

We've been rather late in getting this issue of the newsletter out, but we've finally done it. The Women's Centre is running low on funds and we've had to lay off two of our staff - one full-time worker and our part-time typist (she's still typing for us out of the goodness of her heart and of course, for the goodness of the movement) Consequently things have been a little slow and haphazard. We have reapplied for funding for September and hopefully we'll get enough to keep our Centre going and staffed, and enough to carry out some workshops/course for women in Nelson. This will be the last newsletter until September. By then, we should be ready to go full force ahead, after enjoying the warm summer days. We will still accept letters, articles, information for the newsletter during the summer. Also the Women's Centre will be open during the summer Mon-Fri 9-4.

..... Nelson Women's Centre Meeting

There will be an open meeting of the Women's Centre at 490 Baker Street Wednesday, June 27th 7:30 pm. At this meeting we will try to cover some groundwork for projects to be carried out in the fall (going on the assumption that our Centre will be refunded). Areas we'll be covering:

1. Community video - possibilities for Centre, women's shows etc.
 2. Newsletter collective
 3. Family Planning Grant Application- ideas for a birth control clinic
 4. Course/workshop for women in Nelson - what topics? resource people?
- If you're interested in any of these areas and have some ideas, come and share them with us. Are you interested in working on a part-time basis for the Women's Centre in the fall? Applications will be taken for projects that you may wish to initiate or work on ongoing projects. That's June 27th 7:30 pm

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Good News! West Kootenays Gets Representative on National Advisory Committee..... Susan Chariton was chosen to sit on the National Advisory Council on the status of women in Canada. This committee will be advising John Munro (Minister Responsible for the Status of Women). Sue is from Rossland and is at present, chairperson for the Status of Women Council. She was one of the organizers of the Status of Women Conference held last fall at Selkirk College and also helped to coordinate the course About Women. Sue is one of the 28 members on the committee and her first meeting in Ottawa is scheduled for July 10th. She will be representing the women in the West Kootenays in Ottawa so it's important for her to get lots of feedback from all of us. If you have any suggestions, complaints, recommendations, or anything concerning you, as a woman, do get in touch with Sue before July 10th. Her address is Box 621, Rossland, phone 362-9461. Another woman from B.C. is also on the committee - Joan Wallace, a public relations consultant and past president of the Vancouver Status of Women Council.

Report from the Ombudservice- Trail Status of Women Council:

- A female student was applying for a summer job with the health unit. She was told that there were no jobs for women. She went to see Dr. Schmitt who told her he didn't think women would be interested in the job but he was willing to hire her. Manpower is not supposed to discriminate on the basis of sex without a bonafide reason.
- Women applying for a summer job with the forestry service passed the basic requirements but were later informed that for this specific job the service would only have male crews. They got a job with the service, but it was a lower paying one. The Human Rights Act does not affect crown corporations. This is another example of why the act needs changing. We will forward this complaint to Kathleen Ruff.
- A woman, whose husband died, became aware that the Cominco pension plan is not what it should be. She felt she was misled as to what her income would be after she became widowed. She felt that something must be done to improve the plan as it must be very hard on women who do not have another source of income.

- Women have also complained to us that the department stores do not give equal pay for equal work. They apparently use different job titles as a way of getting around this. Any more information from women working in these stores would be appreciated.
- Cominco has announced a policy of equal pay for equal work. BRAVO!
- a woman came to the Women's Centre and said that she was refused a job at Quadra Manufacturing in Trail because of lack of washroom facilities and because the men on the assembly line would give her a rough time (Quadra has no women employees in the factory). Upon talking to the personnel manager there I discovered that yes indeed! they did have washroom facilities for women. I asked him why they didn't hire women in the factory and he replied that nobody just works on the assembly line, that they have a rotating policy and that entailed tightening nuts and bolts and lifting in excess of 50 pounds - things which women were physically incapable of. If any women are getting the same run around, get in touch with the ombudservice and we'll see if we can do anything to enlighten these people on our real capabilities. Most of these excuses are a run-around. So give us details if you're getting the same runarounds. You can remain anonymous if you wish.

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or

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Forced Sterilization practiced in Castlegar!

The Arrow, an OFY newspaper for the West Kootenays recently printed a short article where a woman was refused an abortion at the Castlegar and District Hospital last fall unless she agreed to be sterilized. Last week a woman told me how a year ago, while she was in having an abortion in Castlegar, a doctor came into the room and while she was sedated told her that she would also have to have a tubal ligation. Being heavily drugged and because she was afraid that she might not get the abortion she agreed to being sterilized. What kind of medical ethics are being practiced in Castlegar? Any one out there with similar experiences at the hands of power-tripping doctors playing God. Let's hear about them. Women's Centre 490 Baker Street, Nelson is compiling cases of unethical medical practices, complaints etc. All information is strictly confidential.

On the question of abortion, about two months ago there was a headline in the paper where Otto Lang stated that abortion laws should be tightened. Although nothing will probably be brought before the House for a while to come yet, unless we make our individual voices heard now we will continue to be at the mercy of politicians and lawmakers who never have to deal with the actual suffering involved in unwanted pregnancies. There are many anti-abortion groups with much financial backing (where's all the money coming from anyways) that are putting pressure on the government to tighten up abortion laws. We believe that each individual should minister her/his own conscience on the question of abortion and that people involved in anti-abortion groups are free not to have abortions themselves. It is interesting to note, that while I was attending Women's Week at U.B.C. in February there was an anti-abortion booth set up, showing slides and passing out glossy (rather gory) pamphlets on the horrors of abortion. The interesting thing was that the booth was being run by three men. Maybe they couldn't find any women to support them or perhaps they felt more qualified to be experts on the topic. The only real experts are the women who have had to actually deal with this problem. Any women who have had an abortion and/or who strongly feel that abortion should be removed from the criminal code and be made available to women without recriminations and threats of sterilization should write to John Munro, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, and to Otto Lang, Minister of Justice, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, Ontario.

Course About Women " most successful series ever held at Selkirk College"
Much credit goes to course organizers Pauline Wah and Sue Charlton.
Following is a reprint of a letter sent to Sue re the course: