

THE ONTARIO COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

NEWSLETTER

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

September 1978.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

The first fall meeting of the Ontario Committee on the Status of Women will be held on Wednesday, October 4, at 8 p. m., in the home of Wendy Lawrence, 17 Berryman Street, Toronto. (922-4458)

17 Berryman is 2 blocks north of Yorkville Avenue, just west of Bay St. You can reach it easily by subway and the Bay Street bus.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING AN ACTIVE OCSW MEMBER?

Summer vacations are over, and the OCSW is getting down to action on several key issues. Now is the time to join one of our sub-committees, all of which have lots of work to do in the year ahead. The general meeting may decide on new projects, but at the moment, the sub-committees offering the most scope for participation are:

Social Services--The Honourable Keith Norton, Minister of Community and Social Services, has been notified that the OCSW will seek an appointment with him soon to express our concerns about Ontario's policies on social services. To become involved with these issues (daycare, crisis intervention homes, etc.), contact Chaviva Hosek at 463-2822.

Equal Pay--This sub-committee is preparing a brief to take to Ontario's new Minister of Labour, the Honourable Robert Elgie. If you wish to be active here, call Anne Hill at 465-0898.

Senior Women--Our newest sub-committee is now looking for members to work on recommendations for changes in policy at the provincial level that will improve conditions for our senior women. To be active in this, contact Brigid O'Reilly at 533-2194.

OCSW Follies--Every now and then, the OCSW feels the need for an informal social gathering with entertainment written and performed by our members. Planning and producing this is half the fun, so if you'd like to be part of the preparations, contact Karen Fejer at 445-0239.

Ongoing Sub-committees-

Family Law Reform--will report to us about cases under the new Ontario legislation. For more information, contact Lilly Norton at 466-7956.

Health--The members have put the final touches on their brief to Ontario's Minister of Health, the Honourable Dennis Timbrell. Contact person is Pat Lundie, 445-6778.

RECENT OCSW ACTION

OCSW Meets Ontario Government Interministerial Committee

In June, the OCSW was requested to appear before an Ontario Government committee which is assessing progress made in the status of women since the 1973 green paper Equal Opportunity for Women in Ontario: A Plan for Action. Speaking on behalf of the OCSW, Wendy Lawrence surveyed the various ministries, pointing out areas where initiatives must be taken by the province if the situation of women is to be bettered. She told the committee that the OCSW's priorities will continue to be "employment legislation and opportunities, as well as pensions; the provision of services to women, especially services such as child care, assistance to seniors and women with special needs; and health delivery, with emphasis on family planning". Copies of the OCSW presentation are obtainable from our postal address.

OCSW Attends Progressive-Conservative Annual Meeting

On invitation, the OCSW set up an information booth at the Ontario P.C. convention in September, to distribute free material and answer questions. Our table featured a striking new OCSW poster designed by Laurie Potovsky. The poster will be displayed at our general meeting.

Members' Personal Notes

Congratulations to Lorna Marsden, who has been appointed the first woman on the Board of Directors of Air Canada. . . . MAC President Kay Macpherson and

Members' Personal Notes (continued)

Judge Rosalie Abella were panelists on a September Radio Noon programme about the impact of the women's movement.

NEWS FROM OTHER GROUPS

National Action Committee on the Status of Women--40 St. Clair Ave. E., suite 306, Toronto. (922-3246)

NAC has just prepared a brief about the CBC and women, for presentation to the Canadian Radio-Television Commission. Reminding the CRTC that a submission on this subject was written in 1974 by the OCSJ in conjunction with Women for Political Action, the new NAC brief concludes, unfortunately, that most of the findings of the earlier study still apply: "The CBC has never refuted any of the criticisms. . . . Rather, it has ignored them, as it has criticisms made internally." NAC describes the portrayal of women on the CBC as giving an "extremely distorted impression of the nature and contribution of half the Canadian population", and infringing on "the public's right to be informed about women's issues as well as men's". Among NAC's recommendations are: the establishment of a CBC Task Force to determine guidelines for programmes and commercials; proportionate representation of women on all councils and commissions intended to represent the public; the according of high priority to the equal opportunity programme, on the part of management of all levels.

Women on Campus--is the name of a new group of women at the University of Toronto--faculty, staff, and students--who are interested in the status of women at the university. Their first project is a series of programmes about employment, subtitled "Satisfaction or Survival". The programmes will be held on consecutive Mondays, October 16, 23 and 30, in the Town Hall of Innis College on St. George Street, from 12 to 2 p.m. and repeated between 5 and 7 p.m. Topics covered will include entering non-traditional jobs, how to survive as a female employee, and making the most of your degree. For more information, contact Dorothy Gillmeister at 978-8507 (days).

Working Skills Centre--299 Queen St. W., suite 503, Toronto M5V 1Z9. Phone 593-4236; or 593-4237. The aims of this new centre for immigrant women are "to support women in their attempts to achieve social and economic independence, to help them to integrate into Canadian society and to enable them to become actively involved in their community." The learning programme includes language (English), life skills, and on-the-job training for mail-room operating. The Centre will do mail-outs on a commercial basis for companies and organizations. Why not contact it to see whether your business can be done there? An Open House will be held on October 4, from 4 to 6 p. m. at the Centre.

50 Years as Persons--1979 will mark the fiftieth anniversary of the decision by the Privy Council in Britain that Canadian women are indeed "persons" under the B. N. A. Act. A group of women are planning activities to give this event its proper place in our history, and to pay tribute to the five women who took the case forward. It is hoped that women around the country will set up commemorative projects at the local level, and that the celebrations will culminate in October 1979 at NAC's Annual Meeting in Edmonton, where Canada's first five women Persons began their efforts. For more information, contact Judith Davidson-Palmer at 486-0722.

Executive Skills for Women--Centennial College's Continuing Education Division is sponsoring a workshop, October 30 to November 1, for women in senior support positions who wish to move into management. For information, contact Roy DelBianco at Centennial College, 651 Warden Ave., Scarborough (phone 694-3241, ext. 644).

Lesbian Organization of Toronto--operates a phone line on Tuesdays and Fridays, 7 to 11 p. m.; and a drop-in centre on Friday evenings. The group provides counselling, social and political activities, and a library service. The address is 342 Jarvis St., Toronto M4Y 2G6. Phone 960-3249.

AROUND AND ABOUT -- SUMMER NEWS DIGEST

Setback for Girls in Sports--In August, 3 judges of the Ontario Supreme Court ruled in two separate cases that keeping girls out of boys' teams does not violate the Ontario Human Rights Code. The decisions were based on the interpretation that sports associations for boys only are not services or facilities that must be open to the public without restriction. The cases were on appeal from a Human Rights Board of Inquiry, which had earlier ruled that barring girls from sports associations is discriminatory, since these associations make use of public facilities routinely and are thus not entirely private.

AROUND AND ABOUT -- SUMMER NEWS DIGEST (continued)

Fleck Strike Settled--Women workers unionizing for the first time settled with Fleck Manufacturing near Exeter after a 3-month strike. They won a wage increase and union security.

Minimum Wage Increase--Ontario's minimum wage went up to \$2.35 in August, except for certain categories of employees, such as servers of alcoholic beverages.

New Sterilization Guidelines--The Ontario College of Physicians and Surgeons has declared that, in voluntary cases, doctors in the province may perform sterilization without seeking the approval of the patient's spouse.

Sexism and Newspapers--A study carried out for the Ontario Press Council has found that, although women are almost 1 in 3 of the personnel in the province's daily newspapers they fill only 7% of the positions involving major decision-making.

Woman Pilot for Air Canada--In July, Judy Cameron became the first woman pilot for the national airline.

Bank Policies Fall Short--A task force on the status of women in the Royal Bank discovered that, although the bank's stated policies are non-discriminatory, their application does not attain this ideal. The task force has offered several recommendations to increase job opportunities for female employees.

Lawyers Want Divorce Amendment--The Canadian Bar Association passed a resolution at its annual meeting in August suggesting that divorce should be available on the basis of marriage breakdown after a year's separation.

E. R. A. on Way to Extension of Deadline--In mid-August, the U. S. House of Representatives voted to extend the deadline for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment by the required 38 states. If the Senate also passes this bill, American women will have until June of 1982 to persuade 3 more state legislatures to support the E. R. A.

American Abortion Trial--A Kentucky woman was tried for performing an illegal abortion on herself after being rejected by a clinic. She was acquitted on grounds of temporary insanity.

RESOURCES

List of OCSM Publications--OCSM has now produced a comprehensive listing of our briefs, pamphlets, press releases, newsletters, and other publications over the years. For a copy, write to us at our postal address.

Women and Aging: A Report on the Rest of Our Lives--This paper by Louise Dulude discusses such topics as second careers, displaced homemakers, old age, and the income situation of senior women. Available from the federal Advisory Council on the Status of Women, P. O. Box 1541, Station B, Ottawa K1P 5R5.

Election Material--The "Shocking Pink Paper" is a list of questions to be asked of federal candidates in the next election. Free from the federal Advisory Council.

Posters--Feminist Publications of Ottawa has launched a series of posters aiming to help Canadian women discover their heritage. The first two are now out, and the forthcoming third will illustrate the Persons Case. Order at \$3 per poster from 227 Laurier Ave. E., suite 207, Ottawa K1P 5J7.

Career Selector--is a series of 7 booklets with information on over 130 careers, including non-traditional occupations for women. Free from Women's Bureau, Ontario Ministry of Labour, 400 University Ave., Toronto M7A 1T7. (965-1537)

Equal Pay in Canada--is a new report by the Women's Policy Committee of the Canadian Association of Administrators of Labour Legislation. Available from the Ontario Women's Bureau.

The Double Ghetto--is a new book on the segregation of women's work in Canada, by Pat Armstrong and Hugh Armstrong. Order at \$5.95 (paper) from McClelland & Stewart, 25 Hollinger Road, Toronto M4B 3G2.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE OCSM

The OCSM was formed in 1971 to push for change in the status of women, basing its activity on the recommendations of the Report of the Commission on the Status of Women having to do with provincial jurisdiction. To join, send \$5 to us at our postal address. Subscription to the Newsletter is included in membership. We welcome new members, and hope that they will wish to become active on an issue sub-committee. Please feel free to contact the persons whose numbers are given.

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