

Nelson Women's Centre

The Nelson Women's Centre is an on-going project of the West Kootenay Women's Association, incorporated as a non-profit society August 1974. Currently, the membership is slightly over one hundred. The Centre exists as a vehicle of the Association to carry through its aims and objectives. The smooth and efficient operation of the Centre and its activities requires full-time supervision, co-ordination, training of non-salaried staff persons, and a vehicle for ongoing communication among all persons working at or through the Centre. Without a skeleton of full-time workers to provide this co-ordinating role, the Centre is unable to make the most efficient use of its members' talents and skills. Specific projects are being held back because energy must first go to the operation and maintenance of the Centre. We therefore recommend to this Caucus that support and recognition be given in the form of core funding for the on-going work and services provided by the Nelson Women's Centre.

THE WOMEN'S CENTRE AS A RESOURCE TO ISOLATED, NON-URBAN WOMEN

The activities and resources of the Nelson Women's Centre regularly serve women living within a forty mile radius of Nelson, and frequently serve women throughout the entire West Kootenays. More than half the membership of the West Kootenay Women's Association live outside Nelson, on farms or in small, isolated communities, including:

Kootenay Bay	Bonnington	Lemon Creek
Argenta	South Slocan	Sproule Creek
Balfour	Thrums	Blewett
Kaslo	Castlegar	Taghum
Salmo	Passmore	Vallican
Ymir	Winlaw	Slocan
Perry Siding	Appledale	Johnson's Landing

For women living in these communities, Nelson is the centre for service and commerce: government offices, medical services, shopping facilities etc. are all here. Women must travel long distances, often in bad weather and often with children, to avail themselves of these services. The needs of these women are two-fold: 1) a drop-in centre for their convenience and 2) access to information to assist them in understanding and working with the institutions and facilities they deal with.