

The Ontario Committee on the Status of Women

P.O. BOX 188, STATION Q
TORONTO M4T 2M1

NEWSLETTER

September 1975

OCSW ACTION

OCSW MEETS CABINET -- On April 17, a delegation of 7 representatives of the OCSW met for 2 hours with Premier Davis and 9 members of the provincial Cabinet. The OCSW had requested a meeting during International Women's Year to demonstrate the need for inter-departmental co-ordination if policies to promote equality for women are to be effective. Margaret Birch chaired the meeting; she and her colleagues were given new briefs on family planning, family property law, and affirmative action. The OCSW re-iterated its position in support of more government initiative for equal pay legislation, pension and benefit plans, child care services, and access to post-secondary education to aid Ontario's women. Also present at the meeting were Laura Sabia (Ontario Status of Women Council), and Marnie Clarke (Ministry of Labour Women's Bureau).

FAMILY PLANNING -- The OCSW took its brief personally to Ontario's Minister of Health, Frank Miller. The sub-committee is now considering monitoring the actual operation of local health clinics to see whether these are in keeping with provincial guidelines.

FAMILY PROPERTY LAW -- This sub-committee presented its brief to the provincial Attorney General's office. Later, Mary Eberts and Irma Melville met with this department's staff to discuss the OCSW's recommendations.

CHILD CARE SERVICES -- Our sub-committee is awaiting details of the report of the provincial Advisory Council on Daycare.

INCOME TAX -- A new sub-committee will investigate how tax law affects women.

HUMAN RIGHTS -- The OCSW is forming a sub-committee to approach the Ontario Human Rights Commission about its handling of discrimination against women.

ACTION ELSEWHERE

NATIONAL ACTION COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Annual Meeting -- With the aid of an Ontario Women's Bureau IWY grant, OCSW Steering Committee members Irma Melville, Cathy Morrison, and Wendy Lawrence attended NAC's Annual Meeting, held this year in Winnipeg. The gathering featured sessions on NAC's four priority areas -- equal pay for work of equal value,

child care services, birth control and abortion, and family property law; delegates were addressed respectively by guest speakers Madeleine Parent, Laura Mills, Josephine Earn, and Arlene Gropper. Consensus was achieved on many resolutions. NAC also held its elections, and the OCSW came home well-represented on the new executive by Lorna Marsden, Cathy Morrison, and Aline Wainwright. Kay MacPherson was later named Vice-President, while Moira Armour continues to edit Status of Women News.

Parliamentary Lobby -- In July, Lorna Marsden and Irma Melville were part of a delegation to Ottawa, carrying NAC's concerns to Marc Lalonde, Hugh Faulkner, other MPs, and the press. NAC now urges its affiliates to assist in taking status of women issues to all MPs during IWY. Members are asked to make an appointment with their local MP, be prepared about the issues, and report to NAC on their reception. For more suggestions, contact NAC, 121 Avenue Road, Toronto M5R 2G3; 922-3246.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Election -- A forum of Toronto women candidates is being planned for Saturday, September 13 at 2 p.m., City Hall Square.

Women for Political Action has produced a list of the 43 provincial women candidates, their ridings, and phone numbers. For information, call Margaret Bryce, 488-7061.

Rally -- October 25 is the UN's International Women's Day, and the Women's Action Coalition hopes to hold a march and rally at Toronto's City Hall to tell the government what it thinks IWY has accomplished in implementing the Status of Women Report recommendations. To help, write the coalition, C/o Dougherty, 3 Lonsdale Road, #8, Toronto.

Breast Cancer -- A panel of medical experts will discuss diagnosis and treatment of breast diseases at Centennial College, 75 Ash-tonbee Road (Eglinton & Warden). This free presentation starts at 7 p.m. on Thursday, September 18, in Auditorium B115. To register, phone 694-3241.

Third World & Canada: Perspectives for Women--is a workshop planned for Wed., Sept. 24 at the Education Services Centre, North York Board of Education, 100 Dalemount Ave. Sponsored by Miles for Millions and North York Board of Education, it is designed as an opportunity for community education workers to discuss adding an international dimension to their programs. Contact Miles for Millions, P. O. Box One Million, Station A, Toronto M5W 1S1; 967-1966.

GOVERNMENT ACTION

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Legislation--The Omnibus Bill (C-16) has now passed. New legislation includes Bill C-71, which contains improvements to rape law, and Bill C-72, dealing with discrimination on the basis of sex and marital status, partly by establishing a federal Human Rights Commission. The proposed Commission will have investigative

powers, while in the case of a prosecution, an offender could be fined up to \$10,000. Equal wage clauses speak of "similar work under similar conditions", and disappointingly allow for a "reasonable factor" to justify male-female wage differences.

Federal Law Reform Commission--has made public its recommendations on divorce, which include sweeping changes in support provisions.

Women's Bureau, c/o Labour Canada, Ottawa--Its 1974 Report, containing valuable information on working women, legislation, and comparisons with American programs, has been issued, and is free on request. FEDERAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN--Box 1541, Station B, Ottawa K1P 5R5; 992-4975. The Council requests Canadian women to write to their MPs urging quick passage of bills C-20 (citizenship) and C-52 (pension equality), even though these do not adequately cover the Status of Women Report's recommendations. The Council has free copies of background papers on various subjects, including housewives and the Canada Pension Plan, matrimonial property, rape, family planning.

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT

Women's Bureau, Ministry of Labour, 10th floor, 400 University Ave., Toronto; 965-1537. New films on women and work are available on request. Call Judy Stoffman, Communications Co-ordinator. The Bureau sponsored 60 students in information booths across the province over the summer.

Women and Credit--Consumer and Commercial Relations would like to update documented cases of credit discrimination against women. Incidents should be reported to: Barbara Moffatt, Women's Co-ordinator, Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, 555 Yonge St., Toronto.

Women's Programs Division--plans to honour 25 women nominated by organizations for having made an important contribution to the province.

ONTARIO STATUS OF WOMEN COUNCIL--3rd floor, 801 Bay St., Toronto M5S 1Z1. Laura Sabia reminds Ontario women that they still do not know what the government intends to do about family property law. She suggests questioning MPPs. The Council's pamphlet, About Face: Towards a Positive Image of Women in Textbooks, is now available. And names of women qualified for appointments to boards and commissions are still needed for the Talent Bank.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

Mayor's Task Force on the Status of Women in Toronto, 8th floor, East Tower, City Hall, Toronto; 367-7203. Its new executive is meeting on alternate Mondays at 5 p.m. in a City Hall committee room. The public may attend.

WOMEN IN POLITICS

With much assistance from Canadian women, Rosemary Brown, the B.C. MLA, ran a strong second to Ed Broadbent in the recent NDP leadership election. Now supporters of Flora MacDonald are seeking funds to aid their candidate's bid for the Progressive-Conservative leadership in 1976. Cheques for the "\$5 to \$50 for Flora Fund" should be payable to Kathleen Schmidt in trust, and sent to Joan Sutton, 390 The Kingsway, Islington M9A 3V7.

NEWS FROM OTHER GROUPS

Women's Communications Centre, 392 Markham St., Toronto M6G 2K9; 924-4728.

This project hopes to help women's groups across the country to exchange information and skills. A national needs survey is now being conducted to ensure effective use of required services.

Rape Crisis Centre, P. O. Box 6597, Station A, Toronto; 368-8383.

A brief on violence against women in TV, films, radio, and popular music is being prepared. There is a constant need for new volunteers and for donations to the Centre's operations.

Petition--Alderwoman Dorothy Thomas and the Rape Crisis Centre propose a special police rape squad to handle all sex crime reports; the squad would consist of specially-trained male and female officers. To offer support for this idea, write to Alderwoman Thomas at City Hall, Toronto, by late September.

Women and Law--A publication on this topic is projected. To offer help or suggestions, contact Christine Mitchell, Canadian Council on Social Development, P. O. Box 3505, Station C, Ottawa K1Y 4G1.

Ontario Women and the Law Association--is now publishing a newsletter with home base at the Osgoode Women's Caucus, Room 126, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, Downsview. The Queen's University Caucus will host the association's conference, "Women in Society: Strategies for Change" in Kingston, October 17-19.

Women's Community Employment Centre, 103 Bellevue Ave., Toronto; 922-1819.

This group is setting up an employment centre for immigrant women in downtown Toronto. They would be interested to hear from immigrant women, employers, unions, and employment agencies in order to gauge current needs and opportunities.

Toronto Women's Network--meets the last Wednesday of each month at 342 Jarvis St. (near Carlton). The Network serves as a contact point for local women's groups.

Women's Information Centre--can be reached at P. O. Box 189, Station A, Toronto.

Women's Development Centre--15 Birch Ave., Toronto; 925-1154.

Former Women's Place activities are now handled by this office. Counselling by phone is provided in such areas as mental health and social services.

Women in Transition--143 Spadina Road, Toronto; 967-5227 and Interval House--596 Huron St., Toronto; 924-1491 or 924-1492.

Both provide accommodation for sole support women and children, particularly at a time of marital separation.

Innervisions/ARC--84 McCaul St., Toronto; 363-6777.

This group has a catalogue of films by and about women, as well as information about the use of film and videotape as communications tools.

Toronto Women's Bookstore--85 Harbord St. (west of Spadina), Toronto; 922-8744. In stock are books, records, buttons, pamphlets, posters.

Amazon Press--has moved to 121 Avenue Road, Toronto; 922-9726.

PUBLICATIONS

Status of Women News--The September edition is now available at 35¢ from NAC, 121 Avenue Road, Toronto M5R 2G3. It is recommended reading for those frustrated by the poor press coverage of the Mexico conferences.

Provincial Library Service Branch--Ministry of Culture and Recreation, 14th floor, Mowat Block, Queen's Park, Toronto M7A 1C5--has bibliographies of material about women.

Metro Toronto Public Libraries--have published a list of their films concerning women. Ask locally for "Women: A Filmography".

Once Upon a Pedestal--is a list of multi-media material for children, prepared with IWY in mind by the Young People's Services Dept. of the Toronto Public Library. Ask for it at branches, or phone 964-9151.

Federal Services for Women--is a pamphlet outlining grants and services for women. It is free from Information Canada in its bookstores or office at 171 Slater St., Ottawa K1A 0S9.

Are You Being Discriminated Against?--is a checklist booklet for employees who wish to discover whether they are victims of sex discrimination. A film on female public employees' problems is also on hand at CUPE, 233 Gilmour, suite 800, Ottawa. Contact person: E. Plettenberg.

Title Unknown--This anthology of writing by women was produced for the summer's Festival of Women and the Arts. Order it at \$1 from Lydia Burton, 8 Admiral Rd., Toronto M5R 2L5, or from Toronto Women's Bookstore. Canadian Newsletter of Research on Women--c/o Dept. of Sociology, University of Waterloo, Waterloo N2L 3G1. The newsletter provides thrice-yearly lists of bibliographies, book reviews, periodicals, courses, and research about women. To subscribe, send \$5 per person, or \$12 per institution.

Feminist News Service--Its news packets are now available. For information on subscribing, consult the group at 85 Harbord St., Toronto.

Women of Canada: Their Life and Work--This is a reprint of a book published in 1900. To obtain, send \$4.50 to the National Council of Women, 270 McLaren St., Ottawa K2P 0M3.

Women at Work: Ontario 1850 to 1930--is co-winner of the Toronto City Book Award. Congratulations to authors-publishers Canadian Women's Educational Press, 280 Bloor St. W., #305, Toronto; 962-3904.

Special IWY editions about women:

--Canadian Dimension--"Women: A Special Issue" (vol. 10, no. 8). \$1 from Box 1413, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 2Z1.

--Communiqué--"Women in Arts in Canada" (May 1975). \$2.50 from 3 Church St., #47, Toronto M5E 1M2; 364-6351.

--UNESCO Courier--The March 1975 issue has items on women internationally. For copies, contact Information Canada.

NEWS BRIEFS

Non-status Indian women: After much protest, 2 such women are allowed to remain on Caughnawaga Reserve; they had been ordered evicted.

North Bay--now has a Mayor's Committee on the Status of Women.

IWY Meets: Representatives of the National Action Committee and other interested Canadian women were in attendance at the IWY Tribune in Mexico during June. Joan Laird of Toronto reported, "For the first time, 'sisterhood' became a worldwide possibility--and a reality." Another non-governmental IWY World Congress will be held in East Berlin, October 20-24.

Catherine Charlton--has become the first woman director of the Empire Club.

Lawyer Rosalie Abella--has received a 3 year appointment to the Ontario Human Rights Commission.

Sheridan College's Centre for Women--presented a summer course in assertiveness training to help women "challenge the old concept that they are indecisive and lacking in leadership qualities."

Banking: An up-dated study by Marianne Bossen, the Winnipeg economist who produced the background paper on women in banks for the Status of Women Report, is expected at Year's end.

Drama: Theatre Passe Muraille is working on a play dealing with the actual events surrounding the organization of a group of secretaries eager to improve their working conditions. The play is scheduled to open in Toronto in October.

Women in Business: This 5 part series of articles ran in Financial Post starting May 24. It quoted OCSW material.

Protest: Kitchener-Waterloo Woman's Place protested to the CBC about This Country in the Morning, contending that women were being ignored while men supplied almost all the expertise on the program this past year. Members also expressed their affiliation with the broader women's movement by agreeing to a policy statement supporting "the efforts of women to educate and organize" in the fields of "education, employment, child care, and health".

OCSW Newsletter Salutes: Kitchener-Waterloo Woman's Place and North Bay Women's Centre--for their lively and informative newsletters.

ONTARIO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The OCSW is a Toronto-based group formed in 1972 to press actively for the implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission Report on the Status of Women. Affiliated with the National Action Committee, the OCSW is composed of women from a variety of occupations and associations. Work takes place in action sub-committees; general meetings are held six times a year. Although there is no formal membership fee, the OCSW asks for \$3 yearly per person or group, to defray the cost of its activities.

Clip and send to:

Ontario Committee on the Status of Women,
c/o Doreen Birchmore,
99 Highland Park Blvd., Thornhill, Ont.

I am renewing my membership and enclose \$3. _____

I would like to become a member and enclose \$3. _____

I am interested in _____

NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ POSTAL CODE _____