

BC/Y ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN'S CENTRES MEETING
of Committee's and Regional Representatives

Saturday December 8/9 1990.

Present:

Sally MacKenzie - Nelson, Steering/Lobbying
Margaret Shirley - Nelson, Steering
Lynn Mace - Fernie, Steering
Lorrie McDonnell - Cranbrook, Steering
Marianne Alto - Vancouver Island, Regional Rep/Lobbying
Hazel Huxely - Williams Lake, Regional Rep
Adele Key - South Surrey/Whiterock, Regional Rep
Johanna Ouakenbush - Whitehorse, Regional Rep
Donna Cameron - Penticton (filling in for Regional Rep)/Lobbying
Cheryl Kelly - Fort St. John, Lobbying
Diane Faux - Media Committee
Coralee Fisher - Port Coquitlam
Marielle Demorest - Richmond

Read BC/Y Sept. Mid year General Meeting Minutes.

Changes Sept. 15/16 1990 Minutes.

J) Add names to Lobbying Committee: Donna Cameron (Thompson Okanagan) Marianne Alto (Vancouver Island).

K) Add location after names on Election Committee: Pat Jones (Kitimat), Tracey Potkins (Fort Nelson), Manon Bertrand (Courtenay Comox), Doreen Ligertwood (Kamloops), Lorrie McDonnell (Cranbrook).

M) March 31/90 changed to March 31/91.

Changes to Dec. 8/9 1990. Agenda

Joy Leach, who BC/Y hired to make application to the Vancouver Foundation on our behalf, will come and report to us today from 1:00 to 3:00 PM rather than Sun 9:00 to 11:00 AM.

Sue Hollick Kenyon and Cindy McKinley, from Secretary of State will give a report about the Federal Government.

Report from Marianne Alto on her meeting with Gerry Weiner

On Oct. 3/90 our federal Minister Responsible for Secretary of State Canada, Gerry Weiner invited representatives of women's centres to his office in Ottawa. Linda Bonefoy-Tate from Yukon, Joyce Hancock from Newfoundland, and Lucille Harper from Nova Scotia. The B.C/Y asked that I attend on our behalf.

Mr. Weiner and his staff seemed not to have anything in particular they wanted to say, nor was there any attempt to determine beforehand if we had any specific requests or needs from the meeting.

Once we arrived, Joyce, Linda, Lucille, and I sat down together for a brain storming session. We made up our own agenda for the meeting, planned out how we wanted it to proceed, and hypothesized about why we were there.

Specifically, we wanted to know about three major items:

1. Did his government still support its own review of Women's services, known as the 'Fairness in Funding' document?
2. Did his government feel any obligation to provide ongoing funding for any women's centre?
3. What did he see as the future for women's centres, generally?

In regards to # 1 this 'Fairness in Funding' was done by the conservative Govt in 1987. The report recommended a 10 year financial plan for funding, which included annual increases of 15%.

Mr. Weiner stated that his government still supported the intent of the Fairness in Funding document. However, he felt that actually complying with its funding recommendations was beyond the ability of the present government. He was thus in a position where his government re-affirmed its obligation to support women's centres, as stated in their own policy, but not so much so that they are willing to actually pay for such equality creating services.

In regards to # 2. Mr. Weiner expressed his personal opinion that government should not be expected to provide operational, ongoing funding for any 'special interest group'. With regard to women's centres in particular. He said the fed's were not in a position to provide operational funding beyond this year. However, he did say that, considering a variety of factors, he was inclined to believe that he ought to recommend to his colleagues that a second, one time only, transitional year of funding be offered to women's centres for the 1991/1992 fiscal year.

Among the reasons he stated:

a) it seemed that, although no actual money had been promised, the provinces were at least examining the issues around federal/provincial cost sharing for women's centres, and that was a hopeful sign.

b) Since provincial/federal talks were still in progress, it seemed unlikely that any resolution would be had before the end

of the present fiscal year, We clearly needed more time , and thus money to stay open for that time.

c) The conservative government was well aware of its low standing in the polls, and that it was entering the latter half of its mandate, and it is well known that this is a scenario which sees the government become more generous with its purse.

d) Given the nature of events as they transpired after the announcement of the cuts to women's centres last spring, other MP's had a greater understanding of what women's centres actually did, how important they really are to their communities, and the MP's were therefore more likely to support a second transitional year of funding.

In regards to # 3 - on his vision for the future of women's centres, was less clear, In my opinion, it is not a high priority with him personally, He expressed some support for women's equality, and for the services, activities, and education that are necessary to advance it. However, he was quite unwilling to make any firm commitment to any type of ongoing funding base with which to pay for such equality services.

Gerry Weiner said if anything would happen, it would happen in Dec. We wanted to meet, but he felt it wasn't needed. I wrote to remind him it was December. He had planned to meet with Carol Gran, but didn't get to it yet.

Media Committee

Diane Faux has not heard from anyone on committee for a while. They did complete the "What is a Women's Centre" and get them distributed to centres so they could use it in their communities. Diane Faux will contact others on Media committee to get update on how this pamphlet was accepted.

Regional Representative Reports.

Brief reports were heard from the regional reps.

Steering Committee Report

BC/Y have made three applications for funding, Secretary of State, Technical Assistant Fund, and the Vancouver Foundation.

Steering Committee applied for and received from Secretary of State \$24,000 to hold 2 meetings, Dec. 8/9 1990 and Jan. 18/19/20 1991 and do a Public Relations Marketing Project.

In regards to this project we have talked to 2 consultants. Now we need to hire. Steering Committee will hand over findings to Vancouver Island Region to complete project by hiring and overseeing a Public Relations Marketing person.

We received \$5,000 from the Technical Assistance Fund to hire someone to prepare the application to the Vancouver Foundation.

Hired Joy Leach to work on the Vancouver Foundation grant application. Great news! We just found out this very moment, Richard Molcaster said Vancouver Foundation has given \$40,000 to BC/Y!

Hired Debra Lewis to write up a brief on funding for Women's Centres in British Columbia.

Sally wrote a tentative Budget for BC/Y as a whole. She said it was very interesting.

The University Hospital is planning to build a Women's clinic and they have asked Sally Mackenzie to sit on the Advisory committee in Vancouver. Sally has agreed to sit on committee.

Lobbying Committee Report

*Please note, this report is short due to repeating what Marianne Alto said about Gerry Wiener's meeting and what Sally Mackenzie said in Steering Committee report. (Both women are on this committee)

Donna spoke to Samantha Sanderson and provided her with input on Centres for her report to the provincial Women's Programs on Women's Centres. We have the final draft of Samantha's report "Women Centres in British Columbia".

Secretary of State Report by Cindy McKinley

In regards to Gerry Weiner's meeting. We might not have heard wrong. Ministers like to come out of meeting sounding good. Amy was probably trying to deflect his eagerness. Gerry tried to be forthcoming/ supportive. Cindy said we need to focus on less positive scenarios. The Ministers are going to parliament. May pirogue at Christmas break. We need to stress the women's centre importance.

Question: Will Fed's match 50/50 if centres receive money's from other agencies other than the province?

Secretary of State will continue to have project funding to do such things as advocacy projects. Secretary of State decided not to have deadlines, for to Women's Centres, because we don't know what will happen. They are generally encouraging groups not to submit. They don't want to redo the work, nor do they want the centre's to either.

The new Federal Budget will be brought forth in February or March. There have been substantial cuts in the budget because of Gulf war subsidy.

Question: If we don't get applications in to Sec State, will they say 'They didn't apply so we don't have to fund them.'?

No, the Fed's would lose their creditability. Send in your grant applications if you like. We also haven't asked for other groups we are continuing to fund for two reasons, the new application forms and we have just been too busy.

Funding talks are ongoing. She feels it might end up somewhere in between the two extremes. No funding or funding for eternity. Gerry will be going to cabinet with this on his agenda. Secretary of State has had very substantial cuts on capital such as computers, paper, etc. We simply don't know what will happen in budget. Sec State hopes they won't be cut any more. After we know what we will be doing we will ask for applications. There is also the scenario of Gerry Weiner going to cabinet and getting funding for Women Centres and two months later Mike Wilson stating something completely different in the budget.

Question: What if Gerry doesn't bring it up in December?

Then he can do it in January. The Minister and Cabinet are very busy at this time. They could keep us all on hold. I feel Gerry is trying hard to resolve this, but there are other issues he's dealing with now. We hope he can do it before Christmas.

Marianne Alto said, Gerry doesn't feel Women Centre's are a large interest. He likes Multicultural issues more.

There is also talk about Sec State splitting in two parts.

Question: What about the cost sharing proposition between the Province and Federal Government?

Sec State is quite sure we could get second year funding if Province agreed to kick in half. Quebec has received agreement from Sec State they will fund them, because province already funds 80% costs of Women Centres.

Question: Will Fed's match 50/50 if we receive monies from agencies other than the province.

I didn't know. Sec State continues to want BC/Y to secure some kind of funding from the Province.

Even project money given to the Women Centres from the province would be positive to Federal Government. The Federal Government looks at it like the province has a smaller deficit and they are the level of government who funds services. Sec State groups have to change the way things are presented to cabinet ministers.

The marketing is to convince fed, province, etc. that we are needed. We as Women Centres need to stress their importance.

Sec State will continue to have projects funding to do advocacy projects.

With respect to January meeting, I've suggested BC/Y invite Amy Clifford from the Federal Government. Other groups have always invited political people routinely to all their functions ie: multicultural. It shows respect.

Cindy really stressed how very damaging it would be if Secretary of State thought Women Centres used the money the gave us for anything other than what we said.

We assured Cindy we would not do this.

We broke at 1:00 PM.

1:20 PM.

Joy Leach spoke about the Vancouver Foundation Grant.

We need to strike a Project management committee for "Planning for Change". There is \$3000,00 to use for this committee. Have four people work on it. This is a business committee.

January Meeting

It will be a three day meeting. Friday we will have workshops based on input from the centres. Saturday - Strategic Planning with Margaret Birrel facilitating. Sunday - wrap up.

Marianne Alto will ask Port Alberni about their project "Building Support in your Community".

Spent the rest of Saturday writing up questions to give to centres for background for workshops, while Lobbying Committee met.

Meeting Adjourned 5:10 PM.

Sunday December 9/90.9:30 AM.

Lobbying committee wanted us as a whole to brainstorm with them. Here is what we came up with:

Federal Government:

Local

- visit MPs
- find out who the opposition nominees are

Provincial -BC/Y

- Send copy of briefs to opposition.
 - Press release for Globe and Mail
-

- letter to lobby Gerry Wiener,
Brian Mulroney, Mary Collins,
Micheal Wilson, J Chreitian,
Audrey MacLauchlin, BC Senators
- Press releases
- letter to editor
- T.V.
- organize event
- petitions
- well planned
International Women's Day
March 8th
- Use D.J.s to M.C. events
- Meet with MPs and MLA with
briefs of Debra Lewis, Samantha
send Sec State copies of press
releases

Provincial Government

Local

- visit MLA with briefs
and give them a verbal
report
- find out who your MLA
listens to and get them
to put in a good word.
do this at all levels of
government.
- Community speaking events
for introduce yourselves. Be
visible.
- Attend council meetings.
Join boards, etc.
- Join other Women's groups for International
Women's Day.

Municipal Government

Local

- join city committees
- visit councillors with briefs
to
- wear badges, buttons to events
around town
- Fernie - get council to write and

- organize Prov/National
event
- awareness day
- phone your MP or Prime
Ministers office.
- BC/Y will get list of
Senators for Centres
- open house across
province
- Audio tape for radio
"Day in the life of
a Women Centre"
55 second segments
public service ann.
- District offices
Mary Clancey, Dawn
Black, Bruce Lund,
Kim Campbell
- See Mary at every
opportunity

Provincial BC/Y

- send copy of brief
to opposition
- See Carol Gran Monday
December 10, 1990.
- write up strategies
and send to centres.
Dear Sister, worked on
by Lobbying com.
- get the "Raging Grandma's"
to write a song and sing
us.

Provincial BC/Y

- write letter to UBCM
- write letter of thanks
Fernie Council (they have
went to bat for centre)
- via News Flash - how
Council backed

centre

discuss centres with Union of
B.C.

- Strike a lobbying committee in
your centre.
- have your local lobbying committee
feature in a regular newsletter or
agenda of meeting.
- "What is a Women Centre"? should go
to City Council, School Board, Chamber
of Commerce, Business and Professional
Women's groups.

January meeting Organizers

BC/Y told Geraldine Morley and Lynne Brown what we wanted them to
do in preparation for January 18, 19, and 20th meeting in
Vancouver.

- We agreed to invite Wendy Carter, Cindy McKinley and Carole
Anne Soong Saturday morning
- We will contact PR person to invite Media to lunch time press
release.

We split up into 4 groups to condense the questions we wanted
sent to the centres.

There are various members interested in applying for the
'Community Initiatives Project coordinator position. Those
applying are Courtenay, Lower Mainland, Richmond, and Cranbrook.
Donna Cameron will ask Vernon and Marianne Alto will ask Terrace
Centre. It would be nice if all centres in the areas requested
for these positions apply.

In regards to Finances Sec State continues to think we are
functioning on a surplus. So from now on we will have 2 ledgers,
one for Sec State monies and one for other monies.

We sang Happy Birthday to Donna Cameron! Thanked Marielle from
Richmond Centre for all they had done.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:45 PM.