ONTARIO COMMITTEE

ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

NEWSLETTER

TORONTO, ONTARIO APRIL 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 Action Committee on the Status of Women.

Organized just prior to the 1971 Ontario provincial elections, our first objective was the convening of a public meeting at which representatives of all the political parties were asked to give policy statements regarding the status of women.

The provincial government has to date made no move to seriously consider the recommendations of the Report of the Royal Commission. To initiate action, members of the Ontario Committee on the Status of Women met personally with Premier Davis on March 9th, 1972. Our brief argued the need for an "Implementation Committee" to be established by the Ontario government. We gave suggestions as to its focus and composition.

To build awareness of the need for an "Implementation Committee"we have:

- encouraged response from concerned women to the draft proposals of the Commission on Post-Secondary Education. A brief was presented to the Wright Commission by O.C.S.of W. members; Professors Lynn McDonald and Naomi Rosenbaum on February 28th,1972. (This brief was included as part of our submission to Premier Davis). Important briefs have since been submitted to the Wright Commission by groups from York University, McMaster University and the University of Toronto - all on behalf of the status of women in post-secondary education and covering students, teachers and administrative staff.

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- distributed copies of our brief to all M.P.P.'s for their comment and action.

- discussed our brief with Robert Nixon, Stephen Lewis and members of their staffs. The recommendations within our brief were also discussed with M.P.P.'s Margaret Birch and Margaret Scrivener.

- requested an appointment to address the members of the government Caucus.

During our interview, Premier Davis undertook to give us a response concerning our submission before the end of the present session of the Legislature. He implied that further public action and interest would influence his decision in taking action on our recommendations.

Many organizations and women's groups have already given official support to all or most of the recommendations of the Report of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women. In order to have an impact on decisions being made in the next few months we are now requesting that women give indication of their support with a letter to Premier Davis - and your local M.P.P. Immediate action is necessary!

To ensure continuing public response for government action in establishing an "Implementation Committee", we plan to:

- request women's organizations and groups to continue to voice their support of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women.

- participate in the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, "Strategy for Change" Conference being held in Toronto, April 7th-8th-9th, 1972.

- contact women from throughout Ontario who will be attending the "Strategy for Change" Conference and request their individual and collective support and action in bringing our recommendations for an "Implementation Committee" to the attention of their local Member of the Provincial Parliament.

- encourage the organization of community Status of Women Committees throughout the province. We will consider acting as a clearing-house for co-ordinating the activities of local groups.

- encourage women to seek nomination for public office at all levels of government.

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- work toward the appointment of more women to provincial and municipal Boards, Commissions, Councils, Task Forces etc.

- investigate and take action where required in specific areas of discrimination that are brought to our attention: for example:

* employment practices of large department stores which foster discrimination(as documented in the Report of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women).

* integration of the elite (male only) University of Toronto Schools.

* end help wanted- male/female classifications still existing in many newspaper classified advertisements (contrary to the Ontario Women's Equal Opportunity Act).

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The expansion of the membership of the Ontario Committee on the Status of Women is essential. We ask a nominal membership fee of $3.00 to meet costs, a larger donation would of course be welcome.

For further information the following people may be contacted:
Lynn McDonald 922-0549; Aline Gregory 929-5205;
Aideen Nicholson 481-0672; Flora Hogarth 486-0159

-or-

Tear off and mail:

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

I would like to become a member, $3.00 enclosed

I am interested in:.....

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Name:.....tel:.....

Address.....