



# PRIME TIME

A Project for Women in their Middle Years

NEWSLETTER #8

APRIL 1979

304-620 View Street, Victoria, B.C.  
V8W 1G6 telephone 388-6101

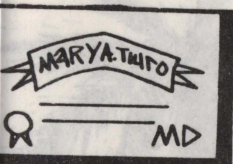
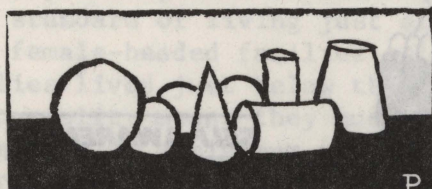


## Co-ordinator's Report - April, 1979

We are pleased to announce that Prime Time has been granted by National Health and Welfare, its full final year budget request! As there have been apparently varying cut-backs on numerous projects, we appreciate the vote of confidence in our project, and feel it is indicative that we are meeting our objectives. It means that Prime Time can continue full tilt until we close our doors March 1980.

Prime Time has devoted considerable time these last few months to the creation of a Prime Time Information Kit that is to contain all our course and program outlines, our bibliographies, our pamphlets, our original collected data on women in middle years, etc. We will be adding to it over this next year. The purpose of this kit is to provide any individual, community group or institution with the information we've gleaned over three years, about women in middle years, and with the details of programs we have developed. This is one way we hope to leave a Prime Time "legacy" behind. The kit, all or part, will be available upon request within the next few months. Prime Time has been granted by Canada Works, three summer students who will continue in the research area and will be adding to the kit as well as co-ordinating some of the distribution details.

We wish to thank those of you who came out to our Prime Time general meeting.



Prime Time is tentatively scheduling another Natural Menopause workshop. Myths and facts of menopause; basic physiology; the pro's and cons of taking Estrogen; nutrition and sexuality will be covered.

Date: June 1 - 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.  
June 2 - 10:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Place: #304 - 620 View St., Prime Time office

Fee: \$8.00 - bursaries available

If you are interested please call Prime Time, 388-6101, and leave your name and phone number.

The next Prime Time Orientation is scheduled for Friday, May 25th. If you are interested in taking this one-day workshop, please phone us.

Our Support Group meets each Thursday afternoon at 2 P.M. Come and join us for "sharing, caring and tea".

The library in our Prime Time Office has several new books available. Drop in and borrow a book.

Building a Career Through Volunteer Employment: The usual route to rewarding careers in the workplace is through paid work experience but there is another way to do it and at a time when jobs are scarce, it becomes important to explore alternatives. Watch for the starting date of this new course. Phone Prime Time for information.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Interested in a Non-traditional Career?

A daily, eight-week course called Exploration of Non-traditional Work Opportunities for Women is being offered by Camosun College from May 1 - June 22, 1979. The course provides practical experience in vocational/trade areas - welding, carpentry, small appliance repair, painting, decorating and automobile maintenance and repair. As well, seminar sessions will explore attitudes and problems faced by women in industrial settings and training and job-search techniques.

Phone: Counselling Admissions Office, Camosun College 592-1281

### Watch for "Women in Canada"

The University of Victoria is offering a new and uniquely designed Women's Studies course this fall. A series of lectures on the social and cultural perspectives of women in Canada will provide an exciting opportunity for women to learn more about themselves either on a credit or non-credit basis. A poster outlining the course is available at the Prime Time office and more information is available from Helen Fletcher, Extension Division, University of Victoria - 477-6911.



What Do You—

the Inner You—

Really Want of Life?

**SELF-AWARENESS**

**SELF-GROWTH**

**SELF-DISCOVERY**



"I see you're married, kept house for 26 years and raised four children, but when was the last time you really worked?"

### WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE SUMMER?

Summer can be a good time for learning and in Victoria we are fortunate to have some exciting programs available.

Creative Expression for Women: Creativity, like breathing, is something we are born with. This is a course for women to re-discover their personal creativity. Through movement, music, and painting, women learn to become innovative problem-solvers and to develop potential for growth in their everyday lives. Phone the "Y" - 386-7511.

(Financial assistance in the form of bursaries is offered by Prime Time for this course, to women who would like to take the course but feel they cannot afford it. Contact Beryl Young at Prime Time.)

Summer College for Women: Camosun College has planned an exciting opportunity for women of all ages to experience learning at a community college. A two-week program is being planned for July, with sessions from 9:00 - 12:00 noon. The informal non-credit program will include the topical areas of anthropology, mathematics and psychology. For more information, call: Community Education Services, Camosun College, Phone: 592-1281.

Too many women are just one man away from welfare or poverty. Literally, if many women didn't have the protection and financial assistance of a husband, lover, father or son they'd be reduced to welfare. The negative attitudes of the economic system to women coupled with their own lack of marketable skills and confidence, as well as age and status have, and are, preventing many women from making positive choices about their personal economic future security.

Let's review some of the statistics of women in the work force. The unemployment rate for women runs around 9% officially; unofficially it has been placed at more than 18%. Of the approximately 4,000,000 women in the labour force in 1975, 1,146,000 were single women, 347,000 widowed, separated, divorced, and 767,000 were married with husbands earning \$10,000 or less. But what do all these numbers mean in terms of women's role in the labour force?

It seems that, unfortunately, women continue to be employed in what are known as female "job ghettos" -- two-thirds of all working women are employed in only three occupational areas -- clerical, sales and service. Employers often use part-time workers in these fields as a source of cheap labour, and women working part-time are very vulnerable. They are largely non-unionized, do not always receive the same rates as full-time workers, and do not have fringe benefits. Many companies will attempt to get around paying full-time by making only part-time work available. Many women who need the income from a full-time job are forced to take part-time work because that's all that is available. And there is now before the House of Commons an amendment to the Unemployment Insurance Act that makes anyone working less than 20 hours a week ineligible for unemployment benefits. Women lose again!

Some women do not want full-time work because of household and child-care duties, yet they must because their income is essential to maintaining a standard of living just at the poverty line. In 1975, 40% of the female-headed families as compared to 9.2% of the male-headed families lived just below the poverty line. For a majority of women economic reality means they must work for a living to keep themselves or families at a minimum standard of living. Yet, at the same time, cultural reality pressures women into the traditional responsibility for household maintenance and child-care, making full-time employment very difficult.

Among the hidden unemployed mentioned earlier are many women who need to work but whose skills and age require upgrading, retraining, or some other adult education courses to fit them for the workplace. Outreach and affirmative action programmes are examples of the direction to go. These programmes are, however, in serious jeopardy as federal funding is being cut drastically. Women lose again!

Women's work must be recognized and taken seriously. That means in the work place and the home. With a guaranteed adequate income and removal of the myriad of discriminatory practices at work, women will begin to accept more responsibility in our society as they see themselves as full and equal partners in and beneficiaries of the many goods and services available in our Canadian society.

- from S.W.A.G. Newsletter

\*\*\*\*\*

