can see is open to abuse.

In the meantime, Justice Minister Jean Chretien proposed a new bill to deal with sexual offences. This is Bill C53. Women were very happy to see that the Justice

Minister agreed to have rape re-classified, and this is indeed a step in the right direction. However, it was very disturbing to discover that the plea of "honest belief" is still there; clothed in new language, perhaps, but in language so vague that a rapist with a clever lawyer could still be acquitted of his crime.

Clause 244(5) states that, in future, "Where a question is raised to whether the accused believed that the complainant consented to the conduct that is the subject matter of the charge, the jury shall be instructed, in determining the honesty of that belief, to consider, along with any relevant matter, the presence or absence of reasonable grounds for that belief."

At first glance, this seems quite satisfactory - until one examines the word "consider" in depth. What does the directive "to consider" really mean? According to the Oxford Dictionary, it means the jury will be asked to "contemplate mentally; weigh the merits of; reflect, reckon with, make allowance for; be of opinion; regard as." Note - juries are asked to think about the rapist's unreasonable claims; they are not directed to reject them, as requested in the petition your Centre is circulating, and as requested by numerous women's groups and individuals all over Canada. It makes one wonder why the government bothered to insert this paragraph, since it would appear to alter the status quo not one whit. They have wasted their time - and ours.

Mr. Robinson will now be putting forward amendments to clause 255(5) which, in his words, "will make it very clear that where a question is raised as to whether the accused believed that the complainant consented to the conduct that is the subject matter of the charge, the jury shall be instructed that such a belief may be accepted only where it is based upon reasonable grounds. Both the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women and the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, as well as many other women's organizations are supporting this change."

So - keep those petitions going! The fight is a long one, and it is not over yet. You can also make your views known to "The Director, Criminal Law Amendments Section, Department of Justice, Kent/Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0H8." Rape is violent, terrifying crime that is on the increase. We cannot afford vague language in our laws that could aid the acquittal of even one rapist. We must make our views known so that the fuzzy language in our laws can be eliminated, and the loophole of "honest belief" closed to rapists for once and for all.

Jancis Andrews/North Shore Women, May 1981, pp. 13-41.

Aboriginal Women

On July 20, 1981 the concerned Aboriginal Women occupied the B.C. Regional Office of the Department of Indian Affairs (D.I.A.) because of the frustrations that have built up in their communities for the last 114 years that Canada has existed. We the Aboriginal Women of Vancouver Island support fully the 100 Aboriginal Women who occupied the D.I.A. Office in Vancouver. We demand that their demands be met.

Demands

The position of the concerned Aboriginal Women has not changed. They demand the following:

1. A meeting with John Munro
2. The resignation of Fred Walchli
3. A full and independant inquiry into the activities of the Department of Indian Affairs in the B.C. Region.

To further support the concerned Aboriginal Women please send telegrams or night letters to Indian Affairs Minister John Munro or your local M.P. In addition to the legitimate demands listed above we urge you to demand all criminal charges against the Aboriginal Women be dropped, in recognition of the political character of their action and of their movement. John Munro's address in Ottawa is: John Munro, Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, 21st Floor, Terrasses de la Chaudicre, Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0H4

Further:

The Supporters of the Concerned Aboriginal Women are calling to all people to add their support in demanding that the criminal charges against the 53 Aboriginal People arrested in Vancouver for occupying the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs office be dropped. Please make your concern felt by sending the prepared letter and/or copies to :

Sean Madigan,
Regional Crown Counsel,
Suite 102 - 80A 6th St.,
New Westminster, B.C.
V3L 5B3

Hon. Allan Williams,
Attorney General,
Parliament Bldgs.,
Victoria, B.C.
V8V 1X4

Hon. John Munro,
Dept. of Indian Affairs
10 Willingdon St.,
21st Floor,
Hull, Quebec

IN HER OWN RIGHT

Selected Essays on Women's History in B.C. Edited by Barbara Latham & Cathy Kess
Price: \$6.00

To order write:

In Her Own Right,
Camosun College,
1950 Lansdowne Rd.,
Victoria, B.C.
V8P 5J2

Cheques payable to Camosun

SWAG Coordinator

Six month position, open to active members of SWAG. (Available subject to receipt of funding.

Apply: P.O. BOX 6069,
Station C,
Victoria V8P 5L5

Brenda Lynn LLOYD

(Registered Massage
Therapist)

Office: 205 Central Bldg.
620 View St.,

Phone: 384-2411

By Appointment Only

WOMEN AND WORK

SWAG FALL CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 23 & 24

FRIDAY EVENING

Key Note Speaker : Gene Errington, Research Representative, CUPE

Wine and Cheese

SATURDAY

Workshops: 9:30, 11:00 a.m. and 1:30, 3:00 p.m.

Sexual Harassment

Women in Unions

Affirmative Action

Care Services

Pay; From a Sociological Perspective

Apprenticeship and Non-Traditional Work

Immigrant Women

Networking

Employed Mother's Blues

Unemployment and Retraining

Health and Safety

Pensions

Equal Pay

Technological Change

Setting Up Your Own Business

Native Women

Collective Bargaining

Job Stress and Coping

Registration: \$10.00

Lunch: \$3.00

Send Registrations to : Status of Women Action Group,

P.O. Box 6269, Stn. C,

Victoria, B.C. V8P 5L5

On July 20, 1981 the
Office of the Department
that have built up in
existed. We the Aboriginal Women of Vancouver Island support fully the 100
Aboriginal Women who occupied the B.I.A. Office in Vancouver. We demand that
their demands

Demands

The position of the
following:

1. A meeting with John M. ...
2. The resignation of ...
3. A full and independent inquiry into the activities of the Department of ...

Indian ...

To further support the ...

night letters ...
In P.M. last ...
addition to ...
criminal ...
political ...

address ...
...
...
SATURDAY

Further:

The Supporters of the Concerned Aboriginal Women are calling to all people
to add the ...
Aboriginal People ...
Indian and ...
felt by ...

Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Renewal: ☐ New: ☐ Gift: ☐

Membership is \$10⁰⁰ per year due March 8.
Pro-rated until March 1982 it is now \$8⁰⁰.
(Reduced rates available if needed).

Send to: SWAG
Post Office Box 6269, Stn. C,
Victoria, B.C. V8P 5L5

Memberships Due September

Ruth Anderson	Sherry Dubetz	Barbara Hourston	Catherine Pal	
Pat Cartra	Ella Fender	Mathlene Leiding	Nora Rowe	Membership \$7
Ella Davis	Anna Franklin	Cathy Mountain	Mary Winstone	to March '82

To:

Dear

We are writing in support of the Concerned Aboriginal Women of B.C. It is past time for all Canadians to demand that the Department of Indian Affairs listen and act upon the legitimate concerns of the Aboriginal People of Canada. We cannot and will not stand back in silence and witness the destruction of the first people of this land. We demand to know WHY 90% of Aboriginal People are unemployed; WHY housing on reserves is poorly constructed and over crowded; WHY infant mortality is higher and life expectancy lower for Aboriginal People than the rest of the population; WHY trans-national corporations are allowed to exploit natural resources at the risk of Aboriginal People's health and livelihood; WHY Aboriginal People are not allowed to follow their traditional ways of hunting and fishing to provide for their families; WHY Aboriginal children are being apprehended and placed in non-Native homes and deprived of their cultural heritage; WHY suicide, alcohol and drugs are so often the last resort for Aboriginal People; WHY the percentage of Aboriginal People in prisons is so high; WHY for every dollar that reaches the reserves, two dollars are spent internally by the Department of Indian Affairs; WHY Aboriginal People are not allowed to administer their own affairs.

In the face of repeated sonewalling, mis-managemnet and broken promises, we look with admiration and respect to the more than one hundred Aboriginal Women who stood their ground and refused to leave the office of the Department of Indian Affairs in Vancouver until their grievances had been heard. We are angered that the Hon. John Munro, Minister of Indian Affairs, not only refused to meet with them in Vancouver, but that 53 Aboriginal People were arrested on charges of public mischief.

Aboriginal People in Canada have no security or protection at the band level, no recourse through the Department of Indian Affairs, and no procedures in which individuals may directly voice their concerns and lobby for action. With this information it becomes clear that the Concerned Aboriginal Women were forced to a final desparate attempt to communicate not only with the Department of Indian Affairs but with the Canadian people at large. We will not close our eyes, our ears or our hearts again.

The actions of the Concerned Aboriginal Women were motivated by political concerns. It is NOT CRIMINAL to wish to be heard! We therefore demand that all criminal charges against the 53 Aboriginal People arrested in the Vancouver office of the Department of Indian Affairs be dropped, and that furthermore, the Hon. John Munro act immediately to meet with the Concerned Aboriginal Women in Vancouver.

Sincerely,

From: Box 6269, Stn. C.,
Victoria, B.C.
V8P 5L5

GENERAL MEETING