

THE ONTARIO COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN NEWSLETTER

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

November, 1976.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

The Ontario Committee on the Status of Women will hold a general meeting on Wednesday, November 24, at 8 p.m. at the Northern District Library, 40 Orchard View Boulevard, Toronto (1 block north of Eglinton, just west of Yonge--handy for Eglinton subway station).

PUBLIC MEETING--EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

On Thursday, December 2, there will be a free forum at Harbord Collegiate, 286 Harbord St. (south of Bloor, west of Bathurst), to provide discussion on where we stand now, what changes we need, etc. Speaking will be: Stephen Lewis (NDP Leader), Margaret Campbell (Liberal MPP), and an Ontario Government Spokesperson. Responding will be: Grace Hartman (CUPE President), Madeleine Parent (Executive, Confederation of Canadian Unions), and Mary Cornish (lawyer, Law Union of Ontario). June Callwood will be moderator, and there will be a question period. Everyone is encouraged to come out and reaffirm support of this important principle, which is so basic to women's equality.
8 p.m.

LAURA SABIA TO BE HONOURED

On Wednesday, December 8, the National Action Committee will honour its first President and the retiring Chairperson of the Ontario Status of Women Council, Laura Sabia. The occasion will be a banquet at 8 p.m. in the Great Hall of Hart House, University of Toronto. Tickets may be purchased from NAC at 40 St. Clair Ave. E., suite 300, Toronto M4T 1M9; 922-3246.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

A scholarship honouring Laura Sabia is being established to aid a person who, after child-rearing, is entering or returning to post-secondary education at Woodsworth College, University of Toronto. The OCSW would like to make a donation to the scholarship fund, and members are requested to send \$10, \$5, \$2 or whatever they can afford. Cheques should be made payable to the University of Toronto Scholarship Fund, and sent to Brigid Munsche, 142 Howland Ave., Toronto M5R 3B5. (Tax receipts can be issued on request.)

CURRENT ISSUES

ONTARIO WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE

The OCSW has joined the campaign to convert the Metropolitan Toronto Central Library (at College & St. George) into an Ontario Women's Resource Centre. This campaign, initiated by the Business & Professional Women's Clubs of Ontario, needs the support of women's groups & individuals across the province. For informational brochures on the project, call Brigid Munsche at 533-2194 (eve) or 481-4438 (day); or write to Ms. Trecia Kyle, 435 Eglinton Ave. E., #704, Toronto M4P 1M4.

Please write to your MPP in support of this worthwhile project.

FAMILY LAW

On October 26, Government Bill 140: "An Act to Reform the Law Respecting Property Rights & Support Obligations between Married Persons & in Other Family Relationships" received First Reading in the Ontario Legislature. The Ministry of the Attorney-General is distributing a pamphlet entitled "Highlights of Ontario's Reform of Family Law", which is intended only as a brief summary of the government's legislative proposals, and a position paper entitled "Family Law Reform" which contains the text of Bill 140.

In addition to the above, submissions and briefs will be presented at the time the proposed legislation is referred to the Justice Committee of the Legislature. Members of the OCSW subcommittee on family law are currently studying Bill 140, and will present a brief at that time.

OCSW members are urged to write or phone the Ministry of the Attorney-General, 17th floor, 18 King St. E., Toronto M5C 1C5 (965-1211) and request

FAMILY LAW (continued)

copies of the pamphlet and the position paper, study them carefully, and communicate your comments as soon as possible to Irma Melville, Palatin Court, R. R. #2, Markham, Ont. L3P 3J3.

CHANGE OF NAME

The Attorney-General has made public an Ontario Law Reform Commission Report recommending more flexibility in choice of name. A spouse might wish to keep her/his name, or take the name of the other spouse, or opt for a new hyphenated version of both names. Discussion will take place before action on this in law happens.

BRIEFLY NOTED

At a recent education conference, keynote speaker Lorna Marsden noted that, since the 1950s, fewer women than men have been finishing high school. New data is showing that women are tending increasingly to attend community colleges, not universities; those taking jobs are still concentrated in typing, nursing, and services.

The Ontario Status of Women Council has a new Chairperson in Lynne Gordon, consumer affairs journalist. Her term will be 3 years. Several other new members from around the province have also been named to the Council.

The federal Throne Speech (Oct. 12) states that the upcoming Human Rights bill (in revised form) will recognize the principle of "equal remuneration for work of equal value".

The National Action Committee on the Status of Women recently sent a telegram to the Minister of Justice urging him to have the Attorney-General of Quebec drop charges against Dr. Henry Morgentaler after his third acquittal by jury. NAC also reiterated its position that abortion should be removed from the Criminal Code.

PUBLICATIONS

"PERSON PAPERS"--are 5 very informative booklets dealing with Canadian women in regard to: fringe benefits, matrimonial property, birth planning, the price of maternity, and rape. Send for copies, free on request, from: Federal Advisory Council on the Status of Women, 63 Sparks St., Box 1541, Station B, Ottawa K1P 5R5.

EVERYWOMAN'S ALMANAC 1977--This handy date book is available for \$3.95 from Canadian Women's Educational Press, 280 Bloor St. W., #305, Toronto. 962-3904.

ROOM OF ONE'S OWN--is a quarterly feminist journal of literature & criticism. To subscribe (\$6 yearly, individuals; \$10 institutions) or submit manuscripts, contact Growing Room Collective, 1918 Waterloo St., Vancouver, B.C. V6R 3G6.

WOMEN IN CANADIAN SOCIETY--is a book in the Canadian Critical Issues series, available at \$3 from OISE's Publication Sales, 252 Bloor St. W., Toronto M5S 1V6.

POETRY--4 new books by Canadian women poets are distributed by Mosaic Press/Valley Editions, P.O. Box 1032, Oakville, Ont. L6J 5E9. Contact them for information on what is available (cloth & paper books), and how to order.

NOTABLE AMERICAN WOMEN 1607-1950, A Biographical Dictionary--can now be found in the reference part of Toronto Central Library's Social Science Section.

WOMEN, A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SPECIAL PERIODICAL ISSUES (1960-1975)--is a paperback valuable for research. To order, send \$2.75 to Canadian Newsletter of Research on Women, Department of Sociology, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, 252 Bloor St. W., Toronto, Ont. M5S 1V6.

FILMS

WOMEN'S BUREAU--Many good films on women's issues, suitable for viewers of diverse backgrounds and interests, may be borrowed free from the Ontario Women's Bureau, 400 University Ave., Toronto M7A 1T7; 965-1537.

IS ANYBODY OUT THERE LISTENING?--This study of sexism in high schools can be purchased from E & A Productions, 396 Davisville Ave., Toronto. 487-9427. Colour videotape is \$50 a print; video cassette is \$75.

A WOMAN'S WORK--This film explores the widening wage gap between women & men. Order at \$175 from E & A Productions, as above.

NOT A PRETTY PICTURE--This film is a fiction-documentary on rape. It can be rented from Dabara Films, 367 Queen St. W., Toronto M5V 2A6; 362-7672.

FREE FILM SHOWINGS--Evenings of films and discussions of women's issues will be held on Nov. 23, Dec. 7, Jan. 11 & 25, and Feb. 8, at the National Film Board Theatre, 1 Lombard St. E., Toronto.

FEATURE--MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

On December 4, municipal elections will be held. Now is the time to contact your candidates for school trustee and ask them about women's issues in the education system. An OCSW subcommittee has prepared the following information: how to find out who your trustee candidates are, how to contact them, and 5 questions to ask them.

Please join in this short campaign to draw attention to the women's issues in education, and to find out how informed some of our elected officials are about them.

WHO ARE YOUR CANDIDATES FOR TRUSTEE?

1. You have probably been receiving flyers through your letter box with their names, phone numbers, and background.
or
2. You can telephone the Election Desk at City Hall for the names of the people running for trustee in your ward.
or
3. The phone book lists trustees now serving on the Toronto Board of Education on page 179. Those not running again are: Johnston, Orr, Ross, Kelly, Midani, Shanoff, Milne, and Cressy.
or
4. Your Board of Education may have a list of the trustees now on the Board and running again, to send to you.

HOW DO YOU CONTACT YOUR TRUSTEE CANDIDATES?

1. Most trustees will appear at meetings organized in your ward. The Association of Women Electors at 366-0195 has a list of meetings in the City of Toronto.
or
2. If you live outside Toronto, phone City Hall and ask for a list of the candidates' meetings in your ward.
or
3. Telephone a local school and ask for the Home & School President's name. Call to inquire as to whether trustees' meetings are being held.
or
4. Telephone your local ratepayers' group and ask about trustees' meetings.
or
5. Telephone your trustees and discuss these questions.

QUESTIONS FOR TRUSTEES

Each of these questions can be asked of a trustee who is running again or for the first time. (The wording in brackets is for those who are running for the first time.)

- I. What has been done (or what do you plan to do) to implement an affirmative action programme that seeks out and encourages qualified women to apply for positions of responsibility within your School Board?

FACTS:

	Elementary Schools in Toronto ¹	
	Male	Female
Principals	94	14
Vice-Principals	67	16
Teachers	802	2160
	Secondary Schools in Ontario ²	
Principals	570	12
Vice-Principals	735	40
Co-ordinators	222	46
Department Heads	4094	1074
Teachers	24,306	10,923

¹ From a Report of the Advisory Committee on Affirmative Action of the Toronto Board of Education, 1975.

² From the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation.

- II. What has been done (or are you prepared to do) to eliminate teaching materials which perpetuate a bias based on sex?

FACTS:

And Then There Were None is a report commissioned by the Status of Women Council of the Federation of Women Teachers of Ontario. Evaluators examined all the series of readers for Grades 4, 5, and 6 now approved by the Ministry to try and draft a list of non-sexist teaching materials that conveyed positive images of women and girls. Results were: None of the series was recommended without reservations.

359, 1/10/77

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS (continued) -- QUESTIONS FOR TRUSTEES

two were recommended for restricted use; four were not recommended at all. In one of the series, the team counted the number of occupations: there were 7 for women, and 76 for men.

III. What has been done (or are you prepared to do) to correct the disparity between boys' and girls' athletic programmes in the schools with respect to funding, facilities, and types of sport? Would you encourage more non-contact sports such as gymnastics, track and field, archery, fencing and tennis?

FACTS: Board of Education grants to athletics in North Toronto Collegiate Institute (administered by the school) amounted to \$7.20 per capita for boys taking Physical Education and \$1.79 per capita for girls taking Physical Education in 1975-6. ⁱ

ⁱ Is Anybody Out There Listening? A study of sexism in a secondary school, prepared in 1975-6.

IV. What has been done (or what are you prepared to do) to implement courses on women in our present and past society? Would you support the allocation of funds, time, and consultants to womens' studies programmes in the secondary schools?

V. What has been done (or are you planning to do) to ensure that guidance programmes in secondary schools effectively prepare students for changing roles in a changing world?

FACTS: It is anticipated that 8 out of 10 women presently in school will work outside the home for 25 to 30 years. In Ontario, half a million working women are widowed, divorced, separated or single and support themselves and their families. More than forty percent of all married women in Ontario work outside the home, 75 percent of them full-time. The average married woman leaves the work force for no more than 10 to 15 years for child-rearing and then returns to work. Most women who re-enter the labour market are unprepared vocationally or psychologically to compete for jobs. ⁱ

ⁱ Changing Roles in a Changing World, A Focus on the Female Student, by the Ministry of Education.

For further information on these or other questions, please telephone:

- Karen Fejer 445-0239
- Joan Laird 483-6825
- Brigid Munsche 533-2194 (or 481-4438--days)

THE OCSW--MEMBERSHIP

Interested in joining us? Clip the form below and send it to:
Doreen Birchmore,
175 Brentcliffe Road,
Toronto, Ontario. M4G 3Z1.

Why not get together with us at the ~~next~~ general meeting, or support us with your membership fee--it includes the quarterly newsletter. New hands willing to be active are always welcome on our subcommittees.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ POSTAL CODE _____

I am interested in _____

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

I am already a member, and want to pay up for this year _____

P. S. -- Is your address up to date with us? We want you to be able to read our newsletter, so keep in touch.

November, 1976