

The Ontario Committee on the Status of Women

NEWSLETTER

TORONTO ONTARIO

DECEMBER 1972

PROVINCIAL IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

On September 5, 1972, members of the Ontario Committee on the Status of Women met with Dr. Lita Rose Betcherman, Chairperson of the newly appointed provincial Interministerial Committee on the Status of Women Report. This committee was established at the request of groups such as ours and by the support of letters and delegations of persons concerned with the implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission Report on the Status of Women which pertain to the provinces. If you wrote to your M.P.P. to express your concern with the need for the government to take responsibility for implementation then you helped urge the government to give some priority to the matter. The committee is directly responsible to Robert Welch and the Secretariat of Social Development, a division of the provincial cabinet. The committee is not concerned with implementation as such but is charged with making recommendations regarding a structure or agency to deal with status of women problems. Besides Dr. Betcherman, those attending our first meeting with the committee were: Mr. S. Davidovich, Director, Staff Development and Training, Civil Service Commission; Ms. C. McIntyre, Programme Consultant, Region 8, Ministry of Education; and Ms. E. Neville, Women's Bureau, Department of Labour. Discussion was held concerning the failure of legislation to promote and protect the equality of working women, the need for appointments of women to various boards and commissions (especially the Labour Relations Board), and recommendations for the composition and responsibilities of the permanent Interministerial Committee.

FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES COMMITTEE

The Dare Strike

During November serious efforts were made to effect conciliation between the strikers at Dare and the Company. Telegrams were sent to Fern Guindon, Minister of Labour requesting his personal intervention to assist in the settlement. Strikers will continue their action against Dare although the company is in production and operating with scab labour. If you wish to help the strikers contributions can be sent to The Dare Strike Fund, Brewery Local # 173, 65 Lodge St. Kitchener, Ontario. Moyra Walker and Pat Sillers who did a great deal of work on organizing our action against Dare have given up being chairpeople of the sub committee. Remember: DON'T BUY DARE COOKIES.

The Banking Committee

The Fair Employment Practices Committee is interested in looking into the situation of women employed in banking. A pamphlet is being prepared to distribute to all female bank employees at the end of January. The committee would like to hear from any women who either work in banks or have a connection with banking. You can contact Marjorie Cohen at 653-2488.

TORONTO BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE

A Daylong conference dealing with the socialization of children in the school system was held in the O.I.S.E. auditorium on November 29th. The conference was sponsored by the Board of Education; Moira Armour and Roselyn Stone of the OCSW were instrumental in planning and carrying out the program. The topics discussed by the panel and in the workshops included sex role stereotypes, limited physical education programs for boys and girls, limited career and training opportunities for girls, and the attitudes of ethnic groups toward the education of women. Some 300 teachers, counsellors and administrators from the metro area attended the conference. Another sub committee at the Board of Education is working on the selection of qualified women for positions of responsibility within the Board. They have come up with a number of proposals and have recommended to the Board that this sub committee continue to meet in 1973 under the newly elected trustees.

THE MEDIA COMMITTEE

This committee, with Katie Sweeney and Moira Armour, is considering ways of combatting the stereotyped toy advertisements that Eatons ran in The Toronto Star and The Globe and Mail before Christmas. Anyone interested in working on this committee could contact Katie Sweeney at 489-4025.

INTEGRATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO SCHOOLS

UTS is financed by the University of Toronto and is used as a training ground for some of the student teachers at the College of Education. The school is well known for the quality of education provided for the students who qualify academically. During the first week in September Elaine Borins and Flora Hogarth met with Dean Dadson of the Faculty of Education and with Mr. Gutteridge, Principal of UTS, to discuss the possibility of integrating the all male school. The outcome of the discussion was the agreement in principal to having girls compete for places at the school. A public announcement of this new policy is to be arranged for the middle of January when the current term ends. Apparently it was necessary to wait until January to make this announcement in order to gain the support of the Board of Directors and the Staff. It is now most important that parents be made aware of the opportunity for girls to apply to UTS. Requests for admission to both grades 7 and 9 should be made. Examinations are held in March for admission to both grades; it has not been decided whether girls can apply to both grades but we would urge that girls try for both grades. Please pass the word to other groups about this proposed change at UTS. Information regarding applications should be available early in January. Call UTS at 928-3212. As fees are presently about \$250. for the year, perhaps groups could consider the establishment of scholarships and bursaries for UTS so that some girls who qualify academically could be relieved of financial pressure. Please advise interested parents that information regarding application should be available early in January and can be had by calling UTS at 928-3212. Any further information may be had by calling Flora Hogarth at 486-0159.

AIR CANADA ACTION COMMITTEE

In July, Lynn McDonald and Virginia Rock of the OCSW organized a meeting in Montreal between executives of Air Canada and individuals concerned with the status of women. In a letter to the executives of Air Canada it had been pointed out that "discrimination on the grounds of sex is reprehensible in any sector of society and is especially so in organizations purporting to serve the public. Government departments and crown corporations have a particular responsibility to ensure that their practices are fair." At the meeting the executives of Air Canada were asked what steps the corporation has taken to implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women that were directed to crown corporations. Air Canada is preparing a draft policy statement on women in the corporation. A meeting to discuss this statement was planned for the fall but was postponed to January 3rd. Anyone interested in working on this committee should contact Elaine Borins at 486-1595.

NEW ACTION PUBLIC MEETING ON WOMEN IN THE LABOUR FORCE

A public meeting and panel discussion dealing with problems of women in the labour force is planned for February 7, 1973 at the Town Hall in the St. Lawrence Centre. Grace Hartman has agreed to be the moderator; invitations have been extended to provincial and federal political figures including Premier Davis, Labour Minister Guindon, Manpower Minister Andras and Health & Welfare Minister Munro. Topics that will be open to discussion include the problem of enforcing Ontario's labour legislation, unemployment benefit problems that women encounter, problems of married women in the labour force, equal pay for work of equal value and equal opportunity for working women in Ontario. Anyone interested in working at planning this evening could call Lorna Marsden at 923-1506.

NEW ACTION COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

In March 1972, the OCSW carried out a survey to determine the number of women on the various Boards, Commissions, Councils and Task Forces at the Provincial level. A committee is now active to update this information and consider the best means of again stating the case for a greater participation of women in this area of public life. Anyone interested in working on this problem could call Aline Gregory at 929-5205 or Jane Lommel at 920-3610.

NEW ACTION TASK FORCE ON POLICING IN ONTARIO

On November 30, 1972 it was announced in The Globe and Mail that a task force on policing has been appointed by the Government of Ontario. One of subjects under consideration is Personnel Planning And Development. As opportunities for women are very limited within the police forces the OCSW is preparing a brief for February 15th. If you have suggestions or information on this problem please contact Aideen Nicholson at 481-0672.

NEW ACTION SPEAKERS POOL

Many of our members receive requests to speak to other groups on the status and role of women in Ontario. We are planning to work on a "speakers kit" and to organize more people interested in speaking. Anyone who would like to work on this is asked to contact Aline Gregory at 929-5209 .

PROVINCIAL EXPANSION

The response from women in Ontario to the article by Zena Cherry in the Globe and Mail in September was very strong. To encourage the organization of groups in various centres throughout the province, the OCSW would like to arrange for members to get in touch with women throughout Ontario, to travel to various centres, and to speak to small or large groups on initiating action at local levels. Out of town members who would like to hear from speakers could contact Brigid O'Reilly by mail (Apt. 112, 83 Elm Ave. Toronto M4W 1P1) or by phone 921-0564. We are also thinking of having a provincial meeting on a weekend in the spring. Any out of town members who would be interested in this idea are asked to contact Brigid O'Reilly.

STEERING COMMITTEE AND COMMITTEE COORDINATORS

Moira Armour	483-5150	Toronto School Board & Media
Elaine Borins	486-1595	Air Canada
Marjorie Cohen	653-2488	Fair Employment(Banking)
Aline Gregory	929-5205	Speakers Pool & Dare Boycott
Flora Hogarth	486-0159	UTS & Newsletter
Diana Hunt	964-6143	Dare Boycott
Jane Lonnell	920-3610	Women on Boards & Commissions
Lorna Marsden	923-1506	Women in the Labour Force
Lynn McDonald	922-0549	Air Canada
Aideen Nicholson	481-0672	Task Force on Policing
Brigid O'Reilly	921-0564	Membership, Provincial Meeting
Roselyn Stone	486-1100	Toronto School Board
Katie Sweeney	489-4025	Media

JANUARY MEETING WEDNESDAY JANUARY 24 at 8 p.m.
Lorna Marsden's 41 Spadina Road, Apt. 7.

TO: ONTARIO COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN	
c/o Brigid O'Reilly, Apt. 112, 83 Elm Ave. Toronto M4W 1P1	
I would like to become a member, \$3.00 enclosed.	
I am interested in	
NAME:.....	TEL.....
ADDRESS.....	