

women's

ASSOCIATION

VOL. 2
NUM. 8

Local woman at WTO protests

by Hannah Hadikein

Hannah Hadikein is the National Action Committee on the Status of Women rep for BC South Central Region. She participated at the recent WTO protests in Seattle as a NAC rep, Kootenay Coop Board Member and member of the Kootenay United Nations Assoc.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) founded in 1995, replaced the looser set of agreements that had regulated world trade since the late '40s. WTO sees the globe as a single market for expansion into all aspects of our lives—production, consumption, social and cultural values, health, environment, genes, cells, species—all to be commodified and traded. The WTO has the legal power to strike down all local laws and policies of its 134-member nations if these laws are seen as "barriers to free trade." This means removing minimum wage laws, workplace safety standards and environmental protection to "harmonize" work conditions.

The values of globalization are

profit, no matter what cost in human and environmental terms, and concentrating the control and wealth in a small elite of global corporate rulers. Under the WTO, TransNational Corporations are favoured over human rights, social justice, democratic sovereignty, and political, social and environmental concerns.

Women bear the disproportionate weight of the corporate greed, as they face increased workloads both in paid and unpaid labour. Their rights are being eroded, as they struggle to keep their households and communities intact.

In the developing countries, women, indigenous peoples and minorities are found in the lowest income sectors, living in the poorest conditions and suffering the lowest life expectancies. These destitute people fuel the corporate machine which extracts and manufactures goods from the resources seized and held often through military aggression.

As governments continue to cut social services, health care, affordable

housing and women's programs, women take up the greater burden as unpaid caregivers and volunteers.

After the week of forums, teach-ins, discussions, rallies and demonstrations, what stood out most for me was the strength in the solidarity of women, labour groups, community activists, leaders from many faiths—all there for the same cause. This may go down as one of the most progressive movements in history. Despite efforts by mainstream media to play down the issues behind the movements, I will be hard-pressed to discover a more inspiring and powerful experience.

NAC was one of the first organizations in Canada to fully grasp the impact of globalization on women and the first feminist organization in the North to confront its implications, starting with its campaign against Free Trade. NAC has produced a guide, *Coming to Grips With Globalization* intended to help women understand and mobilize around major aspects of global economics. For more information call Hannah, 352-3609. ♀

WKWA addresses organizational problems

The West Kootenay Women's Association and its main project, the Nelson & District Women's Centre are taking time to address the problems that have been building over the past few years.

In our last edition, we talked about the financial crisis WKWA is facing due largely to funding cuts, a lack of continuity with the coordinating collective (our board) and a need for long-term financial planning.

Now, both the coordinator, Sally

Smith, and office manager, K Linda Kivi, are leaving the women's centre.

After funding from the Status of Women Canada was directed away from day-to-day operations and into project funding (WKWA started the Employment Equity Project), staffing the centre while continuing to offer all the services has become virtually impossible.

With this painfully in mind, WKWA has taken steps to address these problems by planning a strategic

planning process to run from January to March. The process will include consultation with the community, volunteers and members, with the intent of creating a feasible and proactive women's centre with a long-term funding and staffing strategy in place.

Reviewing these critical problems means the Women's Centre will be experiencing reduced drop-in access from January to March.

More details to follow soon. ♀

WELCOME BACK THE LIGHT

-A SOLSTICE CELEBRATION



Come celebrate the return of the sun
and bring thoughts on what you'd like
to let go of and what you'd like to
welcome into your life

Followed by a "warm-coloured food" potluck

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 22

6 P.M.

NELSON & DISTRICT WOMEN'S CENTRE
420 MILL STREET
352-9916



Introductory Art Therapy Workshop

Thursday, January 27th 6-9 pm

Participants will be introduced to the use of art as a healing process through a slide presentation and the opportunity to create their own art.

Art Therapy Group for Women

February 24th to April 27th

Thursday evenings 6:30 to 9 pm

This group offers women a creative means for personal exploration through the art therapy process. The expressive use of art materials in this therapeutic and supportive environment will provide an opportunity to practice self-care, explore personal concerns and enhance creativity. Thoughts, feelings, and personal experience may be expressed through:

painting drawing claywork
mask-masking collage construction

Location: The Nelson & District Women's Centre
420 Mill Street, Nelson
Cost: Workshop \$30
Group \$250*



For registration contact: Christine at 352-9292

Pre-registration is required as group size will be limited.

No art experience is necessary.

Facilitator: Christine Lummis BA, Dip. Art Therapy (thesis pending)

Christine is an Art Therapist with a private practice in Nelson. She supports community by working with groups and facilitating experiential workshops. The integration of art therapy and body psychotherapy is the topic of her thesis.

* sliding scale available

West Kootenay Women's Association News

published by:

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The West Kootenay Women's Association News is published 7 times a year, on the following dates: Feb 1, Apr 1, May 15, July 1, Sept 1, Oct 15 & Dec 1

Deadlines for submissions are: Jan 15, Mar 15, Apr 30, Jun 15, Aug 15, Sept 30 & Nov 15 respectively.



Congratulations to Jan Inglis on the release of her video: "Call it What it Is!"

The video looks at abuse within dating relationships of high school students. The seriousness of the topic is balanced with humorous moments while addressing gender inequities between men and women which can lead to abuse.

The video was created as part of an eight-month project involving 12 schools in the West Kootenay/Boundary region.

The Women's Centre & the Women's Association would like to thank the Kootenay Co-op for their ongoing generosity. Your donations for our events are much appreciated!



Remembering Kay Macpherson 1913 – 1999

Kay Macpherson, a well-known feminist since the 1950s, recently passed away. Here, she is remembered by friend, long-time WKWA member and participant in Company of Older Women at the Women's Centre, Betty Daniel.

by Betty Daniel

"Kay was one of Canada's best known and respected feminists, pacifists and political activists. Her fascinating life was dedicated to the principles of women's rights and social justice and to the guiding conviction that women working together can change the world and have a marvelous time in the process."

—an excerpt from the preface to Kay's autobiography
When In Doubt, Do Both (1994)

Born Kathleen Walker, in England, Kay immigrated to Canada in 1935 to work as a physiotherapist in Montreal and Fredericton. She married Brough Macpherson, a political philosopher, with whom she raised three children.

Kay began her life-long social activism career in 1950, volunteering with a lobby group, the Association of Women Electors.

One of her greatest contributions was in her work for peace. She was a founding member and president of the Voice of Women (VOW), an international peace organization, from 1963-67 and organized peace conferences with women from several countries including the Soviet Union.

WKWA member Betty Drew lived and worked with Kay on the international peace meeting at Expo '67 in Montreal and has some great stories about this time. Kay also organized an anti-nuclear delegation to NATO headquarters in Paris where she and Therese Casgraine ended up in jail (with a good supply of scotch). Friends passed them a bottle when they went into jail, knowing Kay's preference for a few drinks at meetings because it made everyone more relaxed!

She visited Vietnam and organized two tours of Canada for women from Vietnam and Laos during the peak of the U.S. war against Vietnam.

For years Kay criss-crossed Canada speaking to groups and encouraging women to understand that peace was their work. She based this on her experience that they were the

most concerned about peace—for they were the most affected by war in the long run.

On one such visit to Nelson's VOW group, Kay visited the Women's Centre in the late 80s. She saw the need for a more suitable "home" and in her usual generous way made a donation toward the downpayment on our new house.

The appalling treatment of women, particularly those who tried to change society led Kay naturally into feminism. She saw that women who rallied for peace had their credibility publicly questioned. Women with political opinions were not taken seriously, nor permitted to take a stand on what they believed in.

She worked with the Committee on Equality (1966) which led the demand for a Royal Commission on Equality. She was a founding member of Women for Political Action, an early member of National Action Committee, and became President of NAC, 1977-1979.

Kay has achieved national acclaim as one of the prime movers for the incorporation of the women's equality clause in the Canadian Bill of Rights and always considered this one of her greater victories.

In 1982 she received the Order of Canada.

When she accepted the award from Governor-General Ed Schreyer, he asked Kay, "And what have you been up to lately?"

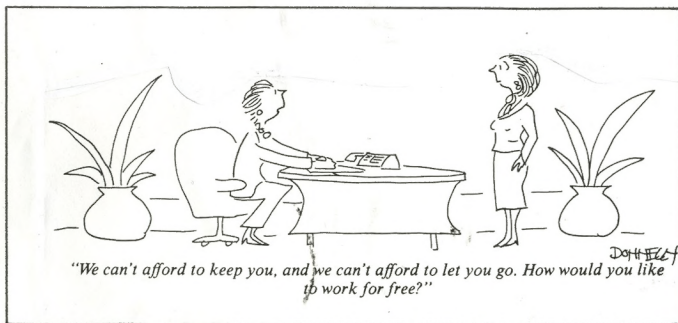
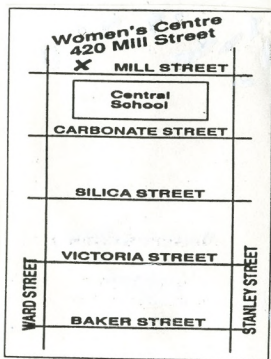
"Revolution," was her quick reply.

As well, York University bestowed her with an Honorary Doctorate in 1987 and that same year she received the Person's Award which is given annually to five women who have done outstanding work for women's equality.

I have personally observed Kay's great talent for organizing and her ability to always get agreement and an action plan at the end of a scrappy meeting of strong-minded women. Her sardonic wit served her well in most situations.

Kay's slogan: "Every meeting, a party; every party, a meeting," sums up her life as an intensely political and intensely social person. Kay's great contributions to the Canadian people will be as a leader of social movements. Yet, to so many, her friendship was her greatest gift.

I knew her as a warm, generous, loyal and fun-loving friend. It saddens me to know that I will never again answer the phone to hear those welcome English tones, "Hello, dearie." ♀



Here's the money

Treasurer's Report

by Karen Newmoon, treasurer

First of all a huge thank you to everyone who has renewed their memberships and generously donated money since we wrote about the financial crisis our association is facing. More than \$1,000 has been received in donations since the last newsletter. Elsewhere in this newsletter (pages 4 & 5) is information on our current fundraising strategies, coming out of the coordinating collective's meetings on Nov. 3 & 15. Thanks also to all the women who attended those meetings and contributed to the fundraising planning.

A quick note of explanation for those not familiar with the financial processes within this association. West Kootenay Women's Association (WKWA) has its account at Nelson & District Credit Union. The Women's Centre has a separate account there as well. The Festival also has its own account.

WKWA's revenue is comprised of: administration fees received from projects (such as the C4 women's conference) memberships fundraising - festival & other donations - specified & unspecified rental & sales (includes rent paid by the women's centre). Specific amounts received in each of these areas vary from year to year. The only revenue that is pre-defined is the rent paid to WKWA by the Women's Centre, which is \$450 per month, comprised of \$300 from the funding grants with the provincial Ministry of Women's Equality and \$150 from the federal Status of Women Canada. These are the amounts our funders are willing to give us towards our costs of running the house, in spite or our request for more money to cover this overhead.



Looking at the official financial statements for the fiscal year of April 1, 1998 - March 31, 1999 (which are available at the women's centre for anyone who wants to see the entire document), we see that the actual costs in each of these areas were as follows:

mortgage interest:	\$5,528
mortgage principal:	\$1,547
building insurance:	\$1,564
repairs & maintenance:	\$ 763
utilities (incl. sewer & water):	\$1,583
total cost of owning the house:	\$10,985

This amounts to about \$915 a month on house expenses. Since the only guaranteed revenue per month is \$450 in rent, there's a gap of \$465 a month which needs to be met through other WKWA revenue, including donations and pledges.

The balance we owe on the mortgage is approximately \$60,000. We're looking at a couple of approaches to reduce this gap. In the short-term we need \$465 a month to meet our costs. Longer term paying down the principal is the most effective way to reduce our annual deficit.

At the special meeting last month where we discussed our financial crisis, we came up with a short-term action plan and slated a Special General Meeting for all members of the association for Saturday, Jan. 22, 2000 where we will discuss the logistics of keeping the house.

I'm still the only member of the finance committee and would welcome the ideas and energy of any women who would be willing to attend a one-and-a-half hour meeting once a month.

WKWA chooses a new logo!

Some of you may remember WKWA ran a logo contest back in our July newsletter. After much consultation, a logo has been selected. The artist who designed it is Vika Lambourne, a local single mother who does the chalk art at Glacier Gourmet and is currently completing a mural at the Dancing Bear Inn.

Vika wins the following prizes:

- Kootenay Country Co-op Kiss My Face basket
- Aromatherapy bath goodies from Something Special Boutique
- Main Street Diner's "Diner Bucks"
- Cathy Ann's Kootenay Coconut Soap basket

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors for donating these marvellous gifts.

The winning logo looks like this:



Thanks to all the artists who submitted logo designs: Vika, Siri Kelpin, Chris E. and Teresa K., all of whom produced beautiful work and in some cases, several submissions and worked hard on them.

WKWA looks forward to using the new logo which conveys diversity and celebrates women in the West Kootenay.

More about money...

WKWA fundraising report

by Mary Crowe

Of a list of more than 100 foundations and companies contacted to date, I have sent out fundraising proposals to a dozen selected organisations. The current priority is to raise funds to pay off our building costs, but there have also been applications to cover a second co-ordinator at the Centre, a strategic planning/organisational development grant, and a much-needed computers and telephone system grant. I have agreed to the CC request to increase my hours from 5 per week to 10 or more in December to get as much fundraising done as quickly as possible. My contract will now likely end in mid-January instead of mid-February.

Building Deficit fundraising—I am writing proposals to raise \$60,000 to pay our building deficits. This takes the form of either one outright 'sponsor' donating \$60,000 or sponsors being part of a 'Group of 10' who each donate \$6,000. Applications written are Gendis Inc., Mazda Canada, Allstate Insurance Company, MacLean Foundation. Others targeted are Northwest Life Assurance Company, Molson Canada, Royal Bank and potentially Air Canada, Hamber Foundation, Telus (BCTel). Researching other likely funders continues.

BC Gaming Commission—I will examine feasibility and write a proposal.

Big Database—This is an online service which is a fast and comprehensive way of accessing fundraising information from foundations, corporations and individuals. It costs app. \$1,600 but has a money-back guarantee if users don't get funds from 3 application letters sent. Suggestion - we could ask the Lions Club or some other agency to buy it for us! If the CC want a free tour I can arrange this.

CTBC—Research for prospective 'Group of 10' sponsor led to a more likely application being developed for two new computers and a phone line. They are radically restructuring their donations process and letting Vancouver staff go. This application has been developed with the help of the donations co-ordinator before he leaves and is much more likely to be funded than building or co-ordinator applications. We urgently need a Y2K Internet-accessible computer and an audible telephone system with an intercom facility!

Columbia Basin Trust Community Initiative Grant Funds—I applied for the Columbia Basin Trust Community Initiative Grant administered by City Hall. They have \$40,000 per year for the next 10 years at their discretion. We have requested \$20,000 per year for a part-time (20 hrs p. week) Drop-In & Volunteer Co-ordinator for the next ten years, totalling \$200,000.

Fundraising Committee—If any woman in the community wants to be involved in what promises to be a very active and diverse committee with lots of interesting and worthwhile projects to work on, please call me at the Centre. A meeting will be held in the New Year.

Christmas Bonus—Greyhound Canada have given us \$100 of discount travel coupons which we will distribute to one or more women in the community who need help with travel costs this Christmas. By the time you read this, we hope she is already on her way. Thanks Greyhound!

Best wishes for the festive season and don't forget to drop by the Women's Centre and check out our selection of Christmas cards by local women artists!

Mary Crowe, WKWA Fundraiser - December 1999

Asserting Oneself in the Face of Emotional & Verbal Abuse

A skill-building workshop for women who are separated and for various reasons still have to interact with abusive partners.

Presented by the Advocacy Centre. Facilitator: Tish Lakes, specialized victim's assistance worker

To register call 352-5777 —there is no cost for thiscourse

Goodbye from the Coordinator

I'd like to say goodbye and thank everyone for my (short but sweet) time here. I've valued tremendously my contact with all of the different women who walk through the doors of the women's centre.

Whether they're staff, here visiting, want to volunteer, come for meetings and workshops, or sit on the coordinating collective, all I can say is we have tons of very interesting and committed women in this area.

I'll miss this place and the connections I've made here. I wish everyone well and know that the future of the women's centre and WKWA is going to be very exciting and positive.

Thanks to everyone for making this a great place for women to meet and make connections in the community. Best of the season to you.

Sally



Pick of the Library



by K.Linda Kivi

Women's Centre volunteer librarian Marg Smith has been shelving new books at a vigorous rate these past two months. We have 60 new titles, many of which are from the Suzanne MacKenzie Collection (yellow tape on book spine) and others we've bought with our book sale earnings. We made \$400 at our annual book sale in October. Some of that money will go toward building more shelves in the library since we're bursting out of the existing ones.

Thank you to all who donated books, helped with the sale and those who bought some.

Of our new books, one I read and enjoyed was Kerri Sakamoto's *The Electrical Field*. It's an intriguing, well-written novel that delves into the emotional aftermath of the displacement of Japanese-Canadians during WWII. At the same time, it's a murder mystery and a view into the life of one quirky woman. ♀

Pour la Noel 1999

C'est Jesus Christ
C'est Jacques Cousteau
C'est Jacques Cartier
C'est Jean Carignan
C'est Don Juan
C'est Laurence Welk
C'est l'Docteur Welby
C'est Laurel et Hardie
C'est Guy Lafleur
C'est René Leveque
C'est le Petit Larousse
C'est le Pere Noel
C'est la mere chez nous
C'est la veille du coin
Maudit Christ de Caulis

Manon DeLaLyse

Events



INTRODUCTORY ART THERAPY FOR WOMEN—with Christine Lummis, Thurs. Jan. 27, 6-9 p.m. Women's Centre. Cost: \$30, 352-9916 for more info.

ASSERTING ONESSELF IN THE FACE OF EMOTIONAL & VERBAL ABUSE—Thurs., January 13 & 20 at the Women's Centre. No charge, call 352-5777 (Advocacy Centre) to register.

AT THE MILDRED ERB GALLERY—to Dec. 15—**Agriculture in the Columbia Basin**. Jan. 7-30, 2000—**Jesse Woodward**, photography & **Art Joyce**, masks. The gallery is downstairs at the Nelson Museum.

DECEMBER BABIES—Happy Birthday and best of luck in the new year!

COMPANY OF OLDER WOMEN—last Monday of each month, 10 a.m., Women's Centre, 420 Mill, call Marg Smith, 352-1724 or Marg Wood, 352-7115, for more info.

THE SHUSWAP CAROLE—Saturday, Dec. 18, 7:30 p.m. at the Capitol Theatre. A Xmas concert presented by BC Musicians for BC communities—includes local musicians Rain and Pauline Lamb. Tix \$10-12, avail. at Chinatown Imports, Live Wires Music, Eddy Music, Nelson Museum. Donations go to HALO Xmas Hampers.

IT'S HOLIDAY TIME—Remember to enjoy yourself!

SELF DEFENSE FOR TEEN GIRLS—Wenlido course for teen girls is being planned for January. Parents interested in registering their teens, contact Gitta, 352-6597.

WEEKLY ART THERAPY FOR WOMEN—with Christine Lummis, Thurs. Feb. 24-April 27, 6:30-9 p.m. at the Women's Centre. Cost: \$200. 352-9916 for more info.

LABYS LAND TRUST PARTY—Saturday, Dec. 18, 5 p.m. Healing circle, visualization, pot luck and music in evening with Jan Van God and Catherine and anyone else welcome to bring music and play. Everyone welcome.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING—begins mid-February for Women's Centre drop-in volunteers. Topics covered include: communication, conflict resolution, abuse, abortion, empathic listening. For more info, call 352-9916.

WELCOME BACK THE LIGHT—Solstice celebration at the Women's Centre, Wednesday, Dec. 22, 6 p.m. Come celebrate the return of the sun and bring thoughts on what you'd like to let go of and what you'd like to welcome into your life. Followed by a "warm-coloured food" potluck.

NEXT WKWA MONTHLY COORDINATING COLLECTIVE MEETINGS—Wed. Jan. 5, 2000. Begins at 4:30 p.m. at the Women's Centre. Members welcome.

Keeping the Lakes Way
The first book devoted to the Sixtix,
by Paula Pryce.
A powerful narrative of
dispossession, diaspora, gravesites &
reburials.
Available at local bookstores.

Our able Office Administrator
K. Linda Kivi
is leaving the
Women's Centre.
We will miss her, and
wish her well.

On the Employment Equity Front...

by Ruth Beck

In the last newsletter I mentioned that I set up a community-based advisory committee to give me guidance about priorities in terms of employment equity and what they think are the most productive areas I can work on.

The Advisory Committee has now met and we've already developed some strategic goals and approaches for the employment equity (EE) project.

These have been adopted by my steering committee and are intended to create the most results for the funds available:

- Building partnerships among organizations in the West Kootenay that have a long-term commitment to employment equity
- Raising the level of awareness of employment equity issues, specifically among employers and educators
- Providing resources and information about how to implement employment equity, especially through the Web
- Creating a centralized network of consultants and resource people with EE expertise in the West Kootenay.

The main areas of my work are with the education system and the employer's sector which includes corporations, non-profits, government, unions and so on. The Co-

lumbia Basin Trust is being considered as a potential partner that might be able to be a champion for equity in the region.

Starting with employers, I've been talking to human resources managers about what policies, procedures and structures they have that support employment equity. This could range from harassment policies to guidelines for hiring to management training for women.

Through my interviews I'm uncovering the best equity practices in the region, success stories, potential role models and any needs that organizations have that relate to employment equity. These can be anything from networking assistance to on-line resource listings to diversity training programs.

I've also found some convincing information widely accepted by the mainstream that puts forward a good argument for employment equity from a business sense. This doesn't mean the negative business case, i.e. human rights liability issues, but rather, how fair and equitable employment systems can improve an organization's bottom line.

The resources are listed on-line at www.diversityatwork.com for anyone interested.

I'll be addressing the board of the Columbia Basin Trust on Dec. 4 to

request funding for the EE coordinator position for the hydro projects. Action on this front has slowed down somewhat - I'm still waiting to hear back from government on whether they'll provide any funding.

The good news on the construction front is that the Ferry Project has been highly pro-active in seeking to target women and other equity groups. A representative of Maglio Industries met with Sally Mackenzie and me to go over the opportunities available.

We have attempted to identify some women who would be qualified for and interested in the work, based on the resumes we received in the summer. They also did a special posting of the job ad directly to the Women's Centre. ♀

Ruth Beck was hired by WKWA in April 1999 with funding from the Status of Women Canada. The mandate of her project is to coordinate an employment equity project for the West Kootenay region by working to change the systems that reinforce attitudes and practices around hiring. This position is overseen by a steering committee internal to the West Kootenay Women's Association that makes decisions about how the project goes ahead.

Kootenay Co-op Radio

on air this winter!

If you are interested in being a show host, joining our news team, or just being an on call volunteer, we want to hear from you!

We would especially like to encourage people to propose or join together to work on a

**women's show, lesbian show, women's health show,
women's sports show, women's music show,**

you get the idea...

If you would like to propose a show, or are interested in participating in a show, please call Catherine Fisher at 354 1340 .

For more general KCR questions, call our office at 352 9600.



Do you have a physical disability?

Tetra would like to help you.

Tetra is a non-profit society that unites volunteers who have technical skills with individuals who have disabilities to develop customized assistive devices that can't be aquired from the marketplace. Our goal is to help people with disabilities achieve fuller & more independent lives.

If you or someone you know could benefit from a customized assistive device, we would like to help you. Services are provided free of charge. There may be a small charge soley to cover mileage and material costs.

Tetra is also looking for volunteers in a variety of fields.

For more info please contact:

Natalie Petersen, Nelson Coordinator

Phone/Fax: (250)354-4812

e-mail: nat@netidea.com

Tetra Society of North America

Box 27, Suite a-304, Plaza of Nations

770 Pacific Boulevard South

Vancouver, BC, Canada V6B 5E7

(604) 688 6464 tetra@reachdisability.org



Hey! A new cooperative is forming in Nelson. It's called

Work Opportunities Resources Cooperative (WORC)

Worc's goals are:

- To identify & pursue existing employment & self-employment opportunities for people with disabilities.
- To create new employment & self-employment opportunities for people with disabilities.
- To provide ongoing support & training, as required, for disabled workers.
- To promote equal access to work opportunities in Nelson & District.

If you would like to participate in this exciting job-creation opportunity, please contact:

Judy Gayton at (250) 354 3888
or visit

816 Vernon St., Nelson BC. V1L 4G4

Operational funding provided by the Ministry of Women's Equality, Province of B.C.

Join the west kootenay women's association!

Be part of the oldest women's organization in B.C. -- one that welcomes *all* women and continues to address the issues women face in society today.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____ Website: _____

Annual memberships are on a sliding scale, from \$30 to \$15. Memberships are valid until September's annual general meeting each year. Fees are pro-rated depending on when you join. Memberships are also available for a 4-hour work trade.

Membership gets you a newsletter, access to our awesome selection of books in the library, and supports an organization that's been advocating the rights of women in the Kootenays since 1973. Make cheques payable to: "WKWA"



west kootenay women's association

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