

October 7, 1979

Dear Sisters,

As we approach convention, a curious thing starts to happen. Groups realize that they haven't paid their memberships, women begin to wonder again what is actually going on with BCFW? I believe that most of us by now realize the meaning and intent of our constitution. It is a revolutionary tool. How are we using it? This year it has become apparent that for some women we are moving too fast, too slow, or in the wrong direction. Questioning ourselves is an integral part of growth to us at convention to determine our pace for next year.

Please read the information in your convention packet until it is familiar. Bring it along as it is your entrance into the proceedings. If you are a delegate, come with clear questions and suggestions from the group you're representing: especially concerning emphasis, communication, and the role of the standing committee. All women should also plan to spend a two-hour shift on voluntary assignments there will be a sign-up sheet at registration. This year we're stressing discussion and participation, re-evaluation and strategy.

The wine and cheese party on Friday night will be an immediate opportunity to get together informally. At this time, tables will be set **UP SO** that each group, subcommittee, and region will have an opportunity to take a proportionate amount of space and time to answer questions on their activities. Please come prepared for this and bring along anything that your group might have for distribution and display. Workshop facilitators will also either be there in person or have a resume of their workshop with sign-up sheets available. We hope in this manner to give women an equal chance to schedule themselves and avoid the first-come-first-served rush and conflict.

If, by chance, your group has not received last year's

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how you **Ca**n "best contribute to making this coming *year a* vital one, British Columbia Federation of Women is more than a structure. It is the **means** whereby **we keep** feminism alive in **British Columbia**. And **we are** BCFW.

Looking forward to **vour** energy,

MiriamAzrealforConventionPlanningCommit

## FUNDING CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT — CONVENTION 1979

My activities this year consisted primarily of figuring out BCFW finances and method of bookkeeping so that I could in turn justify a request to Secretary of State for further funding.

The grant application itself was fairly straight forward. Before it was approved however, there were a number of criteria to be met. The first major hurdle was an in-depth evaluation of the dispersement of last years grant. As I was new to the BCFW this involved some research but it was most interesting to learn about past projects and activities.

That took care of last years grant, but a similar projection of activities was needed to account for budget items in the grant request. It was, of course, impossible to be specific about projects and activities but a general description of childcare provisions, subcommittee workshops, regional information and resource exchange and standing committee responsibilities satisfied go

A list of member groups was required and this indicated to Secretary of State that BCFW still fulfills its umbrella mandate of co-ordinating a large number of feminist groups of B.C.

In lieu of direct consultation with member groups your support letters answered the government questions regarding the role of the BCFW in co-ordinating feminist activities in B.C. Thanks to all who sent those letters, they did in fact influence the review committee and as of late September our grant application has been forwarded to Ottawa "approved" by the Vancouver office.

Secretary of State fiscal year ends March 31, therefore our last grant of \$12,254.25 was officially spent by June of 1979. Our remaining monies were from our own membership dues and were used for the September Standing Committee meeting and this convention. In an effort to make our actual expenditures approximate the grant money given for a specific time period our present grant application included budget estimates to March 31 only. That is: given a budget estimate of \$27,750.00, \$22,750.00 of which is a grant request, we calculated the portion of the budget needed before March 31 and applied for that much. The current grant application is for \$5,418.00. We may reapply for more funding April 1, 1980.

There was also an attempt to organize a ticket sale project to raise funds but it never got past the planning stages. Tickets would have been sold across the province and there would have been regional draws for prizes of 1st. \$180.00 (average M.P.'s salary per day) 2nd. \$120.00 (average M.L.A.'s salary per day) 3rd. \$35.00 (average woman's salary per day). Perhaps that will happen next year.

There will be an art/craft sale at the convention. The artists are paying 30% of their gross sales to B.C.F.W. Come prepared to buy some Christmas presents.

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RECOMMENDATIONS TO NEXT YEAR'S STANDING COMMITTEE

1. As there is a great deal of overlap in budget estimates and bookkeeping analysis I would recommend that positions of fundraising co-ordinator and treasurer be held by women from the same city. If womanpower is at premium it is my opinion that the grant application process could be easily handled by the treasurer. In terms of dealing with Secretary of State it is considerably easier if the fundraiser has easy access to Vancouver.
  2. Given the confusion I found in dealing with budget estimates and actual expenditures I would recommend that the books of BCFW be officially closed by each outgoing treasurer on a specific date - perhaps Nov. 30 - each\* year. The new treasurer then begins with a specific balance forward.
  3. As our primary funding source is the Secretary of State Department and as their fiscal year is April 1 to March 31, I would recommend that the BCFW books run two column estimates and expenditures, one which will show the amount of money needed to function within the Secretary of State fiscal year and one which will show the amount of money needed to function within our own convention to convention ( or perhaps as in (2) Dec. 1- Nov, 30) fiscal year.
- lu' As we are responsible to Secretary of State only for money granted from them I would recommend that grant money be kept in a separate account and allocated to specific expenditures. Our own income is then not open to government scrutiny. This would also facilitate grant evaluation.

RESOLUTION TO CONVENTION

Where as                   the financial responsibility for management of grant money is presently the responsibility of the person signing the grant application form and that woman is personally liable for mismanagement or loss of funds and,

Where as                   the members of BCFW have a right to a mandatory annual audit of Federation financial statements and,

Where as                   government funding will be available only to groups incorporated under the Societies Act,

Be it resolved that \*the Standing Committee begin the process to incorporate the Federation as a non-reporting, non-profit society, the ratification of incorporation to be voted on at convention 1980.

Submitted by:   Shirley Nordstrom  
                           Fundraising Co-ordinator  
                           Standing Committee 1978-79

With special thanks to Jane Brassett, Secretary of State Dept. for her "head for figures" and her cheerful disposition and to Miriam who had hoped that I would have known what I was doing.

LIST OF WORKSHOPS ~ B.C.F.W. Convention/79

Community Organizing

B.C.F.W. Workshops - evaluation, strategies, action

Lesbianism & Feminism

Socialism & Feminism

Women & Unemployment

Abortion Workshop

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Feminism; Reform or Revolution? (initially called Civil  
Disobedience - Guerilla Tactics)

Unstructured workshop time for spontaneous concerns

Prison Workshop

Feminism & Labels

Human Rights

Caravanning - a workshop on a BCFW caravan

Co-Counselling

Women Against Violence

Constructive Criticism

Problem-Solving \_ Women's Groups

Feminist Artists :Support and Media

FRIDAY, NOV. 9th:

- 8 p.m. Registration at James Bay Community Center  
140 Oswego, Victoria, B.C.

Settling-in time at Swiftsure Inn, the  
convention hotel

8:00 p.m. Wine and Cheese at the Center  
(Information tables on groups and regions,  
communication between regions and delegates,  
mini-policy information available, and sign-up  
sheets for workshops and volunteer board.)

SATURDAY, NOV 10th:

9:00 a.m. Rules of Order explanation  
Discussion of lobbying and information re  
nominating committee.

9:30 Plenary Session (Reports from Standing Committee  
Regional Reps and Sub-Committees)

10:15 Coffee Break

10:30 Plenary Session continued

12:30 Lunch

1:15-3:15 Workshops

3:15-3:30 Break

3:30 Workshops (policy workshops will be scheduled  
at this time only)

6:00 Dinner

7:00 Sub-committee meetings

9:30 Dance

SUNDAY, NOV, 11th

9:00 a.m. Workshops

11:00 Break

11:15 Workshop on B.C.F.W. (newsletter, communication  
fundraising, goals, actions, positions of  
Standing Committee members)

1:15 P.m. Lunch

2:00-5:00 Plenary Session (1. reports from B.C.F.W.  
workshops 2. policy issues 3. elections to  
Standing Committee)

6:00 Dinner

7:00-9:00 Regional meetings

9:00 Entertainment (sub-committees could have 2nd meeting)

## PLENARY SESSION

## RULES OF ORDER

IN ORDER FOR ALL WOMEN TO MEANINGFULLY PARTICIPATE IN THE CONVENTION IT IS NECESSARY TO HAVE A FLEXIBLE AND EASILY-UNDERSTOOD METHOD TO ORDER DEBATE. THE FOLLOWING RULES OF ORDER ARE BEING PROPOSED BY THE CONVENTION PLANNING COMMITTEE IN ORDER TO FACILITATE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE DISCUSSION AND DECISION-MAKING.

1. When a woman wishes to speak she will proceed to a microphone. When recognized by the Chair, the woman will give her name and the group being represented. The woman will confine remarks to the question being discussed. The Chair is empowered to cut off debate after four speakers have spoken in favour and there are no speakers waiting to speak against at the microphone.
2. Delegates to this convention will have voice and vote; registered observers will have vote.
3. A woman will not speak more than once on any subject unless she is speaking for the group which introduced the resolution, in which case she will have the right to close the debate.
4. Speeches will be limited to three minutes. This will not apply to a member of a workshop when presenting a resolution or policy statement on behalf of that workshop, who will have up to 10 minutes.
5. Women shall not interrupt one another except on a point of order, point of information, or on a point of privilege. If a woman is called to order she **MUST** yield the floor until the question of order has been decided.
6. A woman, if seconded, can challenge the decision of the Chair, in which case the Chair can explain her decision and then put the question to a vote.
7. Questions will be decided by a show of voting cards, or a standing vote. Persons without voting cards are not entitled to vote. Any delegate who has lost her voting card should immediately contact a member of the Convention Planning Committee.
3. The Chair will not vote on any question except to cast a deciding vote in the case of a tie vote.
9. The Chair may accept a motion to put the question to a vote if she feels that sufficient debate has taken place. Once the Chair has accepted a motion to call the question no further debate may take place. Discussion will continue only if the motion to call the question is defeated.
10. Each resolution or policy statement coming from a workshop will be taken to be moved and seconded. A woman from a workshop may summarize the debate within the Workshop and report the decision of the Workshop. Neither the Policy Gathering Committee nor the Workshop representative may overrule the decision of a Workshop. Only the plenary of the Convention may overrule the vote of the Workshop.
11. The Chair of the Plenary will not accept amendments from the floor to the motions as read by Workshop representatives.
12. Once a motion has been passed or defeated by the plenary there is no mechanism for re-consideration.
13. The Policy Gathering Committee may combine resolutions or prepare a

Standing; Committee Members 1978/79

Co-ordinator	Miriam Azrael 2236 St. George, Vancouver V5T 3R2	876-8283
Secretary/Treasurer	Stephanie Hudson 1601 Overlook, Prince Rupert V8J 2C7	624-4685
Action Facilitator Internal Communications	Pat Smith 3243 Findlay, Vancouver	876-1157
External Communications	Cindy Hale 1638 E. 6th, Vancouver	254-7029
Fund-raising	Shirley Nordstrom 1429 Monterey Ave,, Victoria	598-6^85
Membership Organizer	Marcia Braundy R.R. #1, Winlaw	<b>226</b> -7624
Member at large	Naomi Lis 8251 Prances Road, Richmond	271-9851
	Ruth Busek 4311 W. 14th, Vancouver	228-1340

Regional Representatives

Prince Rupert	Kathy Booth	
West Kootenays	Vita Storey	352-9959
	Bette Bateman	2^6-7603
Okanagan/Kamloops	Rita Berraro Box 2844, Salmon <b>Arm</b>	832-8309
Lower Mainland	Lynne Potter 115 N. Kootenay, Vancouver	294-0565
Columbia/Kootenay	Darcy Russell	437-7623
Skeena	Mary Boucher Terrace	638-1469
North Vancouver Island	Lynne Opic, Comox  Joy Illington, Nanaimo	
South Vancouver Island	Sharon Ellingson, Victoria' Alice Albert, Victoria'	
p©lvoo River-	Pat Tryon 1217~105th St, , Dawson Creek	782-5707
	Penne David Box 476, Dawson Creek	759-4466

'Standing Committee, continued

Sub-committee Chairs

Rights of Lesbians	Tish Lakes 637 Princess Ave# <sub>2</sub> , Victoria	386-1683
	Venge Dixon #4-95 Kingsway, Vancouver	872-2250
	Penny Arrand #10-1707 East 4th, Vancouver	
Health	Nancy Seagull 730 East 11th\$ Vancouver	
	Stephanie Hudson 1601 Overlook, Prince Ruuert	624-4685
Women against violence	Debra Harris c/o 2020 'West 4th, Vancouver	
Women and Work	Susan Croll 2043 Pandora, Vancouver Laurie McGuiggan 1630 East 11th, Vancouver	
Human Rights	Linda Gatto Box 1466, Vernon	
	Barb Low #117-4775 Valley Drive, Vancouver	2.66-6490

## Co-ordinators report

Miriam Azrael

The function of co-ordinator is not easy to define, especially in an amorphous yet definitely non-hierarchical organization such as BCFW. A real attempt at grassroots revolution, the very structure of BCFW is defined to prevent domination by any woman or group of women: all actions must be initiated by member groups or sub-committee if they are to be endorsed. Unfortunately, groups are so often so busy tending to their own survival that they do not fully extend their options by taking initiative in the Federation's name or requesting the Federation to act on their behalf. As well, it does sometimes seem, seeing as one's contribution is in some way proportionate to one's energy, that initiative is often frustrated by the cumbersome-ness of the structure. This is just an initial stumbling block, for once the procedure becomes familiar, it can be used to swiftly alert the whole province that something is going on that needs our attention. A number of groups this year took actions which gathered on the strength of the Federation, drawing in more women and more media, with less emphasis on the purely sensational and more grasp of the meaning that we, as feminists, are trying to get across. I would not say that this has been a year of enormous strides forward, yet I venture that our presence is being more keenly felt. Even without the vital external communications organizer, BCFW has been recognized this year.

When I first found myself with a task on the Standing Committee as membership co-ordinator, I was surprised and a bit intimidated. I envisioned drawing in numbers of groups and helping to reactivate the regions where we had no representation at last year's convention. With Marg Verrai's illness and resignation, I found myself in a position that seemed almost rampant in its demands. That I was not formally voted in by convention made me hesitant to speak out in terror lest I deviate the slightest bit from formal policy and inadvertently offend some of the very women I was supposed to be representing. This fear I had to quickly overcome, as we all must if we are to effectively continue. I did feel keenly a lack of continuity between the old and the new standing committee and strongly recommend that this be done more efficiently this year.

In orienting myself then, to the position I considered the Policy Handbook. The Outline of Duties of Task Positions on Standing Committee (Article VII Section does select three specific tasks for the co-ordinators' attention, merely indicating what the bulk of the work will be. This includes, keeping facts straight in your head and being able to communicate them at a moment's notice; referring and answering correspondence and telephone calls; assimilating masses of information and opinions; writing letters of inquiry and support, as well as "disgusted and outraged" ones; and of course writing reports and Going To Meetings. It is a definite asset if you can handle telephone calls while in the middle of making "dinner". I am almost sorry that my term is up as I feel I was just getting really skilled at this juggling. The co-ordinator must be flexible and ever attentive to the needs of the moment. At times it is so frustrating, nothing seems to be moving. Then there is a powerful surge of co-operative energy that makes it possible to continue on the hectic pace that we feel we must maintain until we do, definitely, no doubt about it, feel those symptoms that have been finally defined into a chart burn out - an honourable end to a feminist. Surely there must be a better way to pace ourselves so that we can avoid this, applying all the strategy that we can pool. It is unfortunate that much that we have considered accomplished such as the right to safe abortion, is being undermined and endangered by the well organized, high financed menace of those who proclaim very loudly their right to "protect" and "control" women. That we are still fighting for some very basic rights to be recognized is insulting and draining of our vital energy,

That we maintain this struggle, however, crucial. This is why BCFW has an established policy, and while it is our past year as they perceived our focus to be too narrow, it is fundamental to our organization that members agree on this basic policy: we need to be secure and concise in our goals and be able to

issues. We quite obviously have a direction established. We can only proceed when our struggles with ourselves are resolved enough to permit us to take action.

Feminists are challenged to produce all of the answers, and we do have them, in our idealism. Often as not we are prevented from establishing and maintaining what we recognize to be essential services: that should not even be required. We are constantly blocked by lack of funds and the rigorous odds and regulations that are stacked against us by those that are continuing to profit from ignorance, tradition, sentimentality, insecurity, and manipulation of material wealth. We are put in the awkward position of having to appeal to government to finance us: which they must form a latent sense of decency and obligation. They also fund us to keep us quiet-- to cut us off would be to induce revolution. We must recognize the danger, and there is good reason to be cautious of such an uneasy alliance as the one between government and bona fide feminist groups. An unanticipated new threat is the creation of government controlled "feminist" projects while funds are still not available for the : : nance of our basic women's centres, crisis services, etc. These government 'schemes hinge on the cooperation of feminist women who see this as a way to get paid for what they are doing. As long as the women are autonomous, operating with no government interference, and at a level of integrity accepted within the community, like WAVAW, then the benefits can be appealing. I get very irritated to think of BCFW competing for funds with its own members, and as some of these government groups are now appearing very interested in BCFW, we must be very clear about what is actually going on.

Very early in its herstory, BCFW realized that it could not be all things for all women. We cannot let ourselves forget that radical feminism does have a goal: which is complete reorganization of society. There are harsh, practical reasons for taking even even a meagrely paid government job. There are very definite rationalizations as to why we should tone ourselves down, drop the name of feminist from our publications, in hopes of reaching more women. There may be an element of confusion over what lines we take and to what lengths we are prepared to go: we must always remember where we are going. It is crucial for this convention that we clarify our direction. That we are moving is indisputable-

These are all things that I noticed during my time as co-ordinator of BCFW. The thing that has me most puzzled, however, is lack of response from our own women. Why is most of the work done by the same people, and why is it so difficult to maintain enthusiasm and commitment? Why are we still inhibiting one another instead of working together with full creative innovation? Why is it so much of a battle? Agreed, we should be able to be more supportive of each other if we are serious in our dedication to create a feminist alternative.

We ve done a number of effective gestures this year. BCFW groups were vigilant and active in many key issues. Some of our actions:

- Confronting the right wing fundamentalists on their anti-gay stance in a mass picket of the Orpheum..demonstration, leafletting
- Betsey Wood and Gay Moons trial...vigil
- The Female Offender Conference at the Holiday Inn...leaflet, booktable
- The Criminal Offender Conference at Harrison\_\_\_\_alternate conference, solitary cell
- Human Rights Commission.....exposing corruption with letters, picketing, media focus
- International Womens Day\_\_\_\_planning and participation
- California Gift Compnay.letter and media focus on sexist advertising
- Salon 545\_\_\_\_demonstartion against sexism and poronography
- Poronography Conference at Holiday Inn\_\_\_\_picketing, demonstration
- S.F.U. strike\_\_\_\_picketing, defense commitee, leaflet
- Brief on the persons case....sent to Ottawa
- Women and Work Conference...organized by Working Women Unite

as well as various regional conferences and booktables

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE ENEGETIC WOMEN OF RAPE RELIEF, NELSON, FLAG, Working Women Unite,  
: all those who worked on the Standing Committee to make this year memorable.

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE. REPORT - Sept .79

Submitted Bette Bateman of West Kootenay Women's Association

March 8/79 - An evening of Information and celebration was held at the Centre, focused around films & video presentation.

A BCFW Regional Meeting, was held 10th March, meeting with various women's groups throughout the East & West Kootenays, to encourage their participation in, and membership with BCFW. Women attended from Cranbrook, Nelson, Argenta, and New Denver.

February 24-25/79 - A Wen- Do workshop was held in South Slocan. A dozen 2 attended. Alice McPherson from Vancouver gave instruction. Great experience for all.

April 11-12 - A Sexual Assault & Abuse Workshop, was held in Nelson. Yvette Perreault and Casey Arnott from Vancouver Rape Relief attended through funding obtained by the Nelson Women's Centre from Sec. State. Approximately 40 to 50 people from the community at large attended, i.e. police, Hospital, Welfare, Mental Health, Access (Drug Abuse team), etc. As a result of this a Committee was established by the community at large, to set up an actual Rape Crisis Line. The training for volunteers should commence some time the end of Sept. or early October. The focus for the crisis line will be the Women's Centre.

April/79 - Letter to the B.C.»»»Human Rights Commission asking that a new commission be set up, due to the various discriminatory acts already committed by the Commission.

June 5 - Family; Law Seminar? held at the Centre on an update of the new family law just put into effect.

July 21 - Festival/Benefit held at the Vallican Whole Community Centre. A day by women for women. A good time was had and money raised for the Centre.

Friday night Socials held throughout the summer included? Women In China, Women & Music, Rape, etc. Also an ovulation workshop, all day Sat. Childbirth classes commenced in August - a series of 8 classes.

Many months of battle with the local university has resulted in a Temporary position for a Women's Access Co-ordinator position being established to develop this program.

Sept. 15 - An informal open discussion was held with a representative from Working Women Unite.

A summer grant was obtained to build a small park adjacent to the +s Centre. The opening of the park was held Sept. 12 with Puppet Show, clowns and lots and lots of little people in attendance. Two salaries were included with this grant.

## NORTH ISLAND CO-REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

- January -meeting of women delegates held in Victoria with a representative of the Secretary of State, in order to establish priorities for funding proposed projects on the Island. Networking, contacting rural and isolated women were determined to be priorities.
- February -copies of Researching Your Own Community, and Indian Women and the Law were sent to member groups on North Island;
- attended meetings setting up Women's Resource Centre for Nanaimo;
- discussed Feminist Training Corps jobs applications - as could be applied to rural women with member groups on North Island. .
- March -organized International Women's Day celebrations - an information day of resources available to women in Nanaimo;
- attended BCFW Standing Committee meeting and sent our reports to member groups.
- April -organized **a** workshop in Nanaimo **to** acknowledge our history of suffrage - Thursday, April 5 **B.C.** women win the vote. Examined some **of** the racist history **of** laws in **B.C.** as they apply to women;
- sent copies of Start Charts to member groups on North Island for community organizing.
- May -assisted women's services training program get **set** up - to hire eight women **as** feminist networkers **in** Victoria, Nanaimo, Port Alberni, Courtenay, Campbell River, Port Hardy;
- assist Haven **Society** for battered women **to** hire workers and develop **philosophy**;
- attended advisory meeting to have **a say** in programs offered **by** Women's Resource Centre in Nanaimo.
- June -**gave community** organizing workshop **at** Women's Resource Centre in Nanaimo;
- attended organizing **meeting for Women's Festival and assisted in locating place and programs for festival.**
- July -**gave community organizing workshop for Native Home/School Co-ordinators in Indian communities for North Island?**
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- attending organization meeting to assemble mailing for V.I. **Women's Festival.**
- August -**Women's Festival - gave workshop on Women and**