

West Kootenay Women's Association Nelson & District Women's Centre

The West Kootenay Women's Association, a non-profit society incorporated in 1974, was formed to sponsor the Nelson Women's Centre, then in its second year. The Association has charitable tax status with Revenue Canada.

The West Kootenay Women's Association (WKWA) is a feminist organization which works to promote the status of women through the sponsoring of projects and acting as a voice for feminists in the West Kootenay Area. Our membership of about 200 women is centred in the Nelson area, and extends to all parts of the West Kootenays (and beyond!)

The Nelson and District Women's Centre is the ongoing project of the WKWA, serving women in the area with information, referral, and support, a lending library, support groups, workshops and educational activities. Membership in the WKWA is not a requirement to use the resources of the Women's Centre, and a wide range of women are served by this resource. Some former major projects of the Association were WomenWorks, a training program offering employment preparation, and Options Unlimited, a role-modelling program including printed materials produced by the project. As well, the WKWA was the founder of the Advocacy Centre, a paralegal advocacy and education service, which now operates under the auspices of the Nelson District Community Resources Society. Currently the WKWA is sponsoring the Women's Employment and Training Advocacy project, which is facilitating the formation of an ongoing working group of women involved in employment issues in the West Kootenays, with a particular emphasis on funding allocation for skills training.

The Nelson and District Women's Centre usually has several support groups going on at any one time. Most recently, there have been: a group for Women Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse; one for Women Who Have Been in Abusive Relationships; Smoking Cessation workshops; Menopause Drop-in; and ongoing Skills-sharing Workshops. As well, the Nelson Health Issues group meets at the Centre.

Now that the Association and the Centre have a house for a home, many other ideas are coming up virtually daily for other uses for the space. Local midwives have expressed an interest in presenting educational seminars in the new year. There have been several requests for a general discussion group for women. A number of women want to start a reading and discussion group. A Smoking Cessation group for young women has been proposed. There is an ongoing interest in more self-defence classes.

For more than 20 years, the Centre has served as a place of first contact for many women moving into the area, and as a safe and friendly environment for literally hundreds of women who often never even think of the Centre until they need a safe place and a helping hand. With your help, we will continue to do that for at least the next 20 years.

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The Association has recently purchased a new house as a home for the Nelson and District Women's Centre. This purchase will enable us to expand our range of programs to pursue equality for all women, in keeping with the purposes of the Association.

Now we need sustaining funds to have our new home and to keep it running smoothly.

If you can answer "YES!" to the following, we need to hear from you.

YES - I believe in and value the Association and its work.

YES - I will support the house.

YES - I will pledge the sum of \$_____ each month of 1995.

We hope you can answer YES to the following, as well.

I will provide names of four others who will do the same:

Name _____

Address _____

Name _____

Address _____

Name _____

Address _____

Name _____

Address _____

SIGNED _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____