

THE ONTARIO COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

P.O. Box 188, Station O,
Toronto, Ont. M4T 2M1.

NEWSLETTER
September 1976.

NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING

The next OCSW general meeting will be on Wednesday, October 6 at 8 p.m. in the home of Naomi Black, 19 Hawthorn Ave., Toronto. (Directions-- From Castle Frank subway station, go north 2 blocks; turn left onto Dale Ave.; then turn right after one block. If lost, call Naomi at 921-9772.)

After the summer lull, this is a time for renewed action, so members and other interested women are urged to come out and get involved in ongoing or new projects.

GROUP ACTION

EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE--

In July, Marjorie Cohen and Wendy Lawrence joined NAC executive members Lorna Marsden and Mary Eberts in a meeting with two representatives of the federal Department of Labour. NAC had requested the meeting to discuss the principle of "equal pay for work of equal value", a priority concern, especially in regard to the proposed federal Human Rights legislation. NAC's brief on the subject was covered in detail, and our members were pleased at the response by the Labour Department representatives, who indicated strong support for equal pay for work of equal value.

Meanwhile, at the provincial level, Labour Minister Dr. Bette Stephenson in August denied that the report of an Ontario Ministry of Labour's Subcommittee on equal pay for work of equal value had been suppressed. The OCSW therefore sent a letter requesting a copy of this report at the government's earliest convenience, and awaits a reply.

A Toronto Star editorial has since called for the implementation of equal pay for work of equal value.

CANADA PENSION PLAN AND HOMEMAKERS--ONTARIO'S RESPONSIBILITY

The OCSW has for several years followed the National Action Committee's campaign to have created a public pension scheme that would give support to a spouse at home. NAC has pressed for a splitting of credits of the Canada Pension Plan and a division of those credits in a case of marriage breakdown, with the proviso that the averaging of the credits should not reflect those years of child-rearing spent out of the labour force.

In June, a meeting of federal and provincial Ministers of Welfare considered the question of pension plans while discussing the Social Security Review. Whereas there was agreement of the provinces: i) to split pension credits earned during marriage equally between spouses upon dissolution of marriage, Ontario expressed reservations about: ii) allowing the child-rearing spouse to drop out the months of low or zero earnings from the calculation of average life-time earnings for benefit purposes. For constitutional reasons, this action by Ontario effectively vetoes acceptance of the second proposal by provinces other than Quebec.

Therefore, the OCSW joins NAC in urging the women of Ontario to contact the Honourable James Taylor, Minister of Community and Social Services, Queen's Park, Toronto, to let him know that this delay on the part of our province is hindering a change important to all Canadian women. NAC maintains that the proposal will not solve the problem of whether a houseperson should get a pension on her/his own merits for contribution to our economy, but it will help those women who reach middle or old age with no pension credits and without the husband whose work was to have provided those.

If more information is required, contact NAC at 40 St. Clair Ave. East, Suite 300, Toronto M4T 1M9; phone 922-3246. (NOTE--NAC's new address.) NAC's July Memo explains the situation in more depth.

SHELTERS FOR WOMEN

Controversy has arisen in Toronto again about the funding of hostels such as Nellie's, Interval House, Women in Transition, etc. Incidents over the summer have shown the increasing need for such facilities at the very time when their existence is threatened because of financial insecurity. While staff workers at the hostels have been critical of both provincial and municipal policy, spokesmen for these levels of government have defended their current contributions. The OCSW will continue to co-operate with the women working in this field, and hopes that other groups can also have an impact here by publicly showing support for the programmes of the shelters.

PERSONAL NOTES

SYMPATHY--The Ontario Committee wishes to express sorrow at the death recently of Katherine Evans, one of our members, and to express our sympathy to her family. Katherine was the sister of Fran Monev, another OCSW member; and a librarian at the University of Toronto. She will be sadly missed.

RE-APPOINTMENT--Gail Newall has been re-appointed a member of the Council of the College of Nurses of Ontario. This is evidence of the value of submitting the names of qualified women to the provincial Council's Talent Bank.

HONOUR-ABLE MENTION--Rosalie Abella has been sworn in as a Provincial Family Court Judge for the district of York.

UPCOMING EVENTS

In Sight; A Conference for Women--will focus on choices open in careers and life-styles. Films and discussion groups are planned; among the speakers are Laura Sabia and Shelagh Wilkinson. Fee for the day at Sheridan College is \$3.50; limited day-care and bus service will be provided. For information and registration, contact: Centre for Women, Sheridan College, Trafalgar Road, Oakville, Ont. 845-9430, ext. 349.

Explore and Develop--is an education conference to deal with integrating the study of women into school curricula. Co-sponsored by the Ministry of Education and the Toronto Board of Education, it will take place October 21-23 at the MacDonald Block, Queen's Park, Toronto. Lorna Marsden will be keynote speaker. For more details, contact the Women's Studies Consultant of the Toronto Board of Education, 362-4931. (Enrolment is limited to 500.)

Laura Sabia "Roast"--Laura Sabia has announced her resignation as Chairperson of the Ontario Status of Women Council. She has since expressed her fear that the Council could become just another "buffer" between women and government.

The National Action Committee will honour Laura Sabia, its first President, for her service to Canadian women, by holding a banquet for her on Wednesday, December 8 in Hart House, Toronto. A bursary in her name is also to be established for a female student at Woodsworth College, University of Toronto. Contact NAC later for information about tickets and donations to the bursary fund.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Ryerson Open College--297 Victoria St., Toronto M5B 1W1; 595-5273. Several courses are offered for 1976-77: for university credit: "Biology and 20th Century Man", "The Canadian Novel"; for certificate: "Helping Children Grow"; non-credit: "Baroque Music", and "What is the Law?". Call or write for details on times and fees.

University of Toronto--A variety of courses will be available. For a brochure, call 978-2400, or write to the School of Continuing Studies, 158 St. George St., Toronto.

Adult Education Courses in Toronto Schools--A free brochure lists this year's courses, which include topics such as self-development for women, you and your preschooler, women in society. Registration days are Sept. 27-8. For information on fees, courses and their locations, call 362-4931, ext. 224, between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.

NEWS FROM OTHER GROUPS

NATIVE WOMEN OF CANADA--In May, native women were invited for the first time to give their views to a parliamentary committee, the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Among other things, the women voiced their concerns about revisions to the Indian Act, including the question of the status of native women upon marriage.

FEDERAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN--Former Chairman Dr. Katie Cooke is now a Director of Research in the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, while Vice-chairman June Menzies has become Vice-chairman of the Anti-inflation Board.

CANADIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN--held its triennial conference in Saskatoon in August. Resolutions called for: 1) birth planning and contraceptives to be made available by all levels of government upon request; 2) daily physical education of quality for all elementary school students; 3) school sex education programmes; 4) removal of abortion from the Criminal Code; 5) amendments on income tax and Canada Pension Plan legislation regarding a spouse working in a family business.

WOMEN'S COUNSELLING, REFERRAL AND EDUCATION CENTRE, 15 Birch Ave., Toronto M4V 1E1: 925-1155--are searching for "good, woman-oriented counsellors and therapists". Any suggestions of such counsellors and physicians based on personal experience would be welcome.

WOMEN'S COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE--3 Church St., 4th floor, Toronto M5E 1M2: 368-0764--is a national network on, about and for women, acting as a clearing-house for information and mailing lists. Contributions to its endeavours are being sought.

PUBLICATIONS, FILMS, RECORDS, ETC.

* An asterisk following a title indicated that the OCSW has received a copy which is in our files. Members may borrow these from Wendy Lawrence.

WOMEN IN CANADA*--This book gives the results of a federal government study of the attitudes of Canadians to the status of women issues, with stress on measuring the changes in such attitudes during IWY. It shows that the major problems of women are seen by Canadians as: 1) equal rights (pay, opportunities); 2) personal identity and worth; 3) family obligations (including day-care); 4) economy (jobs, inflation). The report concludes that during IWY there was an increase in the proportion of Canadians who believed in equal opportunities for women and men. However, one segment of the population reacted negatively, and felt threatened by concepts of equality. They felt more strongly at the end of 1975 that men should play a dominant role in virtually all aspects of life. "It can be hypothesized that the increase in the size of this group reflects their reaction to the potential threat which women in the work force might offer to their jobs plus a resistance to changing their basic belief that men should be dominant and the providers." The report was released by the Office of the Co-ordinator, Status of Women, Ottawa, Ont. K1A 1G3.

CREDIT AND YOU: WOMEN'S ACCESS TO CREDIT IN ONTARIO*--is a free pamphlet outlining the credit situation of women under Ontario's "equal credit opportunity guidelines". Copies can be obtained by writing to: Information Services, Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, 555 Yonge St., Toronto.

ABOUT FACE: TOWARDS A POSITIVE IMAGE OF WOMEN IN SPORT*--is a report by Olympic athlete Abby Hoffman, containing recommendations for securing equal opportunities for women and men in sports and recreation. For copies, contact Mary Corbett, Executive Officer, Ontario Status of Women Council, 801 Bay St., Toronto. 965-1111.

WOMEN AND THE SKILLED TRADES--This pamphlet, profiling 9 women in such trades as plumbing, woodworking, and welding, is available from the Information Services, Ministry of Colleges and Universities, Queen's Park, Toronto.

THE VISIBLE WOMAN--The price of this booklet is \$1 per copy (not 25¢, as stated in our last newsletter). It can be purchased from the Federation of Women Teachers' Associations of Ontario, 1260 Bay St., 3rd floor, Toronto M5R 2B8.

PUBLICATIONS, FILMS, RECORDS, ETC.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CHOICE: A GOAL FOR WOMEN IN CANADA--is an extremely useful book outlining the situation of Canadian women today in such areas as education, the family, and employment. It interprets government statistics and suggests trends. Edited by Gail Cook, it is published at \$3.75 (paper) by Statistics Canada.

THE LAW IS NOT FOR WOMEN!*--June Callwood and Marvin Zuker have updated this handbook setting out the current legal position of Canadian women. Available from Pitman Publishing, 517 Wellington St. W., Toronto M5V 1G1. (\$5.95 paper, \$7.95 cloth)

WILDERNESS WOMEN*--Jean Johnston has written biographical essays on 9 early Canadian women. Order at \$4.95 paper, \$10 cloth from Peter Martin Associates, 35 Britain St., Toronto M5A 1R7.

THE UNFINISHED ASSIGNMENT: EQUAL EDUCATION FOR WOMEN*--This lengthy paper summarizes world-wide trends in the schooling of women and discusses the implications for social organization. Order at \$2 each (reduced rates for multiple orders) from Worldwatch Institute, 1776 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington D.C. 20036. Another Worldwatch article, also available for the same cost, is Women in Politics: A Global View.

SHE SAID/HE SAID*--is an annotated bibliography of references about sex differences in language. To order, send \$2.25 to KNOW Inc., Box 86031, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15221.

EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT, PEACE*--The report of the Canadian Delegation to the World Congress for IWY, is available for 50¢ from: Canadian Liaison Committee for International Women's Decade, Box 524, Port Credit Postal Station, Mississauga, Ont.

WOMEN LOOK AT PSYCHIATRY--examines the experiences of 9 women to challenge assumptions about mental health. It is distributed at \$4 (paper), \$10 (cloth), by Women's Press, 280 Bloor St. W., suite 305, Toronto. 962-3904.

L'EGALE, A JOURNAL ON WOMEN AND THE LAW--The first issue is now out, with articles on women textile workers in Quebec, the prison experience, human rights commissions and their cases, etc. To obtain, send \$2 (15% discount on more than 10 copies) to Canadian Council on Social Development, 55 Parkdale Ave., Box 3505, Station C, Ottawa. K1V 4G1.

THE ADULT LEARNER IN THE UNIVERSITY: DOES ANYBODY CARE?--by Jean Skelhorne, is available at \$2.25 from Publication Sales, OISE, 252 Bloor St. W., Toronto M5S 1V6.

A DIRECTORY OF WOMEN'S MEDIA--is published by Media Report to Women, 3306 Ross Place, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008 Price \$6. (U.S.)

GIRLS WILL BE WOMEN--is an anthology of poetry and essays by 6 to 18 year old Canadian young women. To purchase, contact All About Us, Box 1985, Ottawa K1P 5R5.

HARRIET AND THE GREAT BIKE ROBBERY--is a non-sexist story for children 7-9, set in Toronto; written and illustrated by Claire Watson Garcia. \$2.25 from Kids Can Press, P. O. Box 5974, Station A, Toronto.

BEYOND THE BIG THREE--is a new career counselling kit for high school girls encouraging them to look beyond sex stereotyping. It consists of 5 booklets (\$10), and a game about marriage (\$7). Order from Mrs. Beth Rydale, University Women's Club of Oakville, 467 Timberton Cres., Oakville, Ont. L6L 5E1.

"WOMEN IN FOCUS" AUDIO-VISUAL TAPES--An all-woman crew has produced a library of 32 video tapes on subjects of interest to women. The tapes can be rented or purchased by groups or interested individuals. For a catalogue, contact Marion Barling, Women in Focus, Box 85, Student Union Building, Room 230, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C.

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PUBLICATIONS, FILMS, RECORDS, ETC.

SUFFRAGISTS: A CENTURY LATER--A 15 minute film shows several activists discussing the accomplishments of the women's rights movement in Canada. It can be borrowed from the Federation of Women Teachers' Associations of Ontario, 1260 Bay St., Toronto. (3rd floor)

BORN A WOMAN--Rita McNeil's recording of her songs is now available from Boot Hill Records, 1343 Matheson Blvd. W., Mississauga, Ont. Many record stores also carry the album.

GEMINI HALL--is a company promoting women classical music writers and performers. A stereo 2-record set, "Woman's Work", features 18 European women composers of the last 4 centuries. \$11.50 from Gemini Hall Records, 808 West End Ave., New York, N. Y. 10025.

NEW DAY FILMS ABOUT WOMEN AND MEN--Documentaries on women can be bought or rented from this film-making company, c/o Marlin Motion Pictures, 47 Lakeshore Rd. East, Port Credit, Ont. L5G 1C9.

ONTARIO FEDERATION OF LABOUR--6 posters of union women performing non-traditional jobs are free from the organization at 15 Gervais Drive, suite 202, Don Mills, Ont. 429-2731.

BRANCHING OUT--A Canadian magazine for women, comes from Box 4098, Edmonton, Alberta T6E 4T1. Subscriptions are available.

SHERIDAN COLLEGE'S WOMEN'S NEWS, a lively monthly, has ceased publication, REGRETTABLY.

ONTARIO COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The Ontario Committee on the Status of Women is a Toronto-based group formed in 1972 to press actively for the implementation of the recommendations 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. Work takes place in action sub-committees. General meetings are held 6 times a year.

CLIP AND SEND TO:

ONTARIO COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN,
c/o Doreen Birchmore, Donwood Institute,
175 Brentcliffe Road,
Toronto, Ontario. M4G 3Z1.

NAME _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS _____ POSTAL CODE _____

I am interested in _____

I would like to become a member and enclose \$3.00 _____

An information sheet on past activities of the Ontario Committee is available on request.

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Ontario Committee on the Status of Women
P.O. Box 1188, Station Q
Toronto M4T 2M1



also Ellen Resnick

~~Clearinghouse for Feminist Media~~

~~P.O. Box 207, Ancaster, Ont.~~

*moved box closed
Jan 1976*

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