

The Ontario Committee on the Status of Women

NEWSLETTER

TORONTO, ONTARIO

AUGUST, 1972

The Ontario Committee on the Status of Women was formed to press for the implementation of the provincial aspects of the recommendations of the Report of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women.

The Committee is composed of women from a cross-section of occupations and associations, and is affiliated with the National Committee on the Status of Women.

Concerning the Provincial Implementation Committee.

In a recent letter Robert Welsh, Minister of Social Development, stated:

"Dr. L. R. Becherman will be heading an inter-ministerial committee which is to be charged with reviewing the implications of the recommendations of the Royal Commission as they relate to the Government of Ontario.... We have proposed that (women's) groups be consulted by Dr. Becherman's committee in the course of their work...."

Most of the membership of the Ontario Committee has been asked to write to specific M.P.'s regarding establishing an implementation committee. Note that Dr. Becherman's committee will not necessarily be focused on ways and means of implementing recommendations of the Royal Commission. The continuing letter campaign adds weight to the argument for a more positive approach to the problems of implementation and increases the feeling of urgency and need for immediate action.

We plan to contact the inter-ministerial committee as soon as possible.

The Dare Boycott.

The first meeting of the Fair Employment Committee called by Moyra Walker heard Madeline Parent of the Canadian Chemical and Textile Workers Union describe specific problems being encountered by women workers. Of special interest was the situation of the women of Local 173, United Brewery Workers on strike since May 29th against Dare Foods Limited of Kitchener. Women there work 42½ hours a week under conditions of excessive heat. The basic wage is \$2.26 per hour, but the men in the plant all earn more than the women and the percentage increases proposed would widen the gap in wages.

- Members of the Committee travelled to Kitchener to talk to the women on the picket line and offered supporting social action.
- Pat Sillers wrote to The Star and to the Globe and Mail on behalf of the Committee, putting forward the situation and stating support for women workers in their struggle to obtain a decent living wage, and to ensure the end of job discrimination because of sex.
- Delegations met with Loblaw, A. & P., Miracle Mart and Dominion Store executives requesting that Dare products be withdrawn from the shelves.
- A public demonstration was held at the St. James Town Dominion Store on July 6th at which placards and handbills urged a boycott of Dare cookies.
- A second demonstration was held at Towne Mall on July 20th near St. Clair and Yonge Streets. At both demonstrations workers from Kitchener were present.

Women in Public Office.

Precanvas surveys have been carried out by Independent women candidates Kay Macpherson (Phone: 485-4268) in St. Pauls riding, and Aline Gregory (929-5205) in Rosedale. Aileen Nicholson (481-0672) has organized the selling of memberships in Trinity riding where she is seeking the Liberal nomination.

Support a woman candidate in the Federal election!

Toronto School Board Committee.

Meetings have been held with Trustees, The Ontario Committee, The Women's Bureau and Ontario Teachers Federation representatives to establish structure for ad hoc study committees. These committees will be charged with examining selection procedures for promotion of qualified women, and with the examination of texts and guidance procedures. The Committee is being chaired by Trustee Mary Fraser.

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Delegation to Minister of Labour.

On July 20th Madeline Parent, Lorna Marsden, Flora Hogarth and Lynn MacDonald met with the Minister of Labour, Fern Guindon, Deputy Minister D. Johnston and Ms. Elizabeth Neville of the Women's Bureau.

Discussion focused on the principle of equal pay for work of equal value. The committee pointed out that trivial job differences should not be used to justify discrimination and that job evaluations, already employed by industry, should be used to ensure that women's jobs are not routinely evaluated at a lower level.

We requested the appointment of women to the Ontario Labour Relations Board; the promotion of women from within the ranks to positions of greater responsibility in the government service; a more public function of the investigative activities of the Women's Bureau so that women will be made aware of their rights and of the remedies available to them.

Other Action.

A meeting is arranged for July 31st in Montreal with executives of Air Canada to discuss the recommendations of the Royal Commission Report regarding Crown Corporations, and specifically the promotion of female flight attendants to better-paying supervisory roles now restricted to males.

Lynn MacDonald, Laura Sabia and Virginia Rock will attend.

Lorna Marsden will meet with the Deputy Minister of Colleges and Universities, Mr. Walker, to discuss public funding and admission policy of University of Toronto Schools, restricted at present to male students.

If you have your membership please pass the newsletter on to others.

-OR-

Tear off and Mail:

TO: ONTARIO COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
c/o Brigid O'Reilly, Apt. 112,
83 Elm Avenue,
Toronto 5, Ontario. (Phone: 921-0564).

I would like to become a member, \$3.00 enclosed.

I am interested in:

NAME: TEL:

ADDRESS:

STP, 10/10/71