

# NEWSLETTER

## NCWC NEWS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

All Canadians who think about it at all are proud that Canada has signed and ratified the United Nations Treaties that are designed to assist in making society more just and fair for all. But does the evidence assure us that our elected representatives know and understand the gist of these treaties?

Our governments, both provincial and federal, have signed and ratified most United Nations Conventions and Treaties. These are not as generally well-known by the public as the UN Declaration of Human Rights, but in signing, our governments have assumed the obligation to observe all the articles of these treaties. Do our elected members, our would-be politicians, and members of the media really understand the importance of these documents? Do they even know about them? Sadly, not all do, and this means that sometimes grave errors may be made because all the obligations are not considered when a new initiative is being considered.

Organizations like the National Council of Women of Canada are often asked what they do. All too often, when the questioners learn that our members serve by advancing the status of women, forwarding unsolicited but good advice to all levels of government, the reaction is a bit negative. The general perception is that there is no rationale except "bleeding-heart do-goodism" or worse "basic feminism" informing our reasons for doing this work. Our rationale is the UN Treaties and further, the documents developed at the World Conferences for women, the latest one being the Beijing Platform for Action (1995).

In my opinion, this lack of comprehension is perhaps one of the reasons that a decision such as the permission to use Arbitration procedures in divorce cases would come to pass. There was a failure to examine the proposal thoroughly with respect to the obligations all levels of government had under the terms of the UN Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). It seems there was a confusion of good intentions without adequate analysis of what the possible effects for women would be.

No one seems to have considered that allowing this change so that some divorces would be arranged under terms governed by particular religious guidelines could lead to divorce settlements that were actually prejudicial to the status of the women concerned. This should have



*Catharine Laidlaw-Sly*

been a no-brainer. Freedom to practice a particular faith in some of its aspects was confused with the basic human right to equality for all women. These faith-inspired decisions would be arranged without any way to review the experience to ensure that the women in these divorces were not being treated and settled in ways that would impoverish them. This was a backward step for women who have, in Canada, only in the lifetime of most of us, finally seen the implementation of laws and regulations to ensure non-prejudicial divorce settlements.

Most of the world's faiths do not, and have not, informed their societies in such a way as to ensure that women had real equality. In fact, many of them still have tremendous problems with implementing a recognition of women's right to full equality. This is a problem where elected politicians did not fully analyze all the obligations they had to all their electors, who would include women.

Too late, the provincial government concerned is addressing the genie they let out of a bottle over a decade

*continued on page 2*

## IN THIS ISSUE

<b>President's Message.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>From your Editor.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Misunderstanding Homelessness.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>News from Conveners.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Celebrating Women.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Women's World March 2005.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>News from Provincial Councils.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Feminist Eyes on Ottawa.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>News From Our Federates.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Bits &amp; Bytes.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Tax Breaks Encouraged.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Offensive T Shirt.....</b>	<b>16</b>

ago. The recommendations published recently, which would have the effect of altering the Arbitration process extensively, may seem well-intentioned, but even a quick reading shows that some of the new regulations meant to ensure that women concerned are not coerced into accepting this process are unrealistic. These new rules rely on having a woman faced with divorce, well-informed, and strong enough psychologically, to refuse all sorts of pressures from her husband and her community to conform. And they rely on an interested party, the arbitrator, to ensure that there is no coercion. This reminds one of asking the fox to take care of the chickens.

In another province, women's centres have had all their funding withdrawn, which was especially crippling if they specialized in advocacy and information work. The rationale for this seems to have been the effort to balance that province's budget and to cut out "unnecessary luxuries". This happened in spite of a vigorous protest,

with press coverage. One wonders how the government subsidies to various industries are justified. If business needs the taxpayer to help it stay on its feet, fiscally speaking, in order to pay taxes back to the government, wouldn't the same rationale apply to the individual striving to get on her feet?

All agencies or organizations doing advocacy and information work are not seen as service providers. As a result, they cannot have a tax number and raising the funds necessary for their operation is extremely difficult. In effect, this is a sneaky way of avoiding the obligation to establish agencies to promote full equality for women. However, it is a fact that companies doing this sort of work on behalf of business interests are regarded as legitimate businesses with all the tax advantages that status implies.

Somehow though, no one has been able to make the government realize that it has an obligation to establish and maintain programmes (and centres) which will assist women as they struggle to be equal participants in their society living in safety with adequate income. Statistics Canada figures make it clear that women still do not enjoy equal pay, although in the professional classes, women do enjoy equal pay scales with men. But those women are not the ones who need the services of women's centres. It is the battered, the homeless, the chronically ill and unemployed, and most importantly, those women who are victimized due to the racism inherent in our society, what is missing is the public understanding of the connection between government programmes and some UN Treaty obligations.

The continued exposure to abuse for sex trade workers is another failure. Those men who create the market for this service, their relative impunity, and the continued abuse of the workers exposes the failure of all segments of the justice and law enforcement agencies to address the fundamental second-class status of the women workers. Society fails to realize its obligations to all women equally when it fails to act on behalf of women who make their livelihood in the sex trade. They are repeatedly beaten, killed, or just disappear. It is really discouraging when we read of these cases, and especially when once again, we learn that the women are often those who were marginalized in the first place due to racism and poverty.

It has been said that a society gets (elects) the government it deserves. In this case can we be sure that our indignation about the failure of our elected representatives to understand their treaty obligations is justified? Have we contributed to the problem by not being adequately informed ourselves so that we ask the most pertinent questions and understand the connections. To paraphrase a well-known saying "The price of progress for women is on-going self-education". We need our wide variety of organizations working together to assist us in being well-informed. It is the only way women can keep our representatives aware of their responsibility to ensure real equality for all women.

National Council of Women of Canada offers all the opportunity to act in a well-informed way understanding the relevance of these treaties.

## From Your Editor

By *Jeanne Maranda*

Dear Friends / Members

With a heavy sigh, we bade goodbye to year 2004 with its lot of dark days! May the New Year bring to the world a clean slate on which to write moments of joy and peace.

It is customary at this time of year to make resolutions. Here is mine. I promise to deliver you a more interesting newsletter with more news so that you will be well informed and enriched by them. But I will need your help, so I thought of two resolutions that will make your editor a happy one for 2005.

**"I promise to keep in mind the interests of all members and make sure I write a few words when I attend any event related to my Council so that all can share my information through the pages of the Newsletter. I promise to deliver my papers on time."**

I will excuse the faithful collaborators who made the 2004 Newsletter possible and I give them all my thanks. The Newsletter is out for the information and enjoyment of all members, even the quiet ones have the key to both. Hope to hear from you many times in 2005.

---

# Misunderstanding Homelessness

by Karen Dempsey, NCWC Vice President

The following article appeared in the Halifax Herald December 12, 2004

Peter Duffy states that it would not be "practical" to house the homeless in the empty buildings in Shannon Park in Dartmouth, "given the long commute to panhandle in downtown Halifax", and that it would be "unwise" because "all that poverty and hopelessness crowded into one place would surely feed on itself and produce a dreadful ghetto in short order" (The Sunday Herald, Nov. 28). These remarks betray a profound lack of understanding of the reasons for homelessness in our communities. I would like to refer Mr. Duffy to the National Council of Women of Canada web site at [www.ncwc.ca](http://www.ncwc.ca), where he should read the information we have compiled on this subject. NCWC has been a strong and persistent advocate of adequate, affordable housing for the homeless for many decades.

Most recently, I prepared NCWC's brief to the pre-budget consultations of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance which we presented in Ottawa. In this brief, we commend the government for its work in this area, specifically committing more than \$2 billion over the six-year period between 2002-03 and 2007-08, including \$1 billion for the Affordable Housing Initiative, more than \$500 million for housing renovation programs, and \$655 million for the National Homelessness Initiative.

However, we also strongly urged the government to commit new money to affordable, adequate housing for the homeless. Even working families are often obliged to use food banks because they spend such a high percentage of their income on housing, often substandard at that. Therefore, the provision of available, adequate and affordable housing is significant to make effective and positive change. Poverty, poor housing, poor nutrition and poor education all contribute to long-term poor health with resultant higher health care costs.

Halifax is just one city that has many buildings that lie empty, and if these buildings can be renovated to make safe, adequate affordable housing for those who need it most, it is incumbent on us to exhort our politicians and bureaucrats to do just that.

In the same column Mr. Duffy also gives us his insights on why older workers are facing high levels of stress at work. He attributes it to them realising they may not be able to afford that condo or trip around the world at retirement, which is getting closer and closer. In this case, I think he is right about them realising they only have so many paycheques left; however, not for the reasons he suggests. I would say that the reality causing the stress is much more like this:

- More "older" workers these days are worried because they may face being made redundant before they are

ready to retire, with little or no financial compensation.

- Many, in fact most, workers in our society will not get a company or government pension at retirement.
- Many will have spent their lives as the "working poor" and will thus only have their CPP/QPP and OAS to live on at retirement, supplemented by the Guaranteed Income Supplement at a rate based on their gross income.
- Many people, especially women, have had to take time away from their careers to care for children or elderly parents, resulting in years when they were not able to contribute to the CPP or RRSPs, reducing their retirement income.
- In the past several years, many people have been reduced to part-time status at their workplace, which results in cuts to their current income, few or no benefits, and reductions to their CPP pension. Part-time workers also have more job insecurity and are usually the first to be laid off.

Over the years, NCWC has also advocated strongly for improving pensions for women, equal benefits for part-time workers, pay equity, pension reform, retirement income, seniors' bridging allowance, social assistance standards, eliminating government claw backs of OAS and family allowances, and much much more. All of these issues are addressed in our 2004 brief and can be found on our web site.

**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.

## Editor

Jeanne Maranda

## Editorial Consultants

Mary Potter

Cathy Tillsley

Marianne Wilkinson

## Publisher and Printer

Bonanza Printing and Copying Centre Inc.

Articles may be emailed to the Editor at [editor@ncwc.ca](mailto:editor@ncwc.ca)

**Deadline for submission for next issue: March 15, 2005**



### **Federally Sentenced Women: Consultation Meeting with Correctional Services Canada**

*By Margaret MacGee, NCWC Special Representative*

(This is an extract from a letter forwarded to the President by NCWC's Special Representative for FSW and re-printed with her permission. There is a 'democratic deficit' building in Canada when, after a hearing by the Canadian Human Rights Commission resulting in recommendations for changes in the way affairs are administered or implemented, the government department concerned seems to believe that it is not obligated to carry out those recommendations. Only a vigilant public can then ensure that the recommendations will be implemented, as indeed they should be. This letter illustrates the case. CLS)

From the time I received the Consultation Document for this meeting, through my days of preparation and reading of the document and during the three days of meeting itself, I was continuously struck by a feeling of unease and sometimes outright dismay. I could not understand why a few member organizations from the Coalition of Equality Seeking Organizations were invited to participate, nor deduce what Corrections Canada hoped to gain by "our" participation.

Clearly from the consultation document and the verbal exchange during the three day meetings, Corrections Canada was not prepared, or perhaps could not give, public recognition to the blatant discrimination against Federally Sentenced Women (FSW) which had been outlined in the December 2003 Report of the Canadian Human Rights Commission - Protecting Their Rights / A Systemic Review of Human Rights in Correctional Services for Federally Sentenced Women.

I began to think that despite my years of service to the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) and the years of advocating for change with the Government of Canada, I had become gullible in my belief that the Government/Corrections Canada would honour the recommendations stated in the report of the Human Rights Commission. The Canadian public has been led to believe that an issue of discrimination recognised by CHRC will be acted on. How disillusioned I feel!

I nearly lost my cool when a CSC official proposed a "pilot project" for both men and women inmates. Women would be swallowed up in such a project and it seems to me that the person who suggested it, knew that.

I believe the Corrections Canada staff members that attended this meeting recognized the discrimination against FSW but appeared unwilling to propose "women-centred" initiatives during planning meetings where funding and programs are discussed.

As you are aware, NCWC is against the use of male guards in front-line positions in facilities for women. NCWC has been told that the male guards are there to prevent abuse. NCWC sees in this an opportunity for further abuse of women who have already been traumatized and abused and it is therefore unnecessary.

Kim Pate, Executive Director of the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies received a request from Anne Kelly to disclose her sources of information regarding incidents of abuse from front-line guards. The request was met with firm resistance. To foster a sense of security and confidentiality only the inmate herself can take her incident forward. Elizabeth Fry staff are there to support and advise FSW.

Anne Kelly, Acting Deputy Commissioner for Women, has offered to arrange for me to visit the Grand Valley Institution on a day when she will be there. I look forward to this visit. Since receiving that invitation, I have received both further correspondence and several reports. I hope to be able to give NCWC members a more detailed overview of these unfolding events very soon.

### **Culture and Heritage**

*By Jeanne Maranda*

Marilyn Boechler, convener for PCWSK has written a depressing report on the activities of Winnipeg promoters who have used historical building sites to erect new developments despite the research of Heritage Society. She also wrote to the Minister of Culture regarding the government's commitment to the WDM for continuing funding for the Centennial exhibit: "Winning the Prairie Gamble".

I attended a conference by a noted sexologist Francine Duquet on "Hypersexualisation of Girls" in October in St-Hubert, Quebec. She spoke to almost a hundred teachers of grade three to grade 12 who are concerned by the attire, the speech, the behaviour and mostly the attitudes toward sex that are prevalent in school rooms. We were shocked at some of the remarks and questions gleaned from students aged 12 to 14 regarding sexual activities, boy/girl friendship, seduction, sexual performance etc... There is an obvious need for serious sexual education in our schools. The parents have long ago given up the task. The situation has to be taken seriously, because these youngsters will have lost all sense of love and respect for the other sex, confining themselves to mere genitalia and performance, making it difficult to establish durable human relationships.

On November 3 and 4, the Department of Sociology of the University of Quebec in Montreal held a seminar on "Women and the Media : Is there a space for our request?" Well attended those two days were at the same

---

time exciting and depressing. Exciting because we saw so many young women actively involved in feminist issues and depressing because the speakers on the podium gave us a very negative picture of our place in the media. We do not make the NEWS. Our issues are not NEWS! That diagnosis was given by five experts from Montreal radio, television and newspapers who told us there was very little room in news for women's issues. The media are here to make money and they use sensationalism.

On the same occasion MediAction /La Meute distributed a petition to be presented to the government asking for legislation on sexist and violent images in the media and in public spaces.

## Consultation on Public Policy by the Institute for Research

*By Ruth Brown, NCWC Special Representative*

The consultation took place at the Press Club in Ottawa. The session was chaired by Hugh Segal, President of the Institute; perhaps fifty to 75 people were in attendance, including representatives from government, the Economic Council of Canada and the CLC, as well as a few academics. The two speakers were Senator Michael Kirby and Dr. Wilbur Keon, both members of the Senate Standing Committee on Social Affairs. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce a new paper which they had prepared for the Institute, entitled "Why Competition is Essential in the Delivery of Publicly Funded Health Care Services".

Hugh Segal introduced the two speakers, who each gave a short presentation about their report, followed by a fairly lengthy question and answer period and then by a reception. Dr. Keon's presentation focused chiefly on the role of hospitals in health care delivery. Both emphasized that they supported the Canadian single-payer system, but were convinced that competition in delivery of services would make it a great deal more effective. Their basic argument was that competition would improve productivity, thus making the system more cost-effective and reducing the growth of health care expenditures. I did not find their arguments convincing.

In the question and answer period which followed, many questioners at the beginning took the point of view that our health system is not sustainable, needs a new approach, and perhaps this might provide an answer. However, later speakers were less supportive. Gordon Thiessen, former Governor of the Bank of Canada, professed interest in the idea but questioned how you could have competition in a single-payer system. A former worker in the Home Care system, now a political aide, made a strong statement criticizing the idea of competition, giving specific examples of how this has not worked well for Home Care in the Ottawa area. Barbara Byers, an Executive Vice-President of the CLC also strongly opposed the idea of competitive delivery of health care. I raised the question of quality of care as it

relates to increased productivity—does more patients seen more rapidly mean better care?— and again cited experience in Ottawa about the use of a competitive tender system in the delivery of home care. Senator Kirby replied that of course quality of service was a priority; Dr Keon said rather crossly that home care was not a good example.

## Recipes for Success: A Celebration of Food Security Work in Canada

*By Anna Kirbyson,  
Social Planning Council of Winnipeg*

### Call for Topics and Writers

The Social Planning Councils of Winnipeg would very much like assistance in developing Recipes for Success: A Celebration of Food Security Work in Canada. This publication will be released in the spring of 2005 and will be distributed to a great many people engaged in food security work: community development and community economic development, universities, health and nutrition, neighbourhood organizations, government departments and agencies across Canada.

The Recipes For Success Manual will be a singular opportunity for practitioners to engage their peers and other readers in a celebration of food security work in Winnipeg and across Canada in order to reflect the breadth of activity in this field and to share best practices in the area of food security. Contributors will have their work profiled nationally as well as receive a print copy of the publication. An editorial committee comprised of food security practitioners will select entries into the Manual, and guide its development. This document will be made available in the form of a bound manual, CD-Rom as well as a PDF document in both official languages.

For more information please contact:  
Social Planning Council of Winnipeg  
412 McDermot Ave, Winnipeg, MB R3A 0A9  
204-942-2561 (v)  
[www.spcw.mb.ca](http://www.spcw.mb.ca)



## Celebrating Women

*By Patricia Stanley Beck, Project Co-ordinator*

The first exhibit for Celebrating Women was held in Ottawa during the month of October for 10 days at the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. The exhibit was a success due to the hard work of the organizing committee under the leadership of Luba Podolsky. Many thanks and congratulations to the Ottawa Council.

The set up and take down went well with the assistance of many volunteers and friends of the artist. The hall was beautifully decorated in fall colours and the exhibit was stunning with the 25 original paintings. The boutique was staffed by a rotation of able and willing volunteers who were hostesses as well as workers. Two original paintings were sold. The boutique sales met expectations.

The opening was Emceed by a local TV personality with a camera man present. Good coverage on the local evening news. Larisa made an appearance on a morning talk show.

Two events were held during the exhibit in addition to the opening. A Person's Day Tea was attended by over 70 people with students in costume portraying the Famous Five. An evening meeting/social was hosted by the Ukrainian Women's Organization.

Some suggestions for future exhibits: Refer to your 'How to host an art exhibit' booklet. It has all the following items in it.

1. Have a strong chair and organizing committee. Hold regular planning meetings. Appoint a treasurer for the exhibit from the Local Council. Have a detailed schedule for workers.
2. Ask a local media person to Emcee the opening. This gives good local coverage on their media. Try to get artist on local TV and radio shows.
3. Put together your media list and follow through with regular contact by phone and/or in person. Very important to engage the media.
4. Develop an invitation list for the opening and follow up with a personal phone call once the invitations have been sent - especially possible sponsors.
5. Engage your federates and encourage their involvement with the exhibit - working at the exhibit, assisting with the opening, holding an event, meeting etc.
6. Start your local publicity campaign well ahead of the exhibit if possible. Maintain that momentum with 1 or 2 persons keeping the info flowing.
7. Ask questions, questions and more questions of the coordinator and artist. Talk up the show with all of your friends, families and neighbours.
8. Have fun. Keep smiling.

### The tentative schedule for the exhibits for 2005:

**Vancouver** - February 27 to March 19

**Victoria** - April 13 to April 27

**Edmonton** - May 21 to June 05

**Calgary** - June 11 to June 26

**Winnipeg** - July 5 to August 4

**Toronto** - August 19 to September 05

Thank you to all those Councils who have decided to host the exhibit. I look forward to working with you.

To those Councils who are interested in hosting the exhibit please give me a call at 306-651-7097 or email at [pstanleybeck@shaw.ca](mailto:pstanleybeck@shaw.ca). As you can see by the schedule we are working our way eastward and would like to encourage those Councils east of Toronto to book for the fall and winter 2005.



## Governor General's Awards - 75th Anniversary of the Person's Case

By Wendy Robbins (PAR-L listserv distribution)

I was privileged to be in attendance at Rideau Hall this morning in Ottawa for the presentation of the Governor General's Awards in commemoration of the Persons Case.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the legal victory of "The Famous Five" in having women in Canada recognized as duly qualified persons under the law, and it marks the 25th anniversary of the commemorative awards initiated by Status of Women Canada.

PAR-L salutes the recipients, characterized affectionately by one of the speakers as "feminist troublemakers," who are: Alison Brewer, Nunavut (and formerly of New Brunswick); Léa Cousineau, Québec; Huberte Gautreau, New Brunswick; Bonnie Sherr Klein, British Columbia; Rosemary Speirs, Ontario; Frances Wright, Alberta; and Chi Nguyen, Ontario.

I know that several of these women have been or are members of PAR-L. For example, we've seen messages about the recent federal election sent to us by Equal Voice (Rosemary Speirs) and new legislation proposed in NB regarding pay equity from the Coalition for Pay Equity (Huberte Gautreau).

I was most moved by the words of the first recipient, Allison Brewer, who literally carried the banner for lesbians at the Beijing World Conference and was

arrested for doing so (the Chinese government being hostile to such issues). Allison, who lived in Fredericton at the time, was slammed by an editorial and related commentary in the local Fredericton newspaper for disgracing the city in the eyes of the world. Today she humbly turned away from ascribing courage to herself; she said that it is not lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered people who need courage so much as it is the rest of us-to have the courage to speak up for these rights too.

Governor General Adrienne Clarkson celebrated the Famous Five, and honoured the woman who established the Famous Five Foundation (Frances Wright), but also addressed head-on the racism that existed in their day-and even in the views of at least one of them. But she urged us to accept the great good they did which advanced equality for a large number of "persons," and to accept the challenge of continuing and expanding and deepening our understanding of personhood to include, not only "non-Europeans" but a vastly enlarged view of diversity. This, too, was very moving, coming from our first Chinese Canadian woman Governor General.

The solemnity was broken by smiles, and a few outright chuckles, as we were asked to rise and sing the national anthem, whose words "in all thy sons command" is, for feminists of all stripes, an irritating reminder, like the "glass ceiling" statistic of 21% for women Members of Parliament, that we still have much work to do as social justice activists. It was one of those quintessential Canadian moments: the anthem was sung simultaneously in English and in French, with a blending of "sons" and "us" and "glorieux." Everyone got it, and the proposed change is still inching forward, according to one senator I spoke to. Of course the senator was a woman.

## If I Had My Life To Live Over

By Erna Bombeck

(written after she found out that she was dying from cancer)

"I would have gone to bed when I was sick instead of pretending the earth would go into a holding pattern if I weren't there for the day.

"I would have burned the pink candle sculpted like a rose before it melted in storage.

"I would have talked less and listened more.

"I would have invited friends over to dinner even if the carpet was stained or the sofa faded.

"I would have eaten the popcorn in the "good" living room and worried much less about the dirt when someone wanted to light a fire in the fireplace.

"I would have taken the time to listen to my grandfather ramble about his youth.

"I would have shared more of the responsibility carried by my husband.

"I would never have insisted the car windows be rolled up on a summer day because my hair had just been teased and sprayed.

"I would have sat on the lawn with my grass stains.

"I would have cried and laughed less while watching television and more while watching life.

"I would never have bought anything just because it was practical, wouldn't show soil, or was guaranteed to last a lifetime.

"Instead of wishing away nine months of pregnancy, I'd have cherished every moment and realized that the wonderment growing inside me was the only chance in life to assist God in a miracle.

"When my kids kissed me impetuously, I would never have said, "Later. Now get washed up for dinner." There would have been more "I love you's." More "I'm sorry's."

But mostly, given another shot at life, I would seize every minute...look at it and really see it...live it and never give it back. Stop sweating the small stuff.

Don't worry about who doesn't like you, who has more, or who's doing what. Instead let's cherish the relationships we have with those who do not love us.

Let's think about what God has blessed us with, and what we are doing each day to promote ourselves mentally, physically, emotionally. I hope you have a blessed day.



## Women's World March 2005

By Jeanne Maranda

The Federation of Quebec Women (FFQ) has done it again! Ever since the World March of 2000, the committee behind that great adventure has met and worked relentlessly toward another great event involving the women of the world. After numerous meetings in different cities in Europe, Asia and Africa, the committee has come up with a plan of action for another world march in 2005 which will be the launching pad for the Women's Global Charter for Humanity.

Three major dates :

**On March 8 2005**, a national communiqué will be sent to mark the onset of the march along with the presentation of the demands coming from Quebec women regarding poverty and violence toward women.

**On May 7**, the Charter will have arrived in Quebec City after ten stops in American countries and will be presented to the National Assembly during a very special presentation.

**On October 17**, a huge movement around the world will unite women who will be asked to go out in the streets at noon in every part of the globe expressing their solidarity and their will to change the world according to the terms of the Charter.

For details in French and English, posters and specific information on the Charter and the March, please consult the web site : [www.marchemondiale.org](http://www.marchemondiale.org)



## Carte du relais mondial Marche

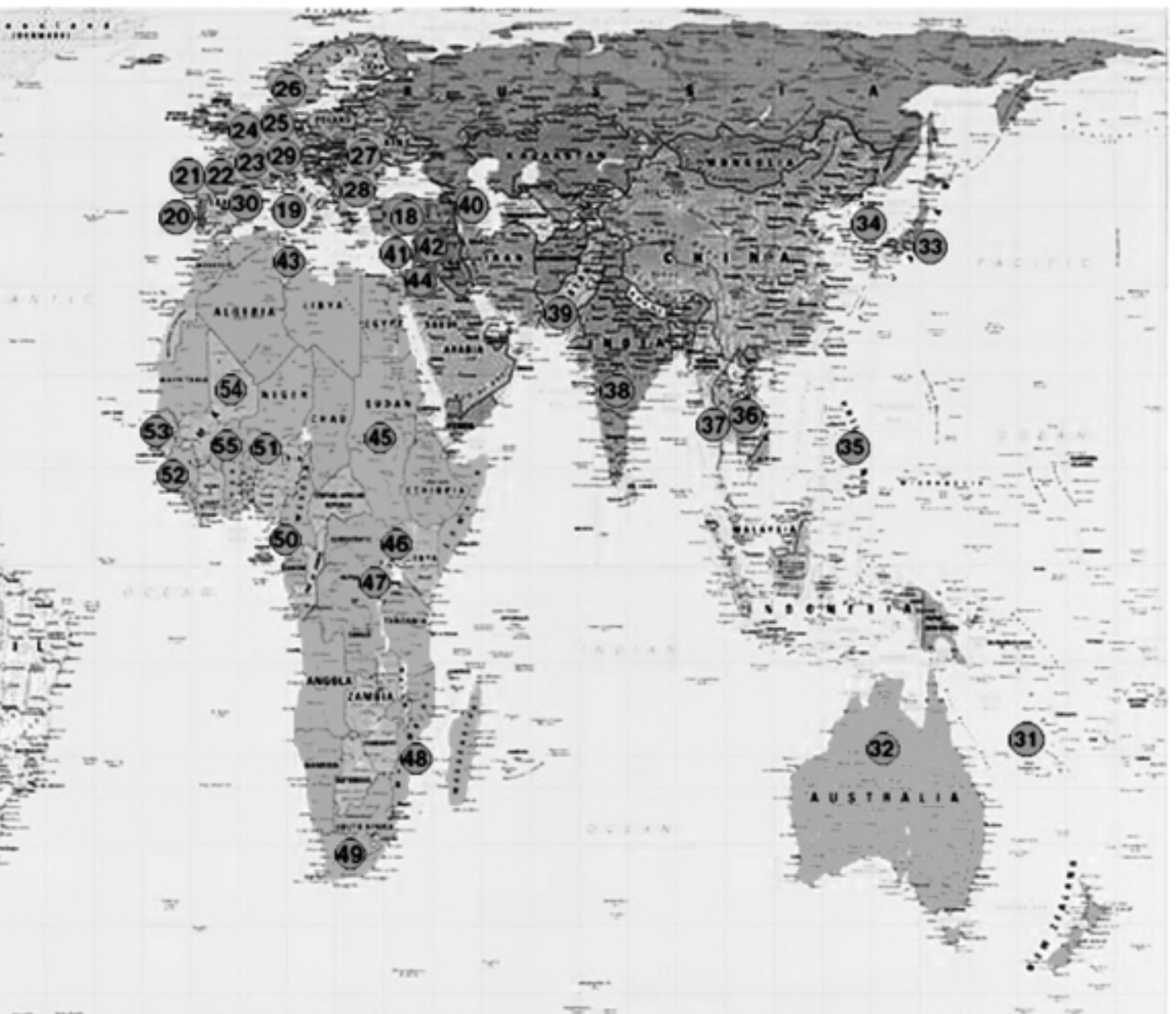


- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1) Brésil (08/03 - 11/03)               | 12) Salvador (17/04 - 20/04)        |
| 2) Brésil / Argentine / Uruguay (12/03) | 13) Mexique (21/04 - 26/04)         |
| 3) Argentine (13/03 - 14/03)            | 14) Mexique / États-Unis (27/04)    |
| 4) Bolivie (15/03 - 19/03)              | 15) États-Unis (28/04 - 30/04)      |
| 5) Pérou (20/03 - 24/03)                | 16) Canada (01/05 - 05/05)          |
| 6) Équateur (29/03 - 31/03)             | 17) Québec (06/05 - 08/05)          |
| 7) Colombie (01/04 - 03/04)             | 18) Turquie / Grèce (09/05 - 12/05) |
| 8) Trinité et Tobago (04/04 - 06/04)    | 19) Italie (13/05 - 14/05)          |
| 9) Haïti (07/04 - 09/04)                | 20) Portugal (15/05 - 19/05)        |
| 10) Cuba (10/04 - 12/04)                | 21) Galice (20/05 - 23/05)          |
| 11) Honduras (13/04 - 16/04)            | 22) Pays Basque (24/05 - 27/05)     |



# de la Charte mondiale des femmes pour l'humanité

## Charte mondiale des femmes en 2005



23) France (action européenne) (28/05 - 29/05)  
 24) Belgique (30/05 - 31/05)  
 25) Pays Bas (01/06 - 03/06)  
 26) Danemark / Suède (04/06 - 05/06)  
 27) Roumanie (06/06 - 08/06)  
 28) Bulgarie (09/06 - 11/06)  
 29) Suisse (12/06 - 15/06)  
 30) Castille / Catalogne (16/06 - 19/06)  
 31) Nouvelle Calédonie (20/06 - 24/06)  
 32) Australie (25/06 - 29/06)  
 33) Japon (30/06 - 02/07)

34) République de Corée (03/07 - 05/07)  
 35) Philippines (06/07 - 09/07)  
 36) RD populaire de Lao (10/07 - 12/07)  
 37) Thaïlande / Birmanie (13/07 - 16/07)  
 38) Inde (17/07 - 23/07)  
 39) Pakistan (24/07 - 27/07)  
 40) Azerbaïdjan (28/07 - 30/07)  
 41) Liban (31/07 - 02/08)  
 42) Jordanie (03/08 - 04/08)  
 43) Tunisie (05/08 - 07/08)  
 44) Israël (juives et palestiniennes) (08/08 - 10/08)

45) Soudan (04/09 - 06/09)  
 46) Ouganda (07/10 - 10/10)  
 47) R.D.Congo/ Rwanda/ Burundi (11/09 - 17/09)  
 48) Mozambique (18/09 - 21/09)  
 49) Afrique du Sud (22/09 - 24/09)  
 50) Cameroun (25/09 - 28/09)  
 51) Niger / Bénin (29/09 - 03/10)  
 52) Guinée (04/10 - 07/10)  
 53) Sénégal (08/10 - 10/10)  
 54) Mali (11/10 - 14/10)  
 55) Burkina Faso (15/10 - 17/10)

## PCWO

*By Milica Kovacevich, President*

I just had to let everyone know about our visit to Queens Park. First, let me thank Marianne Wilkinson for her efforts and also to all of the members who year after year have made the journey to Queens Park because your efforts were recognised yesterday. ( 24/11/04)

Thank you to Phil McNeely who escorted us to the Chambers; we were welcomed in line by Chris Bentley, Minister of Labour. We packed the gallery. Minister Leona Dombrowsky stood up in the House and acknowledged PCWO and then the entire House rose and clapped, and they continued to clap! I finally rose and said thank you. It was amazing!! They were obviously impressed by their meetings with us, so congratulations to everyone. They are listening.

## PCWQ

*By Elizabeth Hutchinson, President*

### CPFQ-PCWQ Semi-Annual Meeting

Members of CPFQ-PCWQ met for their semi-annual meeting on November 6th in Montréal. The morning business meeting heard reports of recent activities and ratified actions taken at the AGM in April. These included two resolutions, on the need for a comprehensive Québec Water Act and on the domestic animal industry (Puppy Mills). These resolutions have been discussed during the past year and now form part of our brief to the provincial government. We also heard a report on plans for the NCWC AGM which will take place in Montréal at the beginning of June 2005, co-hosted by PCWQ and MCW. We much look forward to welcoming our friends and colleagues from all across Canada and are encouraging volunteers from our members and federates to help us with this event, so watch this space!

After an excellent light lunch and social time we took a guided tour of the fall exhibition at the McCord Museum - "Growing Up in Montréal". For many of us it was a vivid reminder of our own childhood and we may have taught our young guide from the museum as much as we learnt! It was a most enjoyable afternoon.

The Conseil du statut de la femme in Québec has recently published a document entitled 'Vers un nouveau contrat social pour l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes' - 'For a New Social Contract of Equality between Women and Men' and is asking for opinions and reactions from interested groups and individuals before it is discussed by a parliamentary commission in January 2005. We were invited to send in a written submission or to participate in a consultation on line by answering a

questionnaire on the government web site. The full report and a summary version are of course in French, but the great news is that they have actually provided both the summary and the questionnaire in English too! We have sent the web site link and information to all on-line members of both CPFQ-PCWQ and MCW and are encouraging the widest possible participation so as to make sure our voices are heard.

### CRIAW Launches Their Strategic Agenda - Overcoming Poverty and Exclusion

*By Lise Martin*

CRIAW is launching its strategic agenda for the next four years which will focus on Women's Economic and Social Justice: Overcoming Poverty and Exclusion.

"It is becoming increasingly evident that there is a resistance in Canada to recognize the agenda for women's equality. Women's poverty is widespread and impacts racialized women, Aboriginal women and women with disabilities much more significantly" said Jo-Anne Lee, president-elect of CRIAW. She also noted that "it is time that women's poverty is addressed in a substantive way in both government policy and in the work of the more mainstream social justice NGOs".

In Canada, we have opted by and large to deal with poverty from the angle of child poverty. This clearly is more palpable to the general public and policy makers. "Our concern is that the child poverty agenda masks a number of other realities and thus policy changes made within this agenda may not reach the poorest mothers which bear responsibility for the poorest children", said Lise Martin, Executive Director of the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (CRIAW). We know that those who are most directly concerned about poor children are their poor mothers. When debates on poverty issues are framed within the child poverty agenda, women tend to be eclipsed from the picture.

Even though gender based analysis has been part of the government platform for almost 10 years, we have yet to see it implemented in a way which results in substantive policy change which would improve the everyday lives of women and mothers living in poverty.

CRIAW has just completed consultations on women's economic security in St. John's, Moncton, Montreal, North Bay and Vancouver. It is clear from the many women who attended that their lives have taken a turn downwards in the last 10 years and that their voices are being ignored in the policy debates. CRIAW's work over the next four years will focus on ensuring that women's poverty issues are brought to the fore and that women's voices factor into the centre of the debate. CRIAW's strategic agenda will be carried forward within an integrated feminist framework. The organization will be developing a tool to facilitate the use of this framework in research and analysis.

We look forward to working with partners from across the country over the next four years.



Mary MacLaren braved the frigid temperatures to lay a wreath at the Cenotaph on behalf of NCWC during the Remembrance Day ceremonies in Ottawa.

## Feminist Eyes on Ottawa

*By the Coalition for Women's Equality (CWE)*

### Is the Minister Responsible for Status of Women too busy?

In July 2004 the CWE requested to meet with Lisa Frulla, the current Minister of Heritage and the Minister responsible for Status of Women. So far this meeting has not been granted. CWE is somewhat worried that the Status of Women portfolio may be diminished in this new 38<sup>th</sup> Parliament. In the pre-election 37<sup>th</sup> Parliament, the Status of Women portfolio was held by a Minister of State ( Multiculturalism) and (Status of Women). As a Minister of State, Jean Augustine sat at the Cabinet table but as a junior minister. Lisa Frulla is a senior minister, Minister of Heritage, therefore having better access to senior Cabinet members, but her very busy Heritage portfolio may make it impossible for her to give adequate attention to Status of Women responsibilities. This potential problem bears watching and has some feminists worried that it could be the Martin Government's first step to folding Status of Women Canada into Heritage Canada. This would further weaken an already inadequate federal mechanism.

### Supreme Court of Canada let women down on Pay Equity

On October 28 2004, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled in the NAPE v. Newfoundland case that the government of Newfoundland and Labrador discriminated against Newfoundland Association of Public Employees' members employed in health care in 1991, when it cancelled retroactive pay equity payments. However, the Court considered that this discrimination was justified because of an anticipated "fiscal crisis". The good news is that the Court recognized that a government policy that maintains pay inequity does indeed constitute discrimination. The bad news is that

the court says that discrimination is justifiable if budget hardships are severe enough to make paying a problem. In other words, the women who were owed the money bear a disproportionate share of the burden because the government ran short of money. One would think in fairness that all citizens, not just a group of women who were underpaid, should equally share the burden when money is in short supply? More info on this case can be found at: **NL Association of Public and Private Employees**

Proactive, stand-alone pay equity legislation with clear enforcement mechanisms would help guide any government or court on pay equity issues. The final report of the federal Pay Equity Task Force entitled, **Pay Equity: A New Approach to a Fundamental Right**, provides an excellent blueprint for such legislation. The Task Force was commissioned by the Ministers of Labour and Justice and it tabled its report in April 2004. It is now time for implementation of that report by the federal government. For more, see **NAWL's Pay Equity Work**

### Three regressive private members bills for equality-seekers to be aware of:

- **Bill C-208** "An Act to amend the Divorce Act" (marriage counselling required before divorce granted) was introduced by Paul Szabo (Liberal) of Mississauga South, Ontario. It received first reading in the House of Commons October 13, 2004.
- **Bill C-213** "An Act to protect the institution of marriage" was introduced by David Chatters (Conservative) of Battle River, Alberta. It received first reading on the House of Commons October 15, 2003.
- **Bill C-245** "An act to amend the Divorce Act (Shared Parenting)" introduced by Jay Hill (Conservative) of Prince George-Peace River, BC. It received first reading October 20, 2004.

For more information on these or any bills before the Parliament see: **Private Members Bills**



## Women's Missionary Society W.D. The Presbyterian Church

**EXCERPT FROM "GLAD TIDINGS"  
NOV/DEC 2004, MARJORIE ROSS**

### Pauline's Prison Visit

On Easter Sunday afternoon, 2004, Pauline Brown led a group of men and women from the Jobat congregation, who had obtained permission to visit the men who remain in prison in Alirajpur. They brought fruit and were allowed an hour visit in the afternoon. It was a very touching visit with the prisoners asking for the minister's blessings and prayers. The day before she left India, Pauline was offered a banner about three feet long, made by the men in prison. It was colorful, adorned with flowers, butterflies and pompoms. It was embroidered in

Hindi script : " From the jailbirds in Alirajpur " . She was asked to take it to her church in Canada to show people here how grateful they are for their love and prayers and support.

### N.B. ERRATUM

In the last issue of NCWC Newsletter, on page 4, Under the title " From Glad Tidings, " should have appeared the article titled " Global Awareness :Cuba " on page 3.

### YWCA CANADA

This important organization dedicated to fight violence against women has initiated a guide for women facing violent relationships, and for professionals and volunteers called upon to intervene and support them. Called FRESH START , this booklet was written " to help women save their lives, those of their children and their self-respect " . It is offered at \$3.25 a copy or \$2.75 for orders of 5 or more. You can order them from the YWCA Resource Centre at 75 Sherbourne St. suite 422, Toronto, ON, M5A 2P9



## BITS & BYTES

*By Mary Scott*

I've been asked to do a regular column for the NCWC newsletter covering information technologies, ie. the web, and how it has changed our lives - as family

members, citizens and as community activists. The internet can be a learning challenge; it can be a wonderful resource and a direct way of communicating with others. It can also bring some real disappointments and concerns - anyone who has dealt with a virus will agree to the frustrations of working in a wired world. And keeping up with the technologies is an issue! Just having upgraded my computer, I know - it's like moving into a new house and finding some surprises. But the web presents opportunities, such as the recent campaign during the Federal election coordinated by Coalition for Women's Equality (CWE). Even post election, in July, there were 24,000 visits to the site. NCWC supported this campaign. I expect there will be a continuing role for CWE to use the political and policy process to make substantive changes for women across this country, and using the net to help get the message out.

This column will share with you some of my thoughts on current issues, available resources and respond too, to your questions. I am very pleased to introduce Nataliya Grytsiv to you as the new NCWC web editor. After 3 1/2 years, it

was time for someone else to take on the task of maintaining the site. Although not a lot of time was needed, the responsibility does tie you down, because I feel strongly that information be posted promptly. Nataliya is from Edmonton, and is fortunate to have a son who has lots of technical expertise. And I know Nataliya will get lots of support from the office, board and you, the members.

A major world event that is underway is the planning and preparation for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). The digital revolution in information and communication technologies has created the platform for a free flow of information, ideas and knowledge across the globe. This revolution has made a profound impression on the way the world functions. The Internet has become an important global resource, a resource that is critical to both the developed world as a business and social tool and the developing world as a passport to equitable participation, as well as economic, social and educational development. The purpose of the World Summit on the Information Society is to ensure that these benefits are accessible to all while promoting specific advantages in areas such as e-strategies, e-commerce, e-governance, e-health, education, literacy, cultural diversity, gender equality, sustainable development and environmental protection. There is an incredible amount of activity leading up to the meeting in Tunis, November, 2005, and you can participate by going to <http://www.itu.int/wsis/>. There is an interesting section on Internet Governance, with the first meeting of this working group November 2004.

See you on-line!

## Senate Committee Wants New Tax Breaks to Encourage Charitable Donations

*CBC News, December 16, 2004*

**Ottawa** - New tax breaks to encourage individuals and corporations to give more to charity should be a priority in the next federal budget, says a Senate committee report.

The Senate banking, trade and commerce report says giving up a small amount in tax revenue will lead to a larger overall benefit for charities.

For every \$1 in forgone tax revenues from donations, the final benefit to the charity will grow to about \$13, says the report. The ratio is based on calculation from the Finance Department and on the assumption donors will be more generous if they face no capital gains tax on their donations.

Among the all party recommendations:

- Eliminate the 25% capital gains on donations of listed securities and ecologically sensitive lands to registered public charities.
- Eliminate the requirement for charities to issue charitable receipts for donations of less than \$250, unless specifically requested by the donor.
- Eliminate the requirement for taxpayers to file charitable receipts if the charitable donations they are claiming do not exceed \$250, provided they have cancelled cheques or credit card receipts.
- Allow donors to make charitable contributions for 60 days beyond the end of the calendar year for inclusion in that year's income tax return.
- Allow donors to carry back unused charitable receipts for three years and to carry forward unused charitable receipts indefinitely.

Canadians give less to charities than people in the United States and the United Kingdom and should have more encouragement to donate according to the committee. Others say the comparison is not valid and that higher taxes here pay for government services offered by charities in the U.S.

Canadian charities collected about \$6.5 billion in donations in 2003, up 11% from a year earlier, according to Statistics Canada.

## AGM Montreal 2005

*By Druse Bryan, NCWC Vice President*

### Montréal in June ! Exciting times !:

The 2005 Annual General Meeting of the NCWC will be held this year in Montréal - hosted by the Provincial Council of Women of Quebec and the Montreal Council of Women. Plans are well under way to make this conference interesting, enjoyable, welcoming, as well as productive. Accommodation has been arranged at the McGill New Residence Hall in downtown Montréal (formerly the Renaissance Hotel) with the Plenary sessions held in the nearby Trottier Building (McGill University Physics building). All work and no play? - that's being taken care of also. For those who can arrive before the Thursday morning the local committee has arranged a choice of three "tours" followed by a lunch in Old Port area (le vieux port). The traditional Banquet on the Friday evening will take the form of a Dinner Theatre at the venerable Restaurant Hélène de Champlain on St. Helen's Island, part of the site of EXPO '67, while the NCWCDO dinner on the Saturday evening will have a Caribbean flavour. Come and bring your partner - there will be optional tours arranged for them on arrival. The official Conference dates are Thursday afternoon June 2 until Sunday afternoon June 5, 2005 - but come earlier and stay later - there is so much to see and do in Montréal !!!

**Registration forms and all other necessary details will be coming to you early in March - and as they say in Québec - Bienvenue and Bon Voyage !**

## Purple Hats

- Age 3: She looks at herself and sees a Queen.  
Age 8: She looks at herself and sees Cinderella.  
Age 15: She looks at herself and sees an Ugly Sister (Mum I can't go to school looking like this!)  
Age 20: She looks at herself and sees "too fat/too thin, too short/too tall, too straight/too curly" - but decides she's going out anyway.  
Age 30: She looks at herself and sees "too fat/too thin, too short/too tall, too straight/too curly" - but decides she doesn't have time to fix it, so she's going out anyway.  
Age 40: She looks at herself and sees "clean" and goes out anyway.  
Age 50: She looks at herself and sees "I am" and goes out wherever she wants to go.  
Age 60: She looks at herself and reminds herself of all the people who can't even see themselves in the mirror anymore. Goes out and conquers the world.  
Age 70: She looks at herself and sees wisdom, laughter and ability, goes out and enjoys life.  
Age 80: Doesn't bother to look. Just puts on a purple hat and goes out to have fun with the world.

**Maybe we should all grab that purple hat earlier.**

## The Poor Haven't Changed - We Have

By Linda McQuaig  
(as printed in the *Toronto Star* Jan 2, 2005)

In recent years, the word "underprivileged" has fallen out of use. Too bad; the word was helpful. It captured the fact that what separated the poor from the rest of society was mostly just privilege - the advantage of being born into the right family. In other words, luck had a lot to do with where one ended up in life.

This fundamental realization helped foster an attitude of sympathy and generosity towards the poor. After all, they were seen as being just like everyone else, only less lucky. So it seemed fair that society should provide them with some support, to make up at least partly for the headstart the rest of us got.

This sort of approach has been brusquely pushed aside in the last two decades, replaced by an aggressive new right-wing ideology with a much harsher attitude towards the poor. According to this new ideology, the rich are rich because they've contributed more to society, and they therefore deserve their big fortunes. (Many rich people find considerable merit in this theory.)

Similarly, the new ideology holds that the poor are poor due to their own shortcomings, perhaps laziness or some other character-defect. Thus, the role of privilege - while more pronounced than ever in the lives of the rich and more lacking in the lives of the poor - has been airbrushed out of the picture. Our willingness to embrace this new ideology explains why our streets are increasingly filled with homeless people. The poor haven't changed; we've changed. Egged on by this new mean-spirited ideology, we've kicked the supports out from under them.

Indeed, from the point of view of the poor, what we've delivered in the past two decades amounts to a series of body blows. Most devastating were the deep cuts made to provincial welfare payments in 1995 by Mike Harris's conservative government. This blow was compounded by the fact that both Ottawa and Ontario cut off funding for new social housing in the 1990s.

This left Ontario's poor, now with even smaller incomes than before, at the mercy of the private housing market - where they faced ever-rising rents and little security. Then in 1998, the Harris government made their situation even more precarious by eliminating crucial rent control protections.

So, while we as a society have grown collectively much richer over the past two decades, we've played Russian roulette with the fate of the most vulnerable members of society. When large numbers of them have ended up fairing badly - indeed living on our sidewalks - we've mostly just stepped over them, seeing in their blanket-wrapped idleness proof of the validity of the new ideology.

Despite massive budget surpluses in recent years, Ottawa has been slow to restore what it took away. Cathy Crowe, of the Toronto Disaster Relief Committee says however that Ottawa is at least willing to listen. By contrast, she says, the key ministers in Dalton McGuinty's government in Ontario refuse to even meet with her committee. Ontario remains tied in last place (with Newfoundland and Labrador) for the province that spends the least on social housing, Crowe says.

Ironically, the new right-wing ideology may ultimately be more expensive. To prevent the poor from actually freezing to death in large numbers, we've maintained a crude, barebones shelter system where they can sleep overnight in grim, crowded dormitories. But the shelter system turns out to be more expensive than providing the poor with rental supplements. According to a city housing report, rental supplements - which allow the poor to live in regular apartments - cost \$11,631 a year per person. The cost of keeping someone in a shelter is about 40 percent higher - \$16,156 a year. The city figured this out when it set up an emergency program that provided rental supplements for more than a hundred homeless people who'd been evicted from the tent city where they'd been living near the city's waterfront.

A follow-up study last spring determined that 89 percent of this hardcore homeless crowd were still living in their rental housing a year and a half later, and costing the system substantially less than if they'd been drifting in and out of shelters. Furthermore, they were eating better, returning to school, even finding jobs. In other words, with a little bit of support, they were actually making significant strides at overcoming their "underprivileged" backgrounds.

So it seems that our keen embrace of right-wing ideology in the past two decades may not only be mean, but also stupid - unless our goal is to punish the poor, in which case we're doing a very fine job.

### IN MEMORIAM

By Freda Hogg

#### Dr. Helen Semenuk BA, MA, PhD

Helen entered hospital May 25 for a surgical procedure. A major artery dissolved and despite many transfusions nothing could be done to stop the bleeding and she passed away.

Helen was a distinguished lecturer of Russian and Ukrainian languages and literature at the University of Waterloo, York University, Ukrainian Free University and Mohawk College.

She was a former Vice President and Director Canadian Citizenship Federation of Canada, Charter Member of the Council Against Abuse of Older Persons, former Terlercare Councillor, member of Toastmasters, Valley Town Chapter, Recipient of a pin from the Secretary of State of Canada for many years of volunteer service and Member of the Ukrainian Professional and Businessmen Association.

She was also a good-willed caring mother, grandmother, mother-in-law, friend and professional colleague who will be greatly missed.



## 14 Women died in Montreal on December 6, 1989

By Catharine Laidlaw-Sly, President

### How do we mark this day?

Once again the sad anniversary of the death at Montreal's École Polytechnique of fourteen bright and hopeful young women has arrived. The public remembrance of that day must be extremely difficult for the parents of those women. We attend moving services and remembrance ceremonies; we stop and pray or reflect on the senselessness of the loss; and we remind ourselves that this must never be allowed to happen again, that all society must take actions to bring a halt to the violence that is perpetrated against women simply because they are women.

And so, we are disturbed to read on this anniversary that there are Members of Parliament who believe that the Gun Registry should be scrapped. They suggest that it has been a huge waste of money, and that in any event, it has not prevented a single death. One wonders on what irrefutable information they base that statement. Are they certain that the lives that were lost, and the lives that likely have been spared since then, were less valuable than the funds spent on what admittedly seems to have been a badly organized programme? Wouldn't it convey a more re-assuring message to women of all ages if all concerned were to roll up their sleeves and devise ways to improve the Registry? One is sure that they would deny that they see women as expendable because that would mean that they see them as second class citizens.

Equally we are disturbed and upset that those who actually have the duty to decide on spending the taxpayers' dollars begrudge adequate and assured funding to all the social services that exist to assist women in escaping from violence, and equally importantly, to teach their children that violence is not the way to work off one's frustrations. And why is it that the mental health care that we know some angry and disturbed persons (including children) need, is not available in a timely and effective way? Investing in prevention is always preferable and the best bargain. So why is it not happening?

Sadly it would seem that wearing a bit of ribbon, and attending remembrance ceremonies could pass for action for too many of our politicians and officials. It is up to the rest of us to make it clear that this is really only lip service and is not enough. There can be no excuse for reducing the memory of that shocking tragedy to an annual 'event'. Those young women whose names we all know, and all the unknown victims whose deaths remain largely unacknowledged deserved better from all of us.

Let us all re-dedicate ourselves to real action to prevent all violence, especially that suffered by women and children.



### NCWC mourns the passing of Alberta's Lieutenant Governor Lois Hole

- 1933** Born in Buchanan, Sask.
- 1952** Married Ted Hole
- 1952** Bought the farm that they grew into their vegetable and mixed garden business
- 1967** Trustee for Sturgeon School Division, until 1981
- 1972** Member of Athabasca University governing council, until 1983
- 1979** Incorporated the business as Hole's Greenhouse and Gardens
- 1981** Trustee for St. Albert School District, until 1998
- 1993** Wrote first of 17 best-selling gardening books
- 1998** Appointed Chancellor of the University of Alberta
- 1999** Wrote a memoir called "I'll Never Marry a Farmer"
- 1999** Appointed Alberta's 15th lieutenant governor
- 2000** Awarded honorary law degree from University of Alberta
- 2003** Launches the Lois Hole Library Legacy program
- 2004** New women's hospital in Edmonton named in her honour



**Offensive T-shirt:  
A Joke That is  
No Laughing Matter**

*Mary Potter, NCWC Vice President*

A t-shirt on display in a St. Catharines' store window gained national media coverage in September 2004. The black shirt with the image of a bloodied hammer and the words 'she was asking for it...' hung in the front window of Cherry Bomb, the only Canadian retailer of Jinxed Clothing. The issue of the displayed t-shirt was first raised publicly by a speaker at the annual "Take Back the Night" event in St. Catharines. When asked by Women's Place to remove the garment from the window and refrain from selling it, the retailer refused. The news quickly spread with a protest being organized in front of the store for the next day and Women's Place asking people to register their disgust by calling the store or the manufacturer.

The owner of Jinxed Clothing, who goes by the name, "Mike Supermodel", said the shirt was not intended to promote violence against anyone. "It is a joke because the subject matter is so serious." The shirt was created six years ago and continues to sell well. There is also a female counterpart - a picture of blood-soaked scissors with the caption "he had it coming...". Women's Place Executive Director, Gillian Dooley, commented "That that message could even be considered by anyone as a joke indicates a need for more education about the devastating effects of violence against women".

Cherry Bomb owner, Kristin Falle, originally refused to remove the t-shirt from the store window for economic reasons and because she believed in freedom of speech. She said that the protests had raised awareness of the shirt and she was ordering in more. However, when the protests spread to the St. Catharines' City Council, Queen's Park and the National Media, the owner withdrew the shirt saying they will use more discretion in the future and will not put the t-shirt in the window again.

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.			<b>Total:</b>
<b>Comments and Suggestions:</b>			
<b>Address:</b>			

As NCWC VP Public Relations, I wrote a letter on behalf of NCWC to Jinxed Clothing asking them to remove the offensive t-shirts from their stores and then later, a letter to Cherry Bomb store thanking them for removing the t-shirt from their window.

This incident raised several issues of interest. Firstly, it showed that protests can work, particularly if they are on a national scale. Secondly, it showed that young people are not aware of violence against women. That they could think the slogan was a joke shows their distance from the reality of violence against women. One 17 year-old was quoted as saying, "I think it's, like, cute. I don't think anyone would actually take a hammer to someone's head." Do we need more education about women's history in high schools? The third issue is that women are not covered by hate crime legislation. To date Canadian hate crime laws protect against racism and anti-Semitism, but not against hatred based on gender.

We, in the Council of Women, still have work to do!

*Looking to the Future*

**Please Contact us directly via:**  
 E-mail: [ncwc@magma.ca](mailto:ncwc@magma.ca)  
 Phone: 613-232-5025  
 Fax: 613-232-8419  
 Website: [www.ncwc.ca](http://www.ncwc.ca)

**Write to us at:**  
 251 Bank Street, Suite 205  
 Ottawa, Ontario K2P 1X3