

1989

WKWA

CHRONOLOGY OF ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

- Early 70's -W.A.P. the Women's Advocacy Project.  
Childbirth Education for expectant parents.
- 1977 -Worked with Selkirk Health Unit to set up  
a V.D. Clinic and a culture facility to  
permit in-house diagnosis of gonorrhoea.
- 1978 -Video of Kootenay area women.
- 1980 -Developed a children's playground in Nelson.
- 1981 -Sponsored a L.E.A. project to develop a  
business known as Emma's Jambrosia (a jam  
factory)
- 1982 -Started a women's theatre group which evolved  
into "Women on Cue"
- 1983-4 -Researched and promoted education on both  
wife abuse and pornography.
- 1984 -Conducted a feasibility study on post-  
graduate courses in Women's Studies in the  
Kootenays.
- 1985 -Completed a feasibility study for a job  
development training project.

- 1986
- Established the project known as Kootenay Womenworks in Nelson
  - Carried out archival work to organize and store the information generated by the work of the Association.
  - Worked on a proposal to fund lay advocacy.
- 1987
- Conducted a feasibility study for a Job
  - Development program in the Castlegar/Trail area.
- 1988
- Established the Advocacy Project, designed to assist people to obtain their legal and human rights.
  - Formed a Community Economic Development group to explore ideas for responsible development of sustainable enterprises in the area.
  - Pursued the consolidation of the Association's work through the purchase of a building.
- 1989
- Working with other agencies in Nelson to seek funding to establish a Transition House.
  - Conducted a seven week Battered Women's Research Project.

### CURRENT PROJECTS OF THE SPONSOR

#### NELSON WOMEN'S CENTRE

FUNDING SOURCE: Secretary of State, Women's Program  
CONTRACT: Renewed annually for past nine years

The Centre is run by a full-time, paid coordinator who, with a large team of volunteers, provides information, referral services, advocacy, crisis intervention and support for women.

It responds to needs identified in the community by providing workshops to allow skill-sharing and by offering programs in conjunction with other agencies in the area. The Centre houses a feminist lending library, a photocopier, a free used clothing collection and small meeting area for women.

An extensive collection of current resource material on matters of interest to women is maintained in readily accessible files.

The Centre is affiliated with local, provincial and national networks of women. It serves women in the West Kootenay region, many of whom are both low-income and single parents.

### THE ADVOCACY PROJECT

FUNDING SOURCE: The Law Foundation of British Columbia  
CONTRACT: Renewed for a second year April 1989.

This project assists individuals, groups and non-profit societies who are in conflict with more powerful systems or individuals, to protect their legal and human rights.

The staff person provides information, referral, one-on-one advocacy and clients are taught problem-solving skills, assertiveness and self-representation for use in court and at tribunals.

The staff person travels throughout the region offering advocacy clinics and workshops on topics such as welfare rights, custody and access and assertiveness training.

The project provides input for law reform and government policy review and maintains a small library.

In its first year the project had an average monthly caseload of forty and referral requests have been about one hundred per month. Ten volunteers have been involved during the first year.

**NELSON WOMEN'S CENTRE - activities sponsored; organized and conducted.**

1986

Non-traditional occupations seminar  
Liaison and lobbying - government agencies  
Pornography workshop  
Women and Revolution in the Third World - film series  
Feminist Reading Circle  
Theatrical presentation - Wife Abuse  
Annual Women's Festival  
Economic conference  
Pre-natal classes  
Women's Film Festival  
Battered Women's Support Group  
single Parent Support Group  
Goal-setting workshop  
Sexual Abuse Survivors Support Group  
Homophobia Discussion Group  
Advocacy - several cases throughout the year  
Advocacy Training for volunteers  
International Women's Day celebration  
Liaison with other community agencies

1987

Advocacy - several cases throughout year  
Reproductive Choice - forum  
Book Sale  
Newsletter - monthly  
Self Defence Course  
Assertiveness Training  
Self Esteem group  
Self-employment group for women  
Film series on Wife Abuse  
International Women's Day celebration  
Handywomen Skill Sharing series  
Annual Women's Festival  
Advocacy Training for Volunteers  
Lesbianism; Myths and Realities - discussion group  
P.M.S. Workshop  
Canada World Youth participant  
Retreat for Coordinating Collective  
Group Facilitation Workshop  
Presentations to Women's Groups and college students  
Liaison with other community agencies

1988

Book Sales  
Conference - "Building on Strengths"  
Presentations to various women's organizations  
International Women's Day events  
Handywomen Skill-sharing series  
Film Series on Women's issues  
Assertiveness Training  
Annual Women's Festival  
Sexual Abuse Survivors Group  
Financial Management for Boards of Non-profit groups  
Seminar  
Legal Responsibilities of Boards of Non-Profit groups +  
Seminar  
Liason with other community agencies  
Self Esteem Class  
Sex-role stereotyping workshop  
Wen-Li Do series  
Brief on Drug and Alcohol Abuse  
Brief to Provincial Cabinet Committee on Social  
Policy  
Brief to Justice Reform Committee  
Display on Childcare issues  
Parenting teens - discussion group  
Float in mid-summer parade  
Peer counselling workshops  
Retreat for Coordinating Collective  
Transport Canada job opportunities - meeting for women  
Working with Battered Women - workshop  
Public Speaking for Women - series of seminars  
Unemployed Women's Support Group  
Lobbying government including MP

### KOOTENAY WOMENWORKS

FUNDING SOURCE: Canadian Job Strategies Operations  
Canada Employment and Immigration  
CONTRACT: Renewed annually since 1986

With a staff of three full-time women this project conducts employment training programs for classes of eight to ten women who have been defined as "severely employment disadvantaged". These are women from all walks of life from 20 to 60 years old. There are three classes each year.

In the initial eight weeks of classroom training, participants are taught communications skills, assertiveness training, interview skills, resume writing, introduction to the word processor and more. Classroom training is designed to build confidence and self esteem in preparation for entering the workforce.

After the classroom training, participants work for eight weeks with an employer of their choice. This on the job training matches the participant's interest and skills with the needs of the employer and provides specific skill training, local references and ongoing employment.

Approaching the end of the third year of funding, the project has graduated 78 women and meets the national standards of the Federal program.

### BATTERED WOMEN'S RESEARCH PROJECT

FUNDING SOURCE: Secretary of State, Women's Program  
CONTRACT: Seven Weeks

There was speculation that women in rural areas, ethnic women and disabled women were not served by existing sources intended to help women in battering situation.

The objective of this short project was to document the resources available in this area; to determine which women were being served and thus identify those not reached at this time. The project also attempted to suggest how new services or resources could be made available.

The printed report of the work is to be released April 14th, 1989.