

NEWSLETTER

NCWC NEWS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) delegates will be back from the 30th General Assembly of the International Council of Women (ICW) when this message is printed. There will be a new ICW President and Board in office. New policies will have been agreed to, there will be new Plans of Action, and there will be a renewal of the purpose and will of the Councils present. For over a century, National Councils (NCs) as members of ICW have been meeting at regular intervals, to work to develop a consensus on policies which, if acted on by states' governments, would have the effect of improving the lives of women and children in their countries.

The National Council of Women of Canada's delegates will report on the discussions to develop policies to improve conditions of life for women and children, to which we contributed several proposals. We shall also take part in a Forum dealing with a world-wide approach to that vital resource, Water. But the key issue as always will be that of women's difficulties in being heard, represented and respected.

In July, NCWC was invited to meet with Parliamentarians from Kenya, to discuss how Council works to effect change for women and their families. Once again, the fact that Council has a long track record of both successes and what can only be called partial victories, was useful to put issues into perspective and to provide samples of the different ways in which councils approach governments in Canada. The Kenyan women and men (and they were mostly men) were on a fact-finding tour in preparation for re-writing the Kenyan Constitution. One of their stated goals is to ensure that Women's Human Rights and Equality will be enshrined in that document. The will to do this certainly seemed to animate their approach to this important work.

They really wanted to know "the how and what" rather than the "why", that is the feminist agenda. The issues that were addressed in the documents and examples of work done by NCWC provided the feminist substance. NCWC representatives spoke about the fight to gain economic security for women, equal educational and employment opportunities, the importance to our members of our health care system, and our work on environmental issues.



Catharine Laidlaw-Sly

The Kenyan politicians spoke of the work done by the Councils of Women in Kenya. They were also very concerned about the effects of Globalization on their agricultural sector. In particular, the use of arable land for growing exotic crops for export by large Transnational Corporations has an adverse effect on the life of their rural population. The land is not available for use growing local and native traditional food crops. People then have to purchase expensive imported foods. This situation is made worse by the human devastation caused by HIV/AIDS. We were able to inform them that NCWC had forwarded three of its policies dealing with different aspects of good governance, transparency, and the responsible development of international trade agreements for consideration in Perth.

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NCWC was once again asked recently to meet with visiting Parliamentarians, this time for Uganda. The substantive discussions involved many of the same issues, such as the devastating impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. They made the point though that in Uganda, the government had adopted aggressive and effective policies to deal with the epidemic because women, at the village level, had not only shouldered the burden of caring for the sick, but had been organized and had pressured their government effectively to take action. This is a striking example of productive application of political will. They were also most interested in the policies which NCWC had developed that applied to the new international trade agreements, and hoped that we would continue this work, as they felt it was another way in which we in Canada could assist our sisters in other countries..

One of the most striking qualities of which we read when we review NCWC's history is the use of political will. It was that force of will that enabled women to raise such a large sum of money in the opening weeks of WW I; it was political will that enabled women to fight for the vote, and that drove the Famous Five to push for the recognition of women as "persons". And it is that will power that drives our sisters to march in the streets demonstrating against War, or to march for the Social Agenda in relation to these new all-encompassing Trade Agreements being negotiated in semi-secrecy.

We have to recollect that the forces that are driving what we call Globalization are also empowered by their own political will, aided in some cases perhaps by naked greed, and an overwhelming appetite for power. And unlike our legions, they have access to almost unlimited resources to advance their agenda. All women have is numbers, patience and the latent political will to effect change. We need to alter that latent force to an active and unrelenting force. And we need to see and work on both the big picture and those details currently being worked out by our governments on a day-to-day basis. Lastly, we need to pull together, using and pooling all our resources.

One of the resources that women lack is an equal number of elected representatives in the national and provincial levels of government. And it has to be admitted, that the women who are elected have a dual burden in that they are required to perform in a male-dominated institution but act to realize the expectations of their female supporters. Additionally, NCWC has experienced (with one exception) a pronounced reluctance to acknowledge or reply to Briefs, Reports or letters sent to the Opposition parties. Most governments

in Canada are still overwhelmingly male, just as most political parties are still lead by men. And most importantly, most of the governing cabinets are still dominated by men.

This male preponderance means that so-called Women's Issues are seen as being less important than those issues that excite the male ego. (Power and Control). The real answer is that Men's issues and Women's issues must be brought together in a balanced and interdependent approach if real social betterment is to be achieved. Repeatedly but not surprisingly, these male-dominated institutions have also demonstrated a remarkable reluctance to effect real change when it comes to the key issue of facilitating the nomination and election of women in equal numbers and their advancement to cabinet rank. The most recent electoral reform in Canada did not address this issue with the political will necessary to arrive at an all-party consensus. Therefore, NCWC will have to continue to be an active and forceful contributor to the national debate on Electoral Reform currently underway especially in this lead-up period to a federal election that will test new party leaders only one of whom may possibly be a woman.

At the national and the international level, Councils around the world can enlist our strength in numbers to address the need for political will to ensure that the parallel agreements (to trade agreements) such as the Quebec Plan of Action are known, understood and realized. Civil Society is the term used for those organizations that represent those citizens working on Social Issues. The great impediment to effective presence at the deliberations being held all the time to advance the process of Globalization is that women overwhelmingly lack the financial resources to facilitate their meaningful presence at these meetings.

It is simply astounding that the same governments that sign on to agreements and conventions (such as CEDAW) enshrining various aspects of Human Rights for all, cannot see that by excluding Women's representatives from these meetings, they are in fact guaranteeing that in the not-so-distant future, their new Trade Agreements will collapse because they do not encompass the needs and aspirations of women (half the world's population and the key people in bearing and raising the future population of the world).

We need to muster the political will that our foremothers demonstrated to push the agenda forward. Because in spite of over a century of effort (ICW was founded in 1893), becoming accepted as active participants in governing, being heard, represented and respected were the issue then, and are the issue now.

Do we have that political will? Of course we do. Let us pull all together.

Catharine Laidlaw-Sly

NCWC Archives

By: *Druse Bryan*

"Of all our national assets, Archives are the most precious: they are the gift of one generation to another and the extent of our care of them marks the extent of our civilization."

This is a quote from Arthur Doughty - the Dominion of Canada Archivist from 1904 to 1935.

As a national organization we have a commitment to ensuring that our archival material is kept and secured in such a manner that it can be accessed by those in the future. For many years now this task has been coordinated by our archivist Mary MacLaren, based in Ottawa. We are very fortunate to have Mary. She enjoys the work and has the interest and retentive memory that greatly enhances her performance.

The Council has always received requests for archival information from other interested parties from time to time. However, with perhaps the ease of access to the

internet and to our Web page, these requests to the office are becoming more frequent. Responding to these requests can take much time, reading and searching on Mary's part and while we would not wish to refuse to respond to legitimate requests, we are proposing to draw up an official protocol to deal with future requests. We may include a nominal fee before a search would be initiated. This protocol will be drafted, with Mary's input, before the next meeting of the Board and submitted for approval.

Recognition of NCWC's WWI Efforts

By *Jeanne Maranda*

An interesting exchange of letters between Lt-Col. J.M.R. Scantland and our archivist, Mary MacLaren took place this summer that brought to our attention the manner in which women members of NCWC responded to wartime needs and offered support to the Empire in the throes of World War I.

Mary MacLaren came up with a book titled *Women of Canada*, subtitled *Their Life and Work* which in fact, was relating the activities of the National Council of Women compiled over a period of two years and was presented at the 1900 Paris International Exhibition.

There are letters and documents dated from August 26, 1914 to March 11, 1915 signed by the President of NCWC, Ms Torrington and Lady Aberdeen in relation with the help that was provided by federates of NCWC. There is a special mention of a donation of some \$253,000 raised in less than ten days under the leadership of IODE and The Red Cross, two of the largest and best organized Federates at the time. The money raised went toward the facilitating of the Royal Hospital Haslar, Gosport, UK and provided soldier comforts and relief supplies for the people of Belgium.

A plaque is being put up on the Hospital grounds as a reminder of NCWC's contribution.

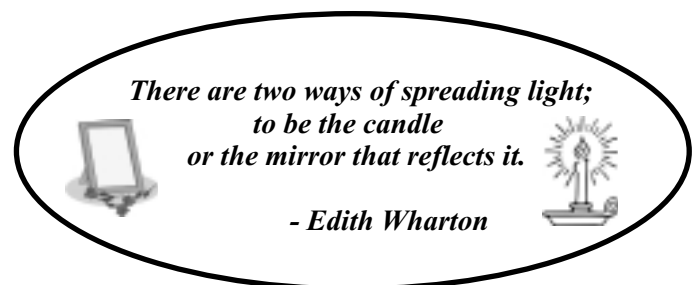
From Your Editor

By *Jeanne Maranda*

Here I am, your Heritage and Culture Convener appointed NCWC editor! As it befits a new editor, let me introduce myself as a mother, grandmother, a member of Montreal Council of Women since 1990, a member of NCWC as Media convener since 1999. I attended many AGMs, and I have admired many of you for your work on behalf of Canadian women. I have admired some of you for the great skills you have shown in running a large organization such as NCWC, which covers such a large territory.

Let me share a dream with you In these days of active communication, I would like to see the Newsletter as a link between us, the Locals, the Provincials, the NSOs and the individual members. I would like to hear from all of you, often. From your own levels of expertise, make sure everyone knows about your preoccupations, your issues, your research.. There is no need to reinvent the wheel, let us push on that wheel together and in the same direction. "L'union fait la force", and after all, we are all committed to the well-being of Canadian women.

Let us research, share, and communicate. I would like to see your newsletter as a forum, not just an info sheet. Let us be curious, inventive, generous and make our committed actions a source of pleasure and enrichment.



New Burnaby Study Group

By: *Freda Hogg, President*

The NEW BURNABY STUDY GROUP successfully arranged for the presentation of two bursaries on June 1, 2003 at the Burnaby Mountain Secondary School, Burnaby, British Columbia.

The scholarship Committee of the school chose Danielle Higginson and Kosma Gatner who had demonstrated good citizenship and academic achievement through diligence and commitment to their studies. Both students have post-secondary plans.

Esther Hall, with the aid of her daughter Lynn Newsome, presented the bursaries of \$200 each at the Copeland Arena, where the School's many other students were gathered to also receive bursaries accompanied by their friends.

The New Burnaby Study Group appreciates the time spent in researching this project by Rosemary Mallory, NCWC Vice-President/Membership 2002-03, and who has been attending the Study Group meetings throughout the year.

Jodi Mathot, Burnaby Mountain Secondary School Scholarship Chair writes: "Your support in assisting these students realise their full potential is greatly appreciated. Once again on behalf of the Burnaby Mountain Scholarship Committee, we thank you for your support."

Ottawa Council of Women

Luba Podolsky, the President invited the members of OCW to the monthly meeting chaired by the Community Nursing Registry who will speak on the Current Status of Home Care in Ottawa. There will be municipal and Provincial elections and the Council is getting ready with suggested questions for candidates at both levels and candidates will be invited in the October meeting to inform the members. Olga Sametz, convenor gave a good account of a meeting she attended in April on immigration. She quotes "our immigration system needs reform on the knowledge that 65% of the immigrants coming to Canada come because they have family based here. They are not selected on the basis of required employment and education nor on economic and demographic studies." (M.P. Joe Bisset, former Immigrant Executive Director in the Government.) Ms Sametz comments: "Our immigration system needs reform but whenever this question is raised certain groups accuse the Government of discrimination and bigotry thus slowing the advent of any rational discussion on reform."

Montreal Local Council of Women

By: *Bonnie Lee Smith, Vice President*

For the future we are planning to build on past traditions and accomplishments by federates and individual members. In terms of lobbying activities our main aim is to be more focused. We are proposing that we be a voice for women in Montreal and that we concentrate on one issue at a time. Issues would be those for which the City of Montreal has authority. All federates and individual members will be polled with the late August newsletter for their feedback on the proposed way of working. We will proceed when we have wide-spread support for the plan of action.

Edmonton Local Council of Women

By: *Carla Kozak*

The Edmonton Local Council of Women held its third annual INTake Day on Saturday, September 20. INTake Day is an opportunity for members of ELCW's affiliates and other interested people to bring in to a central point their donations of clothing, hygiene supplies, quilts and children's toys and games to be distributed to selected social service agencies in the Edmonton area. Due to funding cutbacks, these agencies found themselves needing to do more work - but with less money. ELCW organized the first Intake Day to help agencies such as the Women's Emergency Shelter, Youth Emergency Shelter, Red Cross, Kids' Kottage, Grey Nuns Hospital and Royal Alexandra Hospital.

Notes From Affiliates

The Quebec City Women's Club

The Quebec City Women's Club, an affiliate of the Provincial Council of Women of Quebec, recently celebrated its 65th anniversary. Outgoing President, Linda McGregor praised the group for its significant role in helping English-speaking women newly arrived in the region integrate into the community. Some accomplishments during its 65-year history: the Club was instrumental in the creation of the Conseil du statut de la femme; helping the Ste-Foy library increase its collection by cleaning and binding a large donation of books from Marymount College and an ongoing and very popular community event - Book Fair.

Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

Highlights of 7th INTERCEDE Domestic Workers' Conference

The CEDAW is a United Nations treaty which requires countries that ratify it to be bound by its terms and to ensure that their laws and policies comply with those terms. Under CEDAW, state parties are committed to eliminate discrimination against women in all laws and policies, and to adopt all appropriate measures to ensure the "full development and advancement of women".

One hundred seventy one (171) or 90 per cent of UN-members, ratified CEDAW. They are required to report on their compliance once every four years. Canada, which ratified on December 10, 1981, is bound by the treaty at all levels of government, and submits a written report of its compliance to the CEDAW Committee, including a report from each province and territory. Non-governmental organizations are also permitted to make written submissions.

At its meeting early this year, the UN CEDAW Committee made its "Concluding Comments" in response to the official report submitted by Canada. The Committee found that Canada is not fully living up to its treaty obligations. Committee members were critical of government policy shifts and program cuts implemented since 1994 which have hit hardest on the most vulnerable and poorest women including Aboriginal women, women of colour, elderly women, disabled women, and single mothers, thus, increasing their social and economic vulnerability. The Committee was shocked to note that in a wealthy country like Canada, poverty rates of 54 % for single mothers, 43 % for Aboriginal women, 37 % for women of colour, and 48 % for women who are recent migrants, do exist.

For the first time, the Committee singled out the British Columbia (BC) government (and the only province targeted for specific criticism) for not meeting its obligations to women under international human rights law. Committee members noted that recent cuts to BC's social programs have harmed women and girls and expressed concern over such changes as funding cuts to legal aid and welfare assistance, elimination of the free standing Ministry of Women's Equality, abolition of the independent Human Rights Commission, closing of a number of court houses, and other measures which disproportionately affect women and girls.

The CEDAW Committee then presented its recommendations to Canada, including the following:

- make gender-based impact analysis of all laws and programs mandatory at the federal, provincial and territorial levels;

- assess the gender impact of anti-poverty measures and increase efforts to combat poverty among women in general and vulnerable groups of women in particular;
- implement fully the gender-based impact analysis and reporting requirements provided in the new Immigration and Refugee Protection Act with a view to eliminating remaining provisions and practices which still discriminate against immigrant women;
- take further measures to improve the current live-in caregiver programme by reconsidering the live-in requirement, ensuring adequate social security protection and accelerating the process by which such domestic workers may receive permanent residency;
- assist victims of trafficking through counselling and reintegration;
- step up efforts to combat violence against women and girls and increase funding for women's crisis centres and shelters in order to address the needs of women victims of violence under all governments; * involve women's non-governmental organizations representing different groups of women from all jurisdictions in national discussion and dissemination of the next Country report;
- disseminate widely the present Concluding Comments in order to make the people of Canada, and particularly government administrators and politicians, aware of the steps that have been taken to ensure genuine equality for women and the future steps required in that regard;
- And to the government of BC, analyse the negative impact on women of its recent legal and other measures and amend the measures, when necessary.

Cited for their work in writing alternative reports to the CEDAW Committee were the Feminist Alliance for International Action (FAFIA) with which INTERCEDE is involved, and the BC CEDAW Group, with which CDWCR is involved. According to Shelagh Day, who was heavily involved in writing the reports and coordinating the work of these groups, it is important now to follow up and "work with the BC government and the Canadian government to reverse the patterns of discrimination 'against women'".

Consequently, it is very important in this conference to formulate specific strategies on how to work with the government to improve the Live-in Caregiver Program (LCP). After decades of working for landed immigrant status of domestic workers and for their right to choose to live-in or live out of their employers' household, no less than an international body, the United Nations CEDAW Committee, has echoed and validated these demands.

E-government and E-democracy – What Is It Anyway?

By Mary Scott, Web Editor

E-democracy represents the use of information and communication technologies and strategies by democratic actors (governments, elected officials, the media, political organizations, citizen/voters) within political and governance processes of local communities, nations and on the international stage. To many, e-democracy suggests greater and more active citizen participation enabled by the Internet, mobile communications, and other technologies in today's representative democracy as well as through more participatory or direct forms of citizen involvement in addressing public challenges. (see the work of Steven Clift at <http://www.e-democracy.org/do/>). The UK has done some interesting research and application of e-democracy that can be found at <http://www.e-democracy.gov.uk/>.

E-government is part of E-democracy in that it is the commitment, adaptation and implementation of information technologies to the business of government. This could mean offering all the usual paper documentation on-line, for example. It can go beyond ICT (Information and Communication Technology) infrastructure to encompass issues ranging from putting services online to fostering development and renewing democracy. Recent on-line surveys, such as the one done for the Romanow Commission to solicit citizen input, are examples. More and more, the Canadian Government (ie the bureaucracy) is using this interaction to determine Canadians' views on issues. Up to **September 30th**, you can submit your views on what Canada's position should be at the World Summit on the Information Society. The Prep-Com is to be held in Tunisia in 2005. The web site: <http://www.wsis-smsi.gc.ca/> has more information on the Summit and Canada's position.

Questions arising over the use of ICT's are: With encouragement of individual responses on-line, where does that leave organizational responses (such as the National Council of Women) - How and where to shape public policy in the age of the Internet? It also begs the question - where are the politicians in this discussion? Are they involved in the shaping of the question and the actions following? MP's and provincial members of the legislature have various skills and interest in communicating on-line. How about on-line voting (e-voting)? What security measures are necessary?

The Parliament of Canada's web site has far too many graphics for me - it takes forever to download, but if you're patient, there is a wealth of information there (<http://www.parl.gc.ca/>), such as what committees are sitting and when, what Bills are being proposed and what stage they are at, and who sits on what committees, for both the Senate and the House of Commons. You can also have access to the Parliamentary Library.

Connecting Canadians is the federal government's vision and plan to make Canada the most connected country in the world <http://www.connect.gc.ca/>. This program, led by Industry Canada, is about improving the infrastructure and accessibility to computers, and the internet. If you are looking for information about resources, check out this site.

The first phase of Canada's e-government goal, the posting of all federal government public forms and brochures (e-forms and e-services) is basically complete. The goal of Government on Line (GOL) is to have all federal government information on-line posted on the internet by 2005. You can start at <http://canada.gc.ca>. Work in the next three years will focus on improving access (possibly a woman's portal), protecting privacy and completing development of a "secure channel". All of the provincial and many local governments too are now on-line.

NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL

By: Mary Potter VP Public Relations

There have been enquiries about receiving the newsletter by e-mail thinking that it would save NWC some money. However, the newsletter is always sent with other correspondence and therefore does not cost extra to send, and the more copies that are printed, the cheaper they are. So, we will continue to mail copies to everyone and if you choose to read it from the website, you could pass along your printed copy to someone else.

Audrey Hepburn's "Beauty Tips"

"For attractive lips, speak words of kindness. For lovely eyes, seek out the good in people. For a slim figure, share your food with the hungry. For beautiful hair, let a child run his/her fingers through it once a day. For poise, walk with the knowledge that you never walk alone. People, even more than things, have to be restored, renewed, revived, reclaimed and redeemed; never throw out anyone. Remember, if you ever need a helping hand, you will find one at the end of each of your arms. As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands: one for helping yourself, and the other for helping others."

- Source: NB Women's News, May 20, 2003



One of Our Own Honoured

From The Award Web Site.

Margaret MacGee, a Past President of NCWC and current Chair of the "Securing Our Future Project" as well as NCWC's representative working on the issue of Federally Sentenced Women, was presented with the Thérèse Casgrain Volunteer Award on the 29th of April 2003.

The Thérèse Casgrain Volunteer Award was launched by Human Resources Development Canada in 2001, the International Year of Volunteers. The purpose of the award is to commemorate the work of Thérèse Casgrain and honour those who have demonstrated a lifelong commitment to volunteering.

The award is presented annually to two Canadians, one man and one woman. This award recognises the voluntary contributions of men and women from communities across Canada whose pioneering spirit, social commitment and persistent endeavours have contributed significantly to the advancement of a cause and the well being of their fellow citizens.

Margaret MacGee, a volunteer for over thirty-five years, was born December 30, 1930, in Brampton, Ontario. Among her many roles as a volunteer, Margaret has been an advocate for prison reform, a board member of a special needs housing group and an advocate for the needs of young offenders. She has also worked extensively with women throughout the world on social issues of common concern within the International Council of Women.

Margaret is perhaps best known for her tireless efforts as a founding member of an organization that has become a household name across Canada. Along with the London Police Department, the London School Boards, the Home and School Association and the London Council of Jewish Women, Margaret spearheaded a pilot project in five London-area schools in 1968. There was a growing concern surrounding the safety of children in London and through her hard work and dedication, Margaret helped establish what is now known as the Block Parent Program. She was instrumental in the conception and implementation of the first Block Parent Program at the neighbourhood school her children attended.

By 1970, all London-area schools were involved in the Block Parent Program. There was a dramatic decrease in crimes against children and the local police department credited the Block Parent window signs as the significant deterrent to potential offenders.

Margaret became the first Chairman of the London Block Parent Program in 1972, where she immediately set out to expand the program to all communities in Canada and have it officially recognized and supported by all



Margaret MacGee and Diane St. Jacques M.P.

levels of government. Margaret was the voice of the Block Parent Program, answering letters from across Canada, mailing information packages to interested parties, offering advice when approached and eventually establishing a national Block Parent newsletter in 1972, where she remained as editor until 1983.

In May 1977, the Ontario Block Parent Advisory Committee was formed to co-ordinate and promote the program throughout the province. Margaret researched and authored the first constitution adopted by the Ontario Block Parent Program. By 1978, there were 250 Block Parent communities across Canada and the first official National Block Parent Program meeting was held in Ottawa in 1983, with representatives from all provinces and territories in attendance. The success of the Block Parent Program is attributed to Margaret's untiring volunteer efforts. She always felt that the concept behind this great program was a simple one, that neighbours should always worry about each other.

In addition to her extensive work with Block Parent Program, Margaret continuously gave her time to charitable organizations such as the John Howard Society, Information London (a program designed to link people in need with an appropriate agency) the Home and School Association and Community Homes of Southwestern Ontario. Margaret MacGee has received recognition for her volunteer work from the City of London, the Solicitor General of Canada and Health and Welfare Canada.

Thirty-five years ago, Margaret began devoting her time to the safety of children across Canada. Her dedication to improving the lives of others continues today as she now focuses her volunteer efforts on assisting young women develop financial security, overcome obstacles and make decisions as seniors to avoid joining the ranks of older women living in poverty in Canada.

UCLA Study on Friendship Among Women

By Gale Berkowitz



A landmark UCLA study suggests friendships between women are special.

They shape who we are and who we are yet to be. They soothe our tumultuous inner world, fill the emotional gaps in our marriage, and help us remember who we really are.

By the way, they may do even more. Scientists now suspect that hanging out with our friends can actually counteract the kind of stomach-quivering stress most of us experience on a daily basis. A landmark UCLA study suggests that women respond to stress with a cascade of brain chemicals that cause us to make and maintain friendships with other women. It's a stunning find that has turned five decades of stress research--most of it on men--upside down.

Until this study was published, scientists generally believed that when people experience stress, they trigger a hormonal cascade that revs the body to either stand and fight or flee as fast as possible, explains Laura Cousin Klein, Ph.D., now an Assistant Professor of Biobehavioral Health at Penn State University and one of the study's authors. It's an

ancient survival mechanism left over from the time we were chased across the planet by saber-toothed tigers.

Now the researchers suspect that women have a larger behavioral repertoire than just fight or flight; In fact, says Dr. Klein, it seems that when the hormone oxytocin is released as part of the stress responses in a woman, it buffers the fight or flight response and encourages her to tend children and gather with other women instead. When she actually engages in this tending or befriending, studies suggest that more oxytocin is released, which further counters stress and produces a calming effect.

This calming response does not occur in men, says Dr. Klein, because testosterone--which men produce in high levels when they're under stress--seems to reduce the effects of oxytocin. Estrogen; she adds, seems to enhance it.

The discovery that women respond to stress differently than men was made in a classic "aha" moment shared by two women scientists who were talking one day in a lab at UCLA. There was this joke that when the women who worked in the lab were stressed, they came in, cleaned the lab, had coffee, and bonded, says Dr. Klein. When the men were stressed, they holed up somewhere on their own. I commented one day to fellow researcher Shelley Taylor that nearly 90% of the stress research is on males. I showed her the data from my lab, and the two of us knew instantly that we were onto something.

The women cleared their schedules and started meeting with one scientist after another from various research specialties. Very quickly, Drs. Klein and Taylor discovered that by not including women in stress research, scientists had made a huge mistake: the fact that women respond to stress differently than men has significant implications for our health. It may take some time for new studies to reveal all the ways that oxytocin encourages us to care for children and hang out with other women, but the "tend and befriend" notion developed by Drs. Klein and Taylor may explain why women consistently outlive men. Study after study has found that social ties reduce our risk of disease by lowering blood pressure, heart rate, and cholesterol. There's no doubt, says Dr. Klein, that friends are helping us live longer.

In one study, for example, researchers found that people who had no friends increased their risk of death over a 6-month period. In another study, those who had the most friends over a 9-year period cut their risk of death by more than 60%.



Thoughts for the Day

Trust in yourself.
Your perceptions are often more accurate than you are willing to believe
- Claudia Black

Friends are those rare people who ask how we are and then wait to hear the answer.
- Ed Cunningham

A leader takes people where they want to go.
A great leader takes people where they don't necessarily want to go, but ought to be.
- Rosalynn Carter

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Friends are also helping us live better. The famed Nurses' Health Study from Harvard Medical School found that the more friends women had, the less likely they were to develop physical impairments as they aged, and the more likely they were to be leading a joyful life. In fact, the results were so significant, the researchers concluded, that not having close friends or confidants was as detrimental to your health as smoking or carrying extra weight!

And that's not all!

When the researchers looked at how well the women functioned after the death of their spouse, they found that even in the face of this biggest stressor of all, those women who had a close friend and confidante were more likely to survive the experience without any new physical impairments or permanent loss of vitality. Those without friends were not always so fortunate.

Yet if friends counter the stress that seems to swallow up so much of our life these days, if they keep us healthy and even add years to our life, why is it so hard to find time to be with them? That's a question that also troubles researcher Ruthellen Josselson, Ph.D., co-author of *Best Friends: The Pleasures and Perils of Girls' and Women's Friendships* (Three Rivers Press, 1998).

"Every time we get overly busy with work and family, the first thing we do is let go of friendships with other women", explains Dr. Josselson. "We push them right to the back burner. That's really a mistake because women are such a source of strength to each other. We nurture one another. And we need to have unpressured space in which we can do the special kind of talk that women do when they're with other women. It's a very healing experience."



What are the Disaster Emergency Plans in your Community?

- 1998: the Ice Storm affected families in three provinces; citizens in some communities in Quebec found out that the Emergency Measures Plans had not been reviewed in years;
- 1998 and 2003: dangerous forest fires threaten communities in British Columbia and Alberta;
- 1997: catastrophic floods in the Lac St. Jean area;
- 2003: massive power failure affecting Ontario and north-eastern US states;

These are some of the very serious emergencies in Canada in recent years that have required both local civic services and ordinary citizens to take emergency action. NCWC's members in the past were involved in community emergency plans. Are we doing that work now? Is there some way in which Councils can assist citizen preparedness?

WHAT ARE THE DISASTER EMERGENCY PLANS IN YOUR COMMUNITY? ARE THERE PAMPHLETS WITH UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION AVAILABLE? WHAT SERVICES ARE READY FOR SENIORS OR OTHERS WITH SERIOUS HEALTH MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS? ARE THESE PLANS REGULARLY REVIEWED AND UPDATED? WHAT CAN WE DO TO BE PART OF THE SOLUTION, NOT PART OF THE PROBLEM?

It would be useful if all Council members took the time to get answers to these questions. A Report compiling their findings would be instructive. In the process, we may learn about Canada's Emergency Measures organization. I suspect that I am not the only citizen that knows very little about what is to be done in my community. Please send your reports to the National Office by December 31, 2003.

Catherine Laidlaw-Sly, President
National Office
National Council of Women of Canada
613-232-5025 Phone 612-232-8419 Fax 1-877-319-0993 Toll Free
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*The life of an Indian is like the wings of the air.
That is why you notice the hawk knows how to get his prey. The Indian is like that .
The Hawk swoops down on its prey; so does the Indian. In his lament he is like
an animal. For instance, the coyote is sly; so is the Indian.
The eagle is the same. That is why the Indian is always feathered up;
he is a relative to the wings of the air.*

- Black Elk, Oglala Sioux



Provincial Council of Women of Quebec

By: *Bonnie Lee Smtih*

PCWQ held its 5th annual general meeting on May 3, 2003 in Fulford Hall, Christ Church Cathedral.

The first part of the day was devoted to discussing and analysing seventeen resolutions to be sent to Windsor at the end of May. After a delicious lunch provided by Druse Bryan, Mr Richard Evans, President of the Quebec Anglophone Heritage

Network spoke about his work in preserving our heritage. We were pleased to hear about the part that women played in the past and we feel we should continue and be alert in front of unscrupulous promoters who do not think of saving our buildings, parks, cemeteries for the future.

The semi-annual meeting will be held on October 25 and the speaker will be Mr. André Bouthilier, president of EAU SECOURS, a coalition of groups involved in water issues. We all know that Quebec is about to bring the water issue on its agenda, so we must be informed. It is our future that is at stake.

SPOTLIGHT ON:

The Montreal Council of Women Founded in 1893

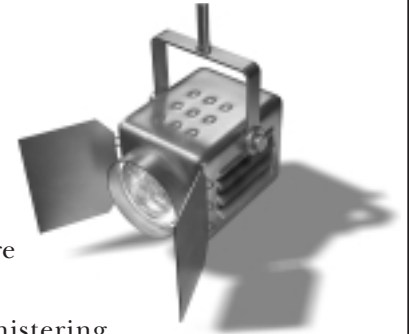
A non-partisan, non-confessional federation that brings together 60 voluntary organizations and more than 100 individual members from Montreal and the surrounding region. The combined membership of about 50,000 women and men supports our aim to work to improve social conditions, especially as they affect women and children.

As an association, the Council prides itself on the ability to bring people of different backgrounds together in an atmosphere of mutual respect and tolerance. The common desire to improve the quality of life for all has been a fundamental concern for 100 years, with each member doing her utmost to be respectful and tolerant of a changing world.

Montreal was one of the original seven local councils. Today membership includes nearly 70 federated societies as well as nearly 100 individual members and represents some 75,000 people. The societies include hospital auxiliaries, historical and art associations business women's organisations, medical societies, groups representing separate cultural groups university clubs, women's shelters and other organisations with social concerns.

In the early 'years the Montreal Council was instrumental in:

- 1) Gaining the vote for women in, Quebec
- 2) Sponsoring the formation of the Montreal Children's Library
- 3) Establishing supervised playgrounds
- 4) Public Health reforms (reduction of infant mortality)



- 5) Establishing the Pure Health League
- 6) Starting and administering one of the first branches of the VON

More recently two large projects were undertaken by the Montreal Council. In 1984 it published a booklet Pornography - A Human Rights issue, which concerns both men and women; as it felt that modern explicitness was going beyond the bounds of acceptability. This booklet partially funded by Status of Women Canada was an instant success - thousands have been distributed all across Canada in both official languages and requests for 100s at a time are still coming including for the French translation. Leading from that, Montreal Council was very involved in lobbying the City of Montreal to remove commercial signs exploiting the female body

Another large project was called "Postponing Sexual Involvement"(PSI). A program that had been successfully used in Atlanta was imported and run in 4 schools in the Montreal Area. The project was considered a success and the Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal expanded the number of schools using the program and copies have been distributed to government health, and education departments all across Canada, usually as a result of word of mouth publicity.

Other subjects of particular concern which are closely followed by separate workshops or committees are- battered women, monitoring violence, racism and sexism in the media, pollution and other environmental concerns, and tax reforms to eliminate discrimination against women and the elderly.



NCWC AGM in Windsor

May 28 - June 1 2003

By: Druse Bryan

Eight members of PCWQ and MCW joined fellow-members of NCWC from across the country for the 110th AGM, held at the Holiday Inn Select in Windsor, Ontario. Members and affiliates of the Local Council of Women of Windsor, under the able leadership of NCWC Treasurer Mary Lambros, provided a very warm welcome and superb hospitality at every turn. We particularly appreciated the demonstration of delicious desserts at the opening reception and the very welcome continental breakfast provided every morning in the hospitality room, as well as the Saturday afternoon visit to the Pelee Island Winery - it was as well that we were all being driven in a bus!

The busy Annual Meeting agenda was ably chaired by Catharine Laidlaw-Sly and covered some important areas of work, including the packet of resolutions which had been discussed by our members earlier in the year. Despite the large number of resolutions circulated the debate went very smoothly, which was a tribute to the hard work of the Resolutions Committee and to excellent co-chairing by the President and the Resolutions Convener. Resolutions on Emerging Issues, which had come to public attention after the deadline for the regular resolutions process, were also discussed and will be circulated for ratification in the early fall. NCWC voted to support in principle the holding of a Fifth World Conference for Women, though without specifying an exact year for it to be held. This will enable the Canadian delegation to have an approved position in any discussion which may take place at the meeting of the International Council of Women in Australia in August 2003. Two resolutions on Rights to Marriage and Domestic Partnerships were referred, after considerable discussion, to the Resolutions Committee for more detailed study by the entire NCWC membership as part of the 2004 resolutions process.

A highlight of the opening ceremonies was the introduction of the president, of the newly-formed Calgary Local Council of Women. Tribute was paid to NCWC Vice-President Carla Kozak for all her hard work in developing the new LCW.

The Treasurer's report and budget were ably presented by Mary Lambros who emphasised the necessity of increasing revenue and cutting expenses in this time of general financial difficulty. Expenses at the national office had been reduced and almost all printing is now done in house, except for the Newsletter which is an important communication tool. Mary pointed out that grants received by PCWs and LCWs actually amounted to more than the fees sent in by councils but it was hoped that such grants would be a useful help towards building membership.

Carla Kozak presented a very interesting proposal for a fund raising project which would also help to raise the profile of NCWC across the country. This was called "Celebrating Women", a National Touring Art Exhibition featuring watercolours created by Canadian artist Larisa Sembaliuk

Cheladyn. Carla gave details of other similar exhibition tours, including the very successful Canadian Millennium Partnership Project "Flowers of the Bible" with which Carla had been involved. The project would bring exhibitions to a number of Canadian cities and councils would have the opportunity to be involved in local activities and also to benefit from the increased profile and hoped-for profits. We look forward to hearing more as the project is developed. Meanwhile the NCWC board would like to hear suggestions from the membership for topics for the artwork of "Celebrating Women".

V-P Lynda Newson reported on the NCWC Education Fund which was recently set up and received its tax number. The first educational project will be to work with the second phase of the Securing Our Future project upon which councils are working across the country. This will require substantial funding and it was pointed out that the Education Fund would need to demonstrate support from NCWC when applying to foundations for funding.

The NCWC Development Organization held its annual meeting on the Saturday evening and heard an extremely interesting talk on the theme of 'Women Taking Charge of their Lives in the Third World' by Joan Tinkess who had worked for many years in the Dominican Republic. NCWCDO chairperson Thelma McGillivray and secretary Mary Joyce had completed their three-year term in office and were replaced by Carol Schweitzer and Elizabeth Hutchinson. Pat Petrala of BC continues as treasurer. A substantial collection was taken up towards next year's projects and councils across the country are encouraged to hold a fund-raising event each year to support NCWCDO.

The members of the NCWC Board of Directors, who are now elected for a two-year term, were installed on Sunday morning. They are: Catharine Laidlaw-Sly (Québec), President; Vice-Presidents: Carla Kozak (Alberta), Marilyn Boechler (Saskatchewan), Shirley Browne (Ontario), Druse Bryan (Québec), Karen Dempsey (Nova Scotia), Mary Potter (Ontario); Treasurer: Mary Lambros (Ontario).

It was an extremely interesting and enjoyable meeting - many thanks are due to all involved in making it such a success. We look forward to meeting again in Edmonton in 2004.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed by contributors are their own and do not necessarily reflect or represent the views of the National Council of Women of Canada, its members or federates.

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Articles may be emailed to the Editor at editor@ncwc.ca

Deadline for submission for next issue: February 15, 2004.

By: Carol Schweitzer, Chairperson



Two projects were chosen at the 2003 AGM to receive funding from National Council of Women of Canada Development Organization (NCWCDO). One project involved skills training in the making and marketing of carpets by women in Pamir, Afghanistan. The other concerned the Tamari Tama Rural Women in Ghana and improving the health of these women and as well as raising awareness of the violence and discrimination perpetrated against these women, a violation of international human rights.

To qualify for NCWCDO support, projects need to:

- support the advancement of literacy, basic education and provision of skills training for women and girls in Third World countries or Canada.
- contribute to the general well-being of all members of a designated community through specific projects such as a well in a Third World country to provide for pure water; a social or cultural facility to be available for recreation, health clinics, crafts, and adult education including health, nutrition and sanitation courses.

We are asking Members (Individuals, Councils, Federates) to consider doing two things:

1. Make a contribution, if you have not already done so, to NCWCDO.
- Donations should be sent payable to NCWCDO to NCWCDO Treasurer c/o NCWC
205 - 251 Bank Street, Ottawa, ON K2P 1X3
 - Donations received between April 1, 2003, to March 31, 2004, determine the amount NCWCDO will be able to distribute in 2004 to qualifying projects.
 - Suggestion for Councils - make it into an easy & fun project - for example, bring a box lunch & a loonie or twonie to your Council meeting - donate the \$\$\$ collected to NCWCDO! Perhaps you could do this more than once? Remember, no amount is too small or too large!
 - Donations to NCWCDO are always welcome and tax receipts are given for donations over \$10.00.
 - Names of donors giving \$50.00 or more are listed in the NCWCDO Annual Report.

2. Look around your town/city. Are there any organizations that would qualify for consideration for help from NCWCDO? If you are not sure whether the particular project of an organization qualifies, send in your suggestion to us. If we need more information, we'll get back to you! Or send in a suggestion for a project in a third world country.

- Send your suggestions with detailed backup material and information to:

NCWCDO Chairperson c/o NCWC
205 - 251 Bank Street, Ottawa, ON K2P 1X3

The NCWC Office will forward your suggestions and contributions to the appropriate people. We look forward to hearing from you during the coming year.

What's New on the Web?

By: Mary Scott, Web Editor

Check out the ncwc web site at www.ncwc.ca, and refer potential members. If you have any questions, suggestions or problems with accessing the material, please contact Mary Scott at web@ncwc.ca.

- Pictures and updates from the 2003 AGM held in Windsor
- Flash Sheets, prepared by our Environment Convener on Disaster Planning, Pesticides and Global Warming
- The policies of the International Council of Women
- Correspondence regarding Gender Based Analysis of the proposed Bill C 7 (First Nations Governance Act: an Act respecting leadership selection, administration and accountability of Indian bands, and to make related amendments to other Acts)
- Briefs regarding Bill C 7, as described above, by both the National Council of Women of Canada, and the Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba
- Brief regarding On-Reserve Matrimonial Real Property on the Breakdown of a Marriage or Common Law relationship and the Policy Context in which they are situated, presented to the Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights by the Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba.

Note: During the month of September, we were averaging 104 individual sessions per day of users to our site, with 285 page views, and 2,049 hits.

30th General Assembly of the International Council of Women

Perth, West Australia, August 31 - September 5, 2003

By: Catharine Laidlaw-Sly

The NCWC delegates to the 30th GA of ICW were effective and contributed well to the proceedings, taking part in the separate Workshops and Standing Committee meetings as well as assisting with the voting procedures.

A new President, Dr. Anamah Tan (Singapore) was elected and installed with a new Board. Standing Committee Co-ordinators were also elected, but there are some vacancies in the list of Advisors. The Board will be moving to fill these positions. One of the key problems remains adequate communication. Reports from National Councils arrive too late to be included adequately in the Committee Reports. Similarly, Councils need to prepare short articles for the ICW Newsletter, preferably in ready to print form. Leonie Christopherson has resigned as editor; she is the incoming President of the National Council of Women of Australia succeeding Judith Parker, who was our Hostess.

All the Resolutions submitted by NCWC were adopted; in one case (Genetic Engineering/Public Awareness/Trade) a substitute text (from Great Britain) that clarified and strengthened the resolution but did not change the intent was accepted by the NCWC Caucus and carried.

NCW Canada had the only Youth delegate attending, which created a great deal of interest. NCWC was also effective in advancing its position in regard to possible re-structuring of the ICW processes. The Standing Committees will continue to function as they have since 1997; the length of term for the



The NCWC Delegation to ICW (missing - Rose Yorsh).

President, Vice-presidents and Board Members will remain unchanged; the half-term Executive Committee meeting will be retained; however, the fee structure will be changed. NCs approved accepting the circulated (in January 2003) increase in fees and will pay 1000 euros; clear procedures and criteria will be set out for those Councils that need to apply for a reduction in fees with two categories available. A proposal to increase immediately from 750 euros to 1500 euros was not accepted. However, NCs clearly understand the necessity to prepare for a further increase.

The Forum Women Wise Water Ways was interesting. The presentation by three young environmental engineers (women) was excellent. It set out both the problems inherent in addressing environmental issues in a community, but it also demonstrated clearly how one could go about finding an acceptable compromise. The presentations represented most of the continents, but in the opinion of NCWC it was regrettable that the profligate use and waste of water in North America was not addressed at all. However, the spiritual role and place of water was presented most movingly both orally and in a short play. The delegates having accepted the resolution dealing with water, this day was a useful way to remind all of us that water is life as we know it, and so must be protected from both wholesale and piecemeal privatization. This particularly applies to the infrastructure used for water treatment and distribution, and the treatment and re-cycling of waste water.

The use of so-called grey water, as well as much more stringent controls on its use are particularly important for NCWC members to learn about and consider. Canada is one of the most profligate wasters of water, in both the home and the industrial sectors.



NCWC President with Australian Girl Guide flag bearers.

SPOTLIGHT ON:

Hamilton and District Council of Women Serving our community since 1893



The Hamilton and District Council of Women began in 1893, led by Lady Ishbelle Aberdeen, its first president, who focused on the improvement of the status of women. The National Council of Women was also formed by her in 1893 and the initiative for an International Council of Women. These founding women saw a need for much societal reform, better education for women, women's suffrage, and spoke with one voice.

Try to envision the world of 1893 and who the women were who needed a voice; women immigrants, women in prison, women in factories and children sewing and weaving in the homes for the industries. Because their children and orphans also worked in prisons or worked in the factories along with adults, their plight and social conditions were horrible. Council of Women members were of the privileged class and thus used their position to bring about societal change, in our community.

It started with the Hamilton Benevolent group Fundraising for the General Hospital and the Children and the Children's Aid Society that formed themselves into the Council of Women and invited "progressive, visionary women to convene an International Council of Women."

From these early days the first Factory Act for women was passed; separate quarters for women and children from the men in prison was achieved and the first Female Matron of the jail was hired. Milk was pasteurized sanatoriums for T.B. were built, and the first supervised

playground formed at Hess Street School. Over the years, through the passing of Resolutions, Council of Women influenced the Region and the community in the development of more equitable policy. Council lobbied the city council who agreed to form the Status of Women sub-Committee, the first of its kind in Canada and the world, who honour women every year.

Council of Women were instrumental in the development of an official office of an Ombudsman for Ontario; convened a regional Sexual Assault Symposium; a women in politics conference of national proportions, a Child Sexual Assault Forum; and numerous other endeavours with federated organizations. Council has always been proactive in their activities to educate and build awareness of critical concerns brought to them by the many dedicated members.

ADELAIDE HOODLESS

(1857 - 1910)

Educator - Ontario. When Adelaide's baby son died from drinking contaminated milk, she dedicated her life to teaching girls and women the complicated science of child care and home management. Her idea of a practical, educational, self-help association for rural women became reality in the form of the extremely successful Women's Institutes. Adelaide, who died at the age of 52, founded or helped to found the National YWCA, the National Council of Women, the Victorian Order of Nurses and the Women's Institute.

Three Rules of Work

1. Out of Clutter find simplicity
2. From Discord find Harmony.
3. In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.



- Albert Einstein

VISITOR'S FORUM

Soroptimist Service Club Working for Women

By Liz Katynski

THEY'RE a group of women who support women. Soroptimist International of Winnipeg is a service club that celebrates its 60th anniversary this year.

The local group has 16 members, but is looking for more. They meet twice a month: once for a business meeting at a member's home, and once for a dinner and educational speaker presentation at the Norwood Hotel.

Among the local group's projects of note are the creation and distribution of comfort pillows for Cancer Care Manitoba. The pillows are distributed to breast cancer patients throughout Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario. They are also involved in what's called the Soroptimist Purple Card campaign against family violence, printing and distributing purple cards with local numbers to provide assistance to women in crisis.

Some of the group's other efforts include: Women's Opportunity Awards, to support mothers going back to university or college to better their lives; and the Violet Richardson Award (named after a California member and formerly known as the Youth Citizenship Award), which provides cash to a female high school volunteer to split with her cause.

The group introduced its own awards program this year, called Winnipeg's Making a Difference for Women Recognition Awards. Winners of the inaugural award were Muriel Smith (NCWC Convener), recognized for her work with women through United Nations-related groups, and Roz Prober, who was saluted for her efforts with Beyond Borders, an international group that battles the sexual exploitation of children. Soroptimists International of Winnipeg will make a donation to each cause on behalf of each of the award recipients. Soroptimist International was founded in 1921 in California, and was modelled after the Rotary Club which, at the time, did not have female members. It has four worldwide federations: Americas, Great Britain and Ireland, Southwest Pacific, and Europe.

Soroptimist takes its name from Soror, Latin for sister, and Optima, meaning the best. It's a group that's working towards the best for women.

For further information on Soroptimist International of Winnipeg, call Stewart at 837-1290.

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AWARDS FOR WOMEN

By: Mary Potter, Vice President Public Relations

Several awards are available for women and I encourage individuals and organizations to nominate worthy people for them. Please get in touch with me if you wish further details on any of these awards.

1. The Award of Excellence Program is sponsored by the Canadian Race Relations Foundation and it recognizes public, private or voluntary organizations whose efforts represent excellence and innovation in combating racism in Canada. Deadline for nominations is November 1.
2. UNIFEM Canada award recognizes a Canadian woman or man making a significant contribution to the equality and participation of women. Deadline for nominations is December 31.
3. The Therese Casgrain Volunteer Award is sponsored by Human Resources Development Canada and recognizes voluntary contributions of man and women whose pioneering spirit, social commitment, and persistent endeavors have contributed significantly to the advancement of a cause and the well-being of their fellow citizens. Deadline for nominations is March 1.
4. The Governor General's Awards in commemoration of the Person's Case is sponsored by Status of Women Canada and recipients of these awards continue the tradition of courage, integrity and hard work which the Famous Five of the Person's Case inspired. Their effectiveness and courage has advanced the cause of equality for girls and women in significant and substantial ways that have enriched their communities. Deadline for nominations is in May.
5. The Order of Canada is sponsored by the Chancellery at Rideau Hall and recognizes people who have made a difference to our country. There is no deadline for nominations.
6. The Governor General's Caring Canadian Award is sponsored by the Chancellery at Rideau Hall and honours Canadians for unpaid voluntary contributions, most often behind-the-scenes at the community level. There is no deadline for nominations.

An Open Letter From The Health Action Lobby (HEAL)

Re: A National Health Council

On 23 May 2003, HEAL sent a letter to the Federal Minister of Health, Anne McLellan, The Hon. Jane Purves, Minister of Health in Nova Scotia, all First Ministers and all F/P/T Ministers of Health.

"The Health Action Lobby (HEAL) is looking forward to the establishment of the National Health Council, which will ensure accountability and sustainability of the health system in Canada. While Heal understands the nature of the short delay in proceeding with its inception, we are concerned with media reports that the terms of reference for the National Health Council are changing in the following ways:

- It will be a temporary body;
- It will be dependent on existing provincial territorial and federal bureaucracies for data and information;
- It will not be independent;
- It will report to the public under the aegis of the F/P/T Ministers of Health and deputy Ministers of Health.

As you are undoubtedly aware, HEAL was formed in 1991 by a group of associations and organizations dedicated to protecting and strengthening Canada's health system. Its 29 member organizations represent more than half a million providers and consumers of health care. We are committed to working with governments and other organizations to ensure an effective health system that meets the needs of all Canadians.

HEAL has welcomed the establishment of the National Health Council. HEAL has been a strong supporter of broader public accountability to all Canadians as being an integral part of a sustainable health system. In HEAL's publication, HEAL's Checklist For Accountability Mechanisms (8 key principles are outlined:

- I. Mandate: tied to national health goals.
- II. Independence and Influence: operate at arms length from governments and be answerable to Canadians.
- III. Public and Stakeholder Participation: involve the public and Key stakeholders.

ITEM	COST	QUANTITY	AMOUNT
Subscription	\$15.00		
Yearbook	\$25.00		
A Splendid Vision	\$35.00		
*Donation	Amount		
*Donations to the NCWC are not tax deductible at this time.			Total:
Comments and Suggestions:			
Address:			

- IV. Credibility: governed by individuals with an appropriate mix of jurisdictional, public and professional backgrounds and be free from political interference.
- V. Process: conduct its work in an open and transparent manner.
- VI. Data and Information: work in collaboration with CIHI and other appropriate national associations to facilitate the development of meaningful indicators of the performance of the health system.
- VII. Resources: have the resources to do its job.
- VIII. Communication: communicate broadly and directly with its many stakeholders.

Canadians deserve a clear and accountable health system. The Health Council will be an important step to ensure Canadians and Canadian health care providers have the opportunity to provide input on how the system operates and monitor its performance.

Our 29 national associations and our provincial and territorial affiliates are committed to working with you, in the interest of the health needs of all Canadians, to create an effective Canadian Health Council.

Looking
to the
Future



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