

Scrap Book



NOVA SCOTIA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



newsletter

P.O. BOX 2221

• HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA •

PHONE 424-4111

The Editor:

A representative group of women from the Antigonish area who attended the WOMEN TODAY IN NOVA SCOTIA conference at Mount Saint Vincent University have been joined by other women in the community and a group, WOMEN IN TRANSITION, has been formed.

The stated aims of the WIT group are:

1. to aid in the education, recreational and social development of women in the Antigonish area.

2. to establish a Human Resource Development Centre.

3. to serve as an Information Clearing House of projects and organizations.

We are concerned about the positions of the woman domestic day-worker, who often works without benefit of minimum wage, Canada Pension and unemployment insurance.

We feel some attention should be given to single-parent families with regard to welfare rights, housing, job opportunities, etc.

We have expressed our concern for the physically handicapped, the disabled and their work world.

Margaret K. Kontak
Women-in-Transition
Antigonish.

Woman

Two releases within the last month by Voicespondence are examples of the kinds of records that can have cultural, if not commercial, impact. The three-year-old band, Fifth Column, which has released a three-song EP this month, consists of four women,

the way the band chooses to present itself. There are no front people; the singing is shared among band members.

"Misogyny always existed in rock music, but it's my impression that it has grown considerably worse in the last few years," says Caroline. "We're certainly not advocating censorship, but it is important to provide an alternative to the current climate which treats women as weekend entertainment rather than human beings."

The first Public Education Meeting entitled Women In Work was held at Man Alive Center in November, sponsored by Women In Transition. Guest speaker was Ms. Judy Wouk, Pro-Femina Outreach Worker (a special program under the jurisdiction of Canada Manpower & Immigration). Approximately 35 women attended. Ms. Wouk presented a movie entitled the "Non-Traditional Role of Women"...much discussion followed. The need for women to assess their individual qualities and to gain confidence was stressed. Following the meeting an interesting discussion and coffee break was enjoyed by the participants.

NEWSLETTER

WOMEN AND THE LAW

Mary Madden Casey will be speaking and answering questions on women and the law on Wednesday, January 22nd, at 7.30 p.m., in the audio-visual room of the Antigonish Regional High School.

A native of Glace Bay, Ms. Casey was appointed in November, 1974, to the federal Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

Ms. Casey has had a long career of involvement in community development and social and political affairs, both in her paid and voluntary work. Of special interest to us as women is her membership on the Board of Directors of Nova Scotia Birthright, her service on the Legal Committee of the Halifax Local Council of Women, and her candidacy in 1972 for the Halifax-East Hants riding.

Ms. Casey received her B.A. from Mount Saint Vincent University in 1946. Following a distinguished career as a reporter, editor, radio and T.V. commentator, and public relations director, she returned to study law at Dalhousie, receiving her Bachelor of Laws in 1971. Ms. Casey is now with Dalhousie Law School as an administrator and teacher, offering the course "Legal Status and Sex". She practices law part-time.

We are very pleased to have Mary Casey speak for the first event of our local International Women's Year program and hope that women of the area will take advantage of what should prove to be a very stimulating and informative evening.

FITNESS AND DEVELOPMENT

One of the first groups to evolve from Women in Transition was the Mother and Child Fitness and Development group. Each Wednesday morning from 9.30 through 11 a.m., at the Gilmora Hall Gymnasium, twenty to twenty-five mothers and their children, who range in age from a few weeks to school age, meet together with Marianita Power, CND, for exercise, play and theory of child development.

Sr. Power, director of the program, holds a Montessori diploma, and a Phd. in Educational Psychology. She specializes in Child Development.

The program has and will continue to evolve from the needs of the participants. Hopefully, in subsequent sessions, students will supervise the children's fitness program, thus freeing the mothers for the child and self-development course. Any woman, with or without children, may attend. The only requirement is interest.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR

The United Nations has designated 1975 as International Women's Year. 1975 is a year to focus attention on improving the status of women and to promote awareness of the changing role of women in to-day's society.

Federally, a Secretariat for International Women's Year has been set up with Mary Gusella as Director. Kathryn Logan, currently doing a women and recreation study for the Department of Recreation, is the Nova Scotia Co-ordinator for International Women's Year. The following plans for IWY give an idea of the scope of the national program: a national campaign aimed at influencing attitudes; regional and national conferences to create an awareness among Canadians of the changing attitudes towards women; removal of barriers to equality in existing legislation; funding organizations for projects relating to IWY; implementation by government departments and agencies of special programs promoting equal opportunity for women.

LOCAL PROGRAMS

Local women's groups such as CWL, UCW, Women's Institute, IOBE and others, will be announcing their programs. Women in Transition is a group formed to serve as an information clearing-house of projects and organizations aimed at educational, social and recreational development of women in the Antigonish area. WIT's tentative program until April includes an address by Mary Casey on Women and the Law, a crafts education program, an information night on recreation, and a three night series on Nutrition and Budgeting.

"Women In Transition" Group Can Help Housewives Get More Out Of Leisure Time

By RICK CROWE

Antigonish Bureau

ANTIGONISH — Today's modern conveniences around the home have given the housewife more leisure time than ever before, and unfortunately more time to think about the trap some of them may be caught in.

Organized this past summer in Antigonish County was the Women In Transition (WIT) a group that feels they may be able to help those housewives who have fallen into that particular trap.

"We're not belittling the housewife," says Madeline Sangster, who was one of the originals spurring the group on, "and we're not a beligerent, militant group on the march burning bras. Our organization hopes to focus on the quality of life and how it affects women in general, their families and community."

The group can act as many things beginning with providing a forum in which housewives, particularly with small children, can just get together and exchange ideas or chit chat.

"Even just finding out that you're not the only housewife penned up in a home with small children all day, is helpful," she points out. "Many of these women are stuck home in the kitchen all day and have no chance to exchange ideas or

conservation with other women. It's even more difficult where they have the intellectual capacity to undertake more than their housework.

"Women are learning to know their own capacities and limitations in today's world and a homemaker can feel frustrated, being confined to home with small children. It doesn't afford them any intellectual challenge while working women get outside the home... and are in daily contact with other adults exchanging ideas, opinions and becoming informed on a great variety of topics."

"These frustrations have become more acute with the mechanized age. Before you didn't have the time to think of such things. The husband was bringing home the bacon and the housewife was probably out splitting the wood to keep the fire on."

One of the group's ongoing programs, held every Wednesday morning from 9:30 to 11 at Mount St. Bernard, gives the housewives, mom, dad, grandmother or babysitter a chance to get out and like their pre-schoolers along with them. It offers a very basic fitness program for the youngsters and gives them a chance to socialize with others their own age. Even infants are welcome, and if mom should care to dump them in the nursery provided there and chat with some of the others, that is possible also.

WIT is comprised mainly of homemakers who before their children were working women. Chairwoman of the group is Lynn MacLean, RN, who is now a homemaker, secretary, Judy Whitty secretary, homemaker treasurer, Lenore Partridge, homemaker and vice-chairwoman, Rita Dinn, homemaker. Other members of the board of directors include Pat Alpert, Barbara Henry, Ann MacGillivray, Isabelle Denhyer, Isabelle MacDougall, Kaye Dean and Peggy Kontak.

Perhaps one person more than the others was really in-

strumental in getting things started with the group. That credit says Mrs. Sangster goes to Mary Cutler, RN, who is leaving shortly for Toronto to take up other employment. She had previous contact with a similar group in Halifax and brought her ideas to Antigonish.

"These are not people who are looking for liberation, most of them already are," Mrs. Sangster explains. "They are people who have been or who still are homemakers, but in most cases have been involved in professional work and who have a desire to help other women who may not have had the same opportunities and perhaps are having some frustrations in the role they are caught in."

The group also has three resource people - Jessie MacDonald, Antigonish municipal councillor, Sister Mary Anita Power, Mount St. Bernard, and Mrs. Sangster, the regional representative for continuing education.

WIT's program is not confined to trapped housewives, but is much broader. It's an attempt to have other people recognize more realistically the women's role in today's society.

She feels strongly that the women's role has changed and that the traditional roles which are very limited have no place in today's society. "You'll find in the past that women's work has largely been clerical, hospital and in the factory. Women today are ready and qualified to do much more."

While there are studies underway on existing legislation in Canada which many group's feel is discriminatory towards the female population, Mrs. Sangster admits that laws are not much good without educating the people.

"There's a lot of talk today that she's only a housewife.

There's a lot of skills in being a housewife, yet when one wants to go to work it's difficult to find a job. Employment agencies say they have no marketable skills... why can't they find jobs as easily as men? It doesn't have to be traditional roles. There must be other fields where a woman with experience as a housewife can apply that training."

This year has been proclaimed National Women's Year by the federal government and a provincial committee is being set up to help co-ordinate activities of the various organized women's groups to provide some liaison with the federal movement.

"We still feel, however, that the greater impact and input will come from the local level and that is why we will have representation and contact with the provincial committee, but we will still pursue our plans for developing our own programs."

One planned this spring is in the field of nutrition and meetings will be scheduled related to food groups, packaging and labelling practices and preparation of meals in relation to good nutrition.

In addition WIT hopes to hold meetings involving other areas of interest to women, such as recreation, and the arts and crafts.

A number of prominent guest speakers have been brought in by the group including Katie Cooke, an advisor on the federal advisory council on the Status of Women, and Judy Wouk of Halifax who spoke on women and work.

On Jan. 22, Mary Casey, recently appointed member of the national council, will speak at the Antigonish Regional High School on women and the law. A question period will follow.

Evening News

Woman and the Law

Mary Casey

Mary Madden Casey, member of the Federal Advisory Council on the Status of Women will speak at the audio visual room of Antigonish Regional High School at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 22. Focus of her speech is women and the law and a question and answer period will follow. Sponsored by Women In Transition.

BUSINESS LUNCHEON

Mrs. Lynn MacLean and Mrs. Jessie MacDonald, members of the board of directors of Women in Transition Group for Antigonish met at a business luncheon on Wednesday. Plans were completed for a special meeting to be held on Wednesday, Jan. 22 at the audio visual room of the Antigonish Regional High School at 7:30 p.m. Mrs. Mary Madden Casey recently appointed member of the Federal Advisory Council on the Status of Women will be one of the guest speakers. During the luncheon, Mrs. MacLean and Mrs. MacDonald made a project proposal for a further series of meeting.

Mary Casey to deliver lecture

ANTIGONISH — Mary Madden Casey, recently appointed member of the Federal Advisory Council on the Status of Women, will speak here Wednesday.

A native of Glace Bay, Miss Casey is a graduate of Mount St. Vincent University and Dalhousie Law School.

She has had a varied and interesting career first as a reporter for The Chronicle-Herald from 1946 to 1964; as a radio producer and radio and television commentator for CBC; as director of public

relations for Mount St. Vincent University; as a teacher at the Atlantic School of Journalism and Mount St. Vincent University.

While with The Chronicle-Herald, she covered the Nova Scotia Legislature for seven years and worked for brief periods in the Parliamentary Press Gallery in Ottawa.

Presently, Miss Casey is the administrative head of student programs for Dalhousie Law School and a member of the board of governors of Mount St. Vincent University.

She was appointed to a three-year term on the Federal Advisory Council on the Status of Women in November 1974.

Miss Casey will speak in the audio-visual room of Antigonish Regional High School at 7:30 p.m. Her speech is expected to focus on women and the law, and a question and answer period will follow.

This event is presented as part of the activities planned by the Women In Transition group of Antigonish, for International Women's Year 1975.



MARY MADDEN CASEY, center, administrator of student programs for Dalhousie University law school and a member of the federal Advisory Council on the Status of Women, was in Antigonish last week. With her are county Councillor Jessie MacDonald, left, and Lynn MacLean, president of the local Women In Transition group. [Buckley Photo]

What does "W.I.T." mean to you?

by Liz MacDonald

"Wit" is no longer a noun; that is, to some individuals. To the populace of Antigonish, it stands for 'Women In Transition,' a group organized to aid women in realizing themselves and their potential. One of their most recent projects was the Wednesday night lecture given by a Halifax Lawyer, Ms. Mary Casey, an appointee to the Advisory Council on the Status of Women. She spoke on 'Women and the Law in Nova Scotia'.

Mary Madden Casey had a long career in the field of communications before she obtained her law degree from Dalhousie University in 1971. The lecture covered three main areas; property rights (equal acquisition of marital property), criminal law, (making a rape trial less degrading and humiliating for the wo-

man), and labor (equal pay and equal chance for promotion).

In an interview with Ms. Casey, it was discovered that one of the main problems involving women and the law was an economic one - lack of salary and promotion equality of the sexes, even though there is legislation prohibiting such discrimination. The fault lies in two areas, the employer and the woman herself. Being in a traditionally submissive role, a woman needs encouragement, if not pressure to exert her legal rights. A popular related subject concerns the recognition of housewives as having an economic value. Ms. Casey believes this is not impossible and a method can be achieved whereby the housewives' contribution to society will be recognized monetarily. But public attitudes must be reconciled be-

fore this can materialize.

Passage of legislation to remove existing inequalities in all areas is a slow, tedious process and acceleration depends upon women's interest groups. Today's women are exposed to more influences and information than their predecessors and with more of them wanting and having to work, inequalities are rapidly being brought to light. The lecture on Wednesday night attracted 150 people, which five years ago, Ms. Casey said, would have been impossible. Politicians and governments take heed of such political forces since the response from these groups will be ever more positive as women continue speaking with one voice.

But how may women receive information concerning their rights? Through

just such meetings as the one held Wednesday night, where people are in contact with a knowledgeable source. Though some organizations offer literature on this subject, Ms. Casey feels that since there is no single adequate source, this real problem is remedied only through education, ideally beginning at the high school level.

The Advisory Council on the Status of Women, of which Ms. Casey is an appointee, was organized two years ago to look into matters concerning a woman's status in the area of the law, under federal jurisdiction. Such areas include the Canada Pension Plan and the Citizenship Act where the Council has taken an active role. As their mandate is ten years, they are working diligently to accomplish their goals, but if there

are not enough tangible results, the Council will definitely extend its mandate. Ms. Casey added with satisfaction that, whereas five years ago some male advisors were actually laughed off the Council by their peers, this is no longer happening and women are gradually gaining ground in terms of respect and response from men.

A determined spokeswoman for equality, the lecture by Mary Madden Casey was indeed informative to all who attended. Women, whose lower status even predated written law, must be informed of where they stand and also of where they could be standing. Such positive projects are a definite advantage to every woman (and man for that fact) - and this new awareness, could not help but result in greater input into the community.

Mary Casey Is Guest Speaker

Mary Madden Casey, recently appointed member of the Federal Advisory Council on the Status of Women, will speak in Antigonish on Wednesday, January 22.

A native of Glace Bay, Ms. Casey is a graduate of Mount St. Vincent University and Dalhousie law school.

She has had a varied and interesting career first as a reporter and editor with the Halifax Chronicle-Herald from 1946 to 1964; as radio producer, radio and television commentator for CBC; as director of public relations for Mount St. Vincent University; as a teacher at the Atlantic School of Journalism, and Mount St. Vincent University.

While with the Chronicle-Herald she covered the Nova Scotia Legislature for seven years and worked for brief periods in the Parliamentary Press gallery in Ottawa.

Presently Ms. Casey is the administrator of student programs for Dalhousie law school and a member of the board of governors for Mount St. Vincent University.

She was appointed to a three-year term on the Federal Advisory Council on the Status of Women in November 1974.

Ms. Casey will speak in the audio-visual room of the Antigonish Regional High School at 7:30 p.m. Her speech is expected to focus on women and the law and a question and answer period will follow.

This event is presented as part of the activities planned by the Women In Transition group in Antigonish for International Women's Year 1975.

Douglas Ross, Winnipeg and

Chronicle
Herald

Mary M. Casey Guest Speaker Notes Changes In Women's Rights

ANTIGONISH — A great many changes in the labor laws concerning equal rights for women have come about in the last few years, Mary Madden Casey, a member of the Federal Advisory Council on the Status of Women, told The Evening News in an interview Wednesday afternoon.

"Women now have to be more aware of these laws because most people obey the law, and we have to insist upon our rights," she added. Miss Casey spoke later that same day to a public meeting sponsored by the Women in Transition group here.

During the talk she touched upon three areas of concern to women today: the question of property rights in divorces; the treatment of women by the Criminal Code; and their situation in the labor force.

Miss Casey told The Evening News that women in the labor force in Nova Scotia had statutory protection for equal pay, substantially equal work and maternity leave.

One of the areas of concern receiving a lot of attention from the public now was property settlements in divorce cases. She cited a decision in Alberta where a woman who had worked on a farm for years with her husband was left nothing in a divorce settlement because the court ruled she had not contributed enough in money to earn her share.

"There has to be some

recognition that a wife contributes to accumulation of property during a marriage even though she is not actually putting money into it," she emphasized. "The difficulty in coming up with matrimonial property rights that will be fair to both is the reality of fact that property rights between a husband and wife seldom become an issue until the marriage is falling apart. The last thing married couples think about is who owns this and that."

Miss Casey referred to several commissions that were presently studying the laws in connection with settlements and noted that strides have been made in Quebec where legislation has been passed

amending some of the laws in the division of property.

The situation in Nova Scotia is pretty much the same as in other Canadian provinces and there are not actually any specific government sponsored programs underway, but the attorney general has expressed an interest in improving the situation, she stated adding that there were a number of people doing research into the problem.

She also expressed concern over the treatment of women by the law, especially in rape cases. "This is an area which has to be very, very carefully handled as the rights of the accused man must not be trampled on."

A number of groups presently studying proposals made by the federal minister of justice, "changes intended to remove some of the objectionable features of the rules of evidence that now apply in rape cases so that hopefully more women will be willing to report rapes and follow them through to prosecution."

She admitted that she felt

there was a "certain element in the male population that thinks there is no such thing as rape, but that women induce them into it."

One of the biggest concerns in rape cases is the severity of the punishment, she added.

Evening
News

Equality with men aim of women

ANTIGONISH — In the last few years, there has been legislation aimed at equality for women, but there still has to be more done before women receive equality with men, over 100 delegates attending a talk of "women and the law," were told last night.

Mary Casey, recently appointed member of the federal advisory council on the status of women was speaking at the kick-off conference marking a year which Antigonish County women have termed "Women in Transition."

Legislation has done a great deal in the field of equality employment opportunity, Miss Casey said, "now we must get the women to enjoy what has been put on paper."

Miss Casey, a lawyer said she doesn't believe all women are receiving equal pay, as provided for.

The Labor Standards Code, she said, now entitles a woman to maternity leave.

In the matter of the Canada

Pension Plan, and the proposals it be extended to cover housewives, or homemakers. Miss Casey said such a change would mean "government recognition of the partnership of marriage — which will be a big step toward the liberation of women."

Miss Casey is administrative head of student programs for Dalhousie Law School and a member of the board of governors of Mount St. Vincent University.

Isabel Den Hyer, a member of women in transition — comprised of women from both the town and county of Antigonish — said the group has three objectives to meet this year.

They want to aid in educational, social, recreational and cultural development of women in Antigonish; to establish a human resource development centre; to serve as an information clearing house of organizations and projects.

Chronicle
Herald

New Outlook on Marriage Is Reflected

in Courts

Men and women are realizing that "marriage ought to be looked at more as a partnership", and this is being reflected in the courts, according to Mary Madden Casey, recent appointee to the federal Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

Ms. Casey told 150 persons who attended a meeting last week that the courts are "trying to come up with some way of recognizing the marriage partnership where you cannot put a money value on the contribution of both partners."

In Saskatchewan, recent legislation provides for the court to distribute property on a basis that is fair and equitable. Alberta and Ontario have similar proposals under consideration.

Present laws deny a woman any right to property accrued during a marriage unless she can prove monetary contribution or financial investment.

In tracing the development of property laws, Ms. Casey

pointed out that in English Common Law until 1882, when the first comprehensive married women's property act was passed "a married woman was, in effect, a nonperson. Her husband couldn't murder her, but he had to support her."

He was also free to dispose of her property and could inflict corporal punishment on her.

According to Ms. Casey, there are still some statutes in effect in Nova Scotia that are hangovers from Common Law. The Marriage Act gives only the father the right to consent to an underage marriage, and only the father has the right to name a guardian for the children.

Turning to the treatment of women under the Criminal Code, Ms. Casey said that with the exception of sexual crimes, women receive the same treatment as men.

She again cited some archaic laws still on the books that are derived from "the 1895 idea

that women are in need of additional protection."

For example, it is illegal for the captain of a ship to seduce a female passenger, as it is for an employer to seduce a female employee.

Ms. Casey feels that one of the areas where the Criminal Code does not provide adequate protection for women is the manner in which rape cases are handled.

She cited long drawn out court procedures, poor contact with the police, and adverse publicity as reasons for the fact that only a small percentage of rape cases are ever reported.

It is the duty of a defense lawyer to protect his client anyway he can, she said, and in rape cases he usually does so by destroying the credibility of the victim.

California has recently passed legislation that provides for the judge in rape cases to decide, in private chambers, if the sexual behaviour of the rape victim is important enough to the case for the

defense, to be introduced in open court.

Ms. Casey feels there are indications that Canada's justice minister will introduce similar legislation.

It is important to know how your local police force deals with a woman who has complained of rape", she advised, adding that it often comes down to the individual attitudes of a policeman.

Turning her attention to labour, Ms. Casey said: "Women have come a long way — we still have a long way to go."

She feels the problem now is to implement the legislation that has been passed and encourage women "to enjoy the rights that they now have on paper."

One of the problems that the advisory council and the government are now looking at in the labour area is the inclusion of the housewife in the Canada Pension Plan.

Ms. Casey said some mathematical formula must be devel-

oped to put a monetary value on the housewife's work, since to be included in a contributory plan she must make a contribution in monetary terms.

A plan has been proposed that does not put a monetary value on housework, but recognizes the housewife as a partner in terms of her husband's contributions.

Under this plan, the contribution of the working spouse/spouses would be split, and half credited to the other spouse.

While this is not a perfect solution, Ms. Casey said if it was accepted it would mean "public government recognition of the partnership of marriage which would be a big step in the direction of the liberation of women."

Ms. Casey reported on the accomplishments of the Advisory Council of the Status of Women to date.

She remarked that in the 18 months that the council has been in existence, the government has passed only one of

their recommendations — "and it was of benefit to men".

She was referring to the amendment to the Canada Pension Plan, which now provides for a man to receive payments upon the death of a wife who contributed to the plan.

An amendment to the Citizenship Act, allowing a woman to confer citizenship on a child born outside the country, as only a father can now do, has been proposed.

Ms. Casey explained that the advisory council was not satisfied that this proposal provided the same rights for a woman as a man, and has asked for a slight rewording.

Ms. Casey has enjoyed careers in journalism, education, politics and law and is presently the administrator of student programs at Dalhousie University law school.

Her appearance in Antigonish was co-ordinated by Women In Transition as part of the activities they plan for International Women's Year.

Casket

WOMEN & THE LAW with MARY CASEY

January 22, 1975 7:30 p.m.

PROGRAM

7:30 p.m.	WELCOME
7:40 p.m.	INTRODUCTION: JESSIE MACDONALD
7:50 p.m.	MARY CASEY: WOMEN & THE LAW
8:50 p.m.	QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR
9:50 p.m.	THANKS, REFRESHMENTS & INFORMAL DISCUSSION

The objectives of Women in Transition (WIT):

- 1) To aid in educational, social, recreational & cultural development of women in Antigonish;
- 2) To establish a Human Resource Development Center;
- 3) To serve as an information clearing house of organizations and projects.

For further information about Women in Transition, contact any of the following working committee members:

Pat Alpert	863-5496
Karen Bancroft	863-5794
Kay Dean	863-4705
Rita Dinn	863-1185
Barbara Henry	863-5361
Isabel den Hyer	863-2511
Peggy Kontak	863-3785
Sr. Isabel MacDougall	863-4960
Anne MacGillivray	863-5382
Lynne MacLean	783-2627
Lenore Partridge	863-5090
Judy Whitty	863-5554

Women in Transition (WIT) meet at the Man Alive Center, Tuesday, January 28, 1975, 7:30 p.m. All ladies welcome.

COMING EVENTS SPONSORED BY WOMEN IN TRANSITION AS A PROJECT DURING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR:

February 18	Speaker:	WOMEN & RECREATION KATHY LOGAN
February 25	Speaker:	REGIONAL RECREATION JOEL LA MORRE
March 18	Speakers:	WOMEN & CRAFTS POLLY GREENE & SHEILA STIVENS
April 8 ¹⁵	NUTRITION ANTIGONISH	{ FOOD GROUPS, LABELLING FOOD PURCHASING FOOD PREPARATION
April 15 ²²		
April 22 ²⁹		

January 22, 1975

MARY CASEY: WOMEN & THE LAW

It would be greatly appreciated if you would complete this form so that we may adequately evaluate this evening's program.

- 1) In what way was the program
 - a) informative
 - b) uninformative
- 2) Are you interested in further information in this area
Yes _____ No _____ If your answer is yes suggest specific topics -
- 3) Was the time of day suitable Yes _____ No _____
Was the day of the week suitable? Yes _____ No _____
Was the location suitable? Yes _____ No _____
Can you suggest alternatives?
- 4) Please give your opinion concerning the general organization of this evening's program (i.e. question period, directions to A.V. Room, etc.)
- 5) Check which of the following was most effective in prompting you to come thi
this evening:
 - a) telephone _____
 - b) radio _____
 - c) Newspaper _____
 - d) personal contact _____
 - e) posters _____
 - f) letter (mail)

There is a possibility of a committee being formed to research this topic "Women and the Law"; do you wish to become involved in this aspect Yes _____ No _____. If your answer is YES, STATE:

Your Name _____ & how you should be contacted:

COMMENTS:



Mary Casey
Lynn McLean



Mary Casey + Board of Directors



Judy Whitty Lynn McLean Mary Casey Lenore Partridge Rita Dinn



Barbara presents gift to Mary Casey

Woman and Recreation

IWY Official Guest Speaker

Kathy Logan, the Nova Scotia representative on the federal-provincial commission co-ordinating International Women's Year, will be guest speaker at the Women in Transition meeting on Tuesday, February 18.

Ms. Logan will speak on recreation and women and the aims of her committee during IWY. The meeting will be held in the audio-visual room at Antigonish Regional High School.

Ms. Logan, a Halifax native, former teacher and volunteer worker on such committees as the Canada Games, is in charge of the non-governmental aspects of IWY in the province.

On February 25, a panel including Joel LaMorre, regional representative of the department of recreation and Dr. Brian Mutimer, chairman of the Antigonish Recreation Committee,



KATHY LOGAN

will meet to discuss some of the basic concepts in recreation in the local area.

Casket

Not Role Change CASKET

Feb 26/75

Enhancement Is Aim

Kathy Logan, Nova Scotia's representative on the federal-provincial committee for International Women's Year, said in Antigonish last week that most women are not asking to change all their roles, but to enhance those that they have already chosen.

Speaking at a public meeting sponsored by Women In Transition, Ms. Logan said recreation was anything that one might like to do with leisure time, from physical activity to reading a book.

She stressed the need for all women to participate in some activity other than every day work and noted that Antigonish had, apart from a swimming pool, some of the best facilities in the province.

In stating that "how adults spend their childhood leisure hours has a great deal to do with their upbringing," she noted that a great number of women have never had physical education in the schools and were hesitant to participate as adults.

She also discussed the guilt feelings of some women when they take time and money for

themselves for recreational need. They feel they must produce something tangible for their efforts, and in the end do not really enjoy what they are doing as it is work and not recreation.

Ms. Logan stressed the need

for attitudinal change and said that "most of it will need to come from women themselves." In the words of Nellie McClung, "Let us never blame men for the inequalities of our social laws." We have set our own value too low."

Casket

Women seek to enhance their roles

ANTIGONISH — Most women are not asking to change all their roles, but to enhance those that they have already chosen, Nova Scotia's representative on the Federal Committee for International Women's Year, said in an address here.

Kathy Logan, speaking at a public meeting sponsored by Women In Transition, stressed the need for all women to participate in some

activity other than every day work.

She noted Antigonish had some of the best facilities in the province, and hoped that better organization of working women, more interest, and child care would help women to use these facilities to full advantage at all hours of the day.

Ms. Logan also discussed the guilt feelings that some women have when they take time and money for them-

selves, for recreational needs, and, as a result feel that they must produce something tangible for their efforts.

In the end, she said, they do not really enjoy what they are doing as it is not recreation, but work.

Ms. Logan stressed the need for additional change and said, "most of it will need to come from women themselves."

The second meeting of a two part series in recreation

will be held Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the A.V. Theatre, Regional High School here, and will consist of a panel to discuss local needs in Antigonish.

Speakers will include Joel LaMorre, regional representative for the Department of Recreation; Chester Haley, chairman of the county recreation committee and Dr. Brian Mutimer, chairman of the town recreation commission.

Chronicle - Herald

WOMEN AND RECREATION

February 18th: Speaker
 Kathy Logan, Coordinator
 International Women's Year
 Committee (N.S.)

February 25th: Panel on Regional Recreation
 Joel LaMorre, Regional
 Representative, N.S.
 Dept. of Recreation

Dr. Brian Mutimer, Chairman
Town Recreation Commission

Mr. Chester Haley, County
Chairman Recreation Committee

Madeline Sangster, Moderator

TIME: 7:30 p.m. A.V. Theatre,

Antigonish Regional High

Sponsored by Women In Transition

MEETINGS

On Tuesday, February 25, Women In Transition will sponsor a panel discussion on recreation chaired by Dr. Brian Mutimer and Joel LaMorre. At the audio-visual room of Antigonish Regional High, 7:30 p.m.

Plan Public Meeting On Local Recreation

An information night on recreation will be held in the audio-visual room of Antigonish Regional High School on Tuesday, February 25, at 7:30 p.m.

Speakers will include Joel LaMorre, regional representative of the provincial department of recreation; Chester Haley, chairman of the Antigonish County Commission on Recreation; and Dr. Brian Mutimer, chairman of the Antigonish Recreation Commission.

Madeline Sangster, regional representative for Continuing education in the province, will moderate the discussion between the audience and the speakers.

Mr. LaMorre, who holds a B.Sc. from St. Francis Xavier

University and an M.A. in education administration from McGill University, has extensive teaching and administrative experience in physical education.

County councillor for district nine, Mr. Haley has recently taken over the chairmanship of the county recreation commission.

Dr. Mutimer, who has worked in recreation in England, Quebec, Ontario and Alberta, now teaches philosophy and history of sport, track and field, badminton and tennis at St. F.X.

Mrs. Sangster, well-known in the area as an educator and volunteer worker, is a member of the provincial council for Home and School associations

and president of the St. James United Church Women.

A resume of the recreational interests of Women In Transition, the group sponsoring the evening, has been passed on to the speakers to give them an idea of their audience's interests.

Some major concerns of women, as indicated by the WIT group resume, included day-care for preschoolers so that women might take advantage of recreation programs; an indoor swimming pool; an information center to co-ordinate and publicize the many recreational offerings in the area; and action to change objectionable television programming.

Casket

Panel Discusses

Recreation Aims

Twenty-five persons attended a panel discussion on women and recreation held at Antigonish Regional High School on Tuesday evening.

The speakers were Joel LaMorre, regional representative for the department of recreation; and Dr. Brian Mutimer and Chester Haley, chairmen, respectively, of the town and county recreation commissions. Madeline Sangster was the moderator.

The functions and aims of the recreation commissions and the provincial department were clarified and the relationships between them were explained. Budget allocations are determined by what taxpayers can bear and the objectives they consider

worthwhile for the community.

All speakers indicated that priority is given to groups who have demonstrated a well defined need and who have given solid evidence of support for recreation projects.

A major point that came out of the discussion was that co-operation between town and county would facilitate the establishment of larger and better community recreational facilities.

A public meeting sponsored by Women In Transition will be held at Man Alive Center on March 5, at 8 p.m. Topics of general interest to women will be discussed.

This was the second of a two-part series on Women and recreation sponsored by Women In Transition.

CASKET

Feb 26 / 75

Nutrition Antigonish to hold first meeting

been so devastating that special diets and specific

Nutrition and budgeting in this time of high inflation are the topics of a two-part program called Nutrition Antigonish.

"What to Eat to Be Healthy," the first session dealing with basic nutrition, will be held at 8 p.m. Tuesday, in the audio-visual room at the Antigonish Regional High School.

It will highlight the effects of nutrition on health, results of Nutrition Canada in Nova Scotia and making balanced meals by combining food groups.

Labelling, food fortification and evaluation of daily meals and individual food intake will be discussed in small groups.

"How to Buy to Be Healthy," the second session, will focus on food costs and budgeting.

A skit, featuring two local housewives, will illustrate shopping practices.

Participants will be able to share recipes and tricks that help beat inflationary food prices.

"How to Buy to Be Healthy" will be held on April 22

at the Antigonish Regional High at 8 p.m.

Vicki Crooks, nutritionist for the department of public health, and Kay Dean, home economist for the department of agriculture, are the resource people for these meetings.

The Nutrition Antigonish program is co-sponsored by Women in Transition and the Antigonish Consumers' Association of Canada Committee.

Nutrition Session Deals with Basics

"Nutrition Antigonish" is a two-part public program on nutrition and budgeting sponsored by Women in Transition and the Antigonish Consumers' Association of Canada Committee.

The first session, on What to Eat to Be Healthy, deals with basic nutrition; it is scheduled for 8 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15, in the audio-visual room at Antigonish Regional High School.

The effects of nutrition on health, highlights of Nutrition Canada's results in Nova Scotia, and facts on food groups and how they can be combined in balanced meals will be reviewed the first part of the evening.

Small groups will discuss labels and food fortification and will evaluate daily meals and

individual food intake.

In place of a coffee-break, nutritious juice and bread will be offered for a lunch.

The second session will focus on food costs and budgeting; it will take place on Tuesday, April 22, at the same place and time as the first session.

Resource people for Nutrition Antigonish are Vicki Crooks, nutritionist for the department of public health, and Kay Dean, home economist for the department of agriculture and marketing.

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The second session of a two
part series on nutrition and

budgeting will be held on Tuesday, April 22 in the audio visual room of Antigonish Regional High School, at 8 p.m. Admission is free and everyone is welcome to attend. Sponsored by Women In Transition and the Antigonish County Consumers Association.

THE CASKET, THURSDAY, MAY 1, 1975

Speaker Stresses Need For Planned Shopping

About 50 persons attended the final program in a two-part series on nutrition sponsored by Women in Transition and the Antigonish Consumers Committee.

Kay Dean, home economist with the department of agriculture and marketing, presented a program on budgeting and shopping.

Miss Dean stressed the need for planning before shopping, beginning with a careful check on what goods were already on hand.

Marketing, she noted, consisted of four phases, inventory and planning the weekly meals, compiling a list of the groceries needed, the actual shopping, and storage and usage.

The best way, she said, to avoid buying impulsively, which is the way one spends the most money, is to plan carefully and stick to the plan.

A skit, featuring Sue Jackson and Sarah Stoffer, showed a wise shopper and an impulsive shopper comparing purchases.

Using actual products and amounts, the skit showed just how much further the food dollar would go by buying basic foods and meats that one can extend for more than one meal as compared to the shopper who spent her food dollar on convenience foods and snacks.

A slide presentation showed all the gimmicks used by the planners of supermarkets to entice the shopper to spend a maximum amount of money while in the store.

Four students from the sociology department of St. Francis Xavier University gave the results of a study that they conducted in 140 homes in Antigonish on the changing food buying patterns of consumers. More information will be released at a later date on the study.

Dear Friends:

The Year's end has come for Women In Transition! Officially, that is, because we have not yet been in existence for a year; the Annual General meeting, which will include voting on a proposed slate of officers to form the new Board of Directors of WIT for the coming year, will take place on MAY 22 8:00 p.m. Man Alive Center, Main St., Ant. Please try to attend! New members welcome.

If you have notices, contributions, clippings, ideas for the WIT Newsletter, send them to WIT, Box 1766, Ant. (WIT's official Box no.) or Pat Alpert R.R.#5, Ant. Co. 863-5496. This is only the second Newsletter, less formal than the first. If you have ideas on what the Newsletter could become, how about getting in touch?

The Final project for Women In Transition for this season will be the sponsorship of the Regional Mini-Conference for International's Women's Year. This will complete WIT's obligation to the Dept. of Continuing Education for the \$500. awarded to WIT recently to cover the cost of sponsoring the nine public meetings which were open to women and men. Since the last meeting was cancelled we were obliged to replace it; as well, we felt it would provide a chance for the people of Antigonish to prepare recommendations for the Provincially appointed Task Force on the Status of Women which will have Hearings in Ant. June 5th/75. The Conference will be called International Women's Year and YOU, and will take place on Saturday May 24, from 1-5 pm in the A.V. Room of the Antigonish Regional High School. It will be most successful if we get a cross-section of the population and a strong input from the house-wife, career woman, working mother, grand-mother - in short, US. If you want to be involved in the work for this conference call 863-4706.

Other news on the local scene include the recent opening of the Sunflower Shop on 39 College St., Ant. (behind the C & N Fish Market); they stock things that could not be had for love nor money in town for a good many years. To Avon Burkholder & Rebecca Campbell, both WIT members, we offer them our Congratulations in their new venture in selling bulk natural foods.

Women's Institute - HOME AND COUNTRY VACATIONS - Speaker: Fred Walsh at a meeting of W.I. June 5/75 at Meeting Hall underneath the Craft Shop, Sherbrooke, to discuss the organization of Home & Country Vacations across the Province and how people can find out what's involved in registering as a home for tourist accommodation.

St. Martha's Hospital

In recognition of National Hospital Week (May 11-17) & International Women's Year, St. Martha's Hospital is holding a "Well Woman Clinic" from May 12-16, 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. each day in the Nurses' Residence; no appointment necessary but please take your ASI Cards

The Atlantic Christian Training Center at Tatamagouche, N.S. c/o the Registrar, is the place to register by May 23/75 to go to get away from everyday life to think about things and share with other women; two WIT members participated in January's Women's Week-end and highly recommend it. Total cost for wkend. \$35.00.

REAL LIFE, 1671 Argyle St., Halifax, received a \$9000. Grant from the Secretary of State to organize a series of "extensive media skills developing workshops" for Maritime Women. Two members of Real Life, Cheryl Lean and Diane Philips are going to be travelling through the Province in late May & June to photo-copy pre-1941 Nova Scotia women; if you have an old family album or know of material they might photo-copy write them in care of Real Life.

A Women's Studies Journal called ATLANTIS is looking for scholarly articles on "Women's issues" creative writing by women, subscription and donation. It will begin publishing this Fall from the English Dept. of Acadia University, Wolfville, N.S. with Donna E. Smyth as coordinating editor. Subscription cost is \$5.00.

Widow's United, 59 Worthington Way, Kingston, Ont. K7K 5C2 is a non-denominational organization which welcomes widows from anywhere in Canada of any age and background. It hopes to achieve both political recognition for changes in legislation, especially in the area of pensions, and a social outlet for widows. President Elizabeth MacPherson will help those interested in setting up groups in their own areas. Just write for their brochure.

The Vancouver Status of Women, 2029 West 4th St. Vancouver 9, B.C. HAVE Started a Letter Lobby system to involve those women who can't get out of the house for a meeting so a Newsletter focusing on one issue (eg. Day Care/Divorce/Income Tax etc.) is sent plus a sample letter that can be sent or re-copied to their MP's; they remind us that all letters to Federal MP's & Ministers can be mailed postage free while Parliament is in session. They suggest one member be assigned to read Hansard daily, others to cut newspaper clippings on Women's issues; write for more information!

Why Not?

- Mini Conference

Why Not?

Men and women of Antigonish and Guysborough are invited to attend the regional mini-conference to be held on Saturday, May 24, from 1 to 5 p.m. in the audio visual theatre of Antigonish Regional High School.

The conference will focus on the changing needs of our community and woman's role in it. Local resource people have been invited to head workshop discussions on a variety of community concerns. This is an excellent opportunity for citizens to share their opinions and ideas and work together to improve community life.

A regional mini conference sponsored by the International Women's Year Secretariat.

Nova Scotia Department of Continuing Education and Women In Transition, will be held on Saturday, May 24 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the audio visual room of the Antigonish Regional High School. The conference includes speakers, but focuses on the workshop sessions where men and women of Antigonish and Guysborough Counties are invited to voice their opinions and share their suggestions on a wide range of topics. Everyone is invited to attend.

Plan IWY Conference

The regional mini-conference Saturday, May 24, for International Women's Year. The conference will focus on will be held in Antigonish on local concerns, specifically how

women may productively use their strengths for their community and themselves.

Recommendations made at the conference will be presented to the Nova Scotia Task Force on the Status of Women on June 5.

On the conference program are a panel of speakers and workshops on eight topics of broad community interest.

The panel will include Rev. George Topshee, director of the St. Francis Xavier University Extension Department and Coady International Institute; Joan Fraser, Nova Scotia's federal co-ordinator for International Women's Year; Kathryn Logan, provincial IWY co-ordinator; and Joan MacLellan, member of the provincial task force on the status of women.

Workshops and resource people include: Health, Linda Lantz; transportation, Sheldon Currie and Brian Murphy; media, Nhanci Deszca and Bob Doherty; labour relations, Helen DeCoste and Rev. Gerald Rodgers; housing, Carole Boyle, Danny McVicar and Joe Kelly; daycare and support facilities, Jane MacGillivray and John Dickinson; job opportunities and careers, Ann Cruikshank and Madeline Sangster; legal rights, Jessie MacDonald and A.G. MacDonald; and community life, Russell Alcorn and Alex MacDonald.

The conference will be from 1 p.m. in the audio-visual room of the Antigonish Regional High School and the public is invited to attend. For information contact Box 1626, or phone 863-4706.

Casket

Focus On Changing Attitudes

By Nhanci Deszca

This is International Women's Year, a year designated by the United Nations for the pursuit of peace, development and equality. It is a year when women should be asking "Why Not?"

Although the federal government has been criticized for its Why Not? advertising campaign, I think they have hit upon the real issue — attitudes.

Marc Lalonde, the minister responsible for the status of women, writes in the IWY news-

letter of December 1974: "While legislative changes can be effected quite quickly, attitudes toward women, and concepts of women in our society cannot be changed with that same speed."

On the national scene, it has been an active year to date. In Saskatoon, a university women's club is carrying out a series of life planning seminars for girls in public and separate schools. The course is designed to help young women to be aware of their changing roles in society.

In Sherbrooke, Que., a career counselling service for high school girls has been organized. At Memorial Senior Public School in Hamilton a course called "From Adam's Rib to Women's Lib" deals with women's roles in history, their contributions to various fields and their changing role.

In Yellowknife, northern and native women are studying the problems and concerns of northern women. Red Light Theatre, a professional women's theatre is touring the country with "What Glorious Times They Had," the story of suffragette, Nellie McClung.

IWY activities in Nova Scotia seem for the most part, to be a last minute scrimmage. We have a steering committee which acts as an advisory body to the IWY co-ordinator, Kathryn Logan. They have held several meetings and have some things planned, but we are

almost half way through our big year.

Nova Scotia also has a recently appointed task force on the status of women. They are presently holding hearings around Nova Scotia and hopefully they will be an action orientated group, prepared to act on the problems they find existing in the province.

Locally, International Women's Year has been disappointing. Activities have focussed on the lecture format, with speakers being brought in to speak on topics like 'Women and the Law,' recreation, and more recently, a three part series on nutrition.

Too often the activities our local organization, Women In Transition, have undertaken have been things that could easily have been sponsored by existing groups.

Moreover, we have in our town and county more than 40 women in leadership positions in various fields. These people are a valuable local resource.

Too often activities have focussed on issues that affect a select group — the married woman in the home with children. But what about the problems of the single woman?

What about the students at all levels of education — are they getting adequate job counselling, are they aware of opportunities that exists for them?

And what about the working woman? There are many of them in the area. Are they

aware of their rights under new labour laws, or do they even know the labour laws?

Perhaps what's wrong in our community is that people have not clearly stated just what they want out of International Women's Year, what they think is wrong in their area.

This weekend Women In Transition in conjunction with the IWY secretariat and the provincial department of continuing education, is sponsoring a

mini-conference. Men and women of the area will be given the chance to air their opinions on local concerns and to learn what International Women's Year is all about.

The conference, to be held on Saturday at the audio visual room of Antigonish Regional High School, will get under way at 1 p.m. It is a workshop format and local resource people will be on hand to head discussion on a wide range of topics.

What WIT hopes will come out of this conference is a brief that will be presented to the provincial task force on the status of women.

What I hope will come out of it is understanding. I hope men and women will get together and discuss the problems and questions each has about the woman's role in the local community.

Governments can write all the laws they want, but prejudice

and discrimination are still a matter of attitudes, and no government can legislate attitudes.

Using the words of Marc Lalonde when he addressed parliament early this year: "I see the year as a time for all of us, men and women, to assess our attitudes and, where necessary, change them so that in fact, and not only in principle, Canada is indeed a country of equal opportunity for all."

INTERNATIONAL WOMENS YEAR AND YOU

IDEAS TO MEET CHANGING NEEDS
REGIONAL MINI CONFERENCE
AUDIO VISUAL THEATRE, REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
ANTIGONISH, N. S.

Saturday May 24th., from 1 p.m. to 5 p. m.

WHO'S COMING: Women and men from Antigonish and Guysborough Counties, from all walks of life, of all ages and ethnic backgrounds.

WHY? To say what's on our minds about local concerns, to make recommendations about those concerns, to discover ways to more effectively participate in community life; to share responsibility for decisions affecting us, to discover what International Women's Year is all about.

WHAT'S THE PROGRAM? SPEAKERS, WORKSHOPS?

How will it help us?

We will present recommendations to the public hearings of the Nova Scotia Task Force on the Status of Women on June 5th. We will increase understanding of roles people in our area are assessing now, and opportunities opening to us. We will work together to make effective use of local resources.

Who is sponsoring us?

International Womens Year Secretariat - The Nova Scotia Department of Continuing Education, Women in Transition.

How do I Apply? Complete the enclosed registration form and return to Box 1626, Antigonish or phone 863-4706.

INTERNATIONAL WOMENS YEAR AND YOU

Registration forms to be returned before Thursday, May 15, 1975

Name:

Mailing Address:

Phone Number:

WORK SHOPS: List in order of choice. Only one may be attended due to time restrictions:

1st Choice

2nd Choice

3rd Choice

Do you desire to use our babysitting services? Yes _____

What are the ages of the children involved? _____

Return registration by phone to 863-4706 or mail to:

International Womens Year Conference
Box 1626
Antigonish, N. S.

"PLANNING TO MEET CHANGING COMMUNITY NEEDS"

SATURDAY, MAY 24, 1975

A. V. THEATER, REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

ANTIGONISH AREA MINI CONFERENCE FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR

PROGRAMME

- 1:00 P.M. Introduction of Speakers by Chairman, Irene LeFort
- 1) Father George Topshee, Director, Extension Department
St. Francis Xavier University.
 - 2) Joan Fraser, Federal Coordinator, Nova Scotia
International Womens' Year.
 - 3) Kathryn Logan, Provincial Coordinator,
International Womens' Year.
 - 4) Joan MacLellan, Member, Task Force,
Status of Women, Nova Scotia.
- 1:45 P.M. Introduction to Workshops
T. D. Tramble, Program Chairman
- 2:00 - 3:30 P.M. Workshops:
To focus on priority concerns
To recommend measures to meet concerns
- 3:30 P.M. Coffee
- 3:45 P.M. Reports from Workshops
- 4:30 P.M. Evaluation
- 4:45 P.M. Formation of a Resolutions Committee
- 5:00 P.M. End of Conference

SPONSORED BY FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS AND WOMEN IN TRANSITION

Rm.

(2) 102

(6) 106

(8) 108

(9) 109

MINI CONFERENCE --- PLANNERS AND RESOURCE PEOPLE

JOAN FRASER	-----	FEDERAL COORDINATOR (N.S.)
LYNNE MACLEAN	-----	LOCAL COORDINATOR
DONNIE TRAMBLE	-----	PROGRAM CHAIRMAN
KAY DEAN	-----	REGISTRATION CHAIRMAN
VIDA HATFIELD	-----	ADMINISTRATIVE CHAIRMAN
SARA STOUTER	-----	SUPPORT SERVICES CHAIRMAN
PAT ALPERT	-----	PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN
FRED DAVISON	-----	FACILITIES CHAIRMAN

<u>RESOURCE PEOPLE</u>		<u>TOPIC</u>
SHELDON CURRIE	-----	TRANSPORTATION
LINDA LANTZ	-----	HEALTH
NHanci DESZCA BOB DOHERTY	-----	MEDIA
FR. GERRY RODGERS	-----	LABOUR RELATIONS
CAROL BOYLE DANNY MACVICAR JOE KELLY	-----	HOUSING
JANE MACGILLIVRAY JOHN DICKINSON	-----	DAY CARE AND SUPPORT SERVICES
ANN CRUIKSHANK MADELINE SANGSTER	-----	JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS
JESSIE MACDONALD A. G. MACDONALD	-----	LEGAL RIGHTS
RUSSELL ALCORN ALEX MACDONALD	-----	COMMUNITY LIFE

WIT Conference

Proposals Presented

A program of public transportation for Antigonish and Guysborough counties utilizing the school bus system was recommended in a brief presented to the Nova Scotia Task Force on the Status of Women which held two public hearings in town on June 5.

The proposal was contained in a brief presented by the Women in Transition and was one of 27 recommendations formulated from the International Women's Year conference held in Antigonish on May 24.

The brief also outlined recommendations on legal rights, day care, media, community life, health, labour relations and jobs and careers.

Dr. Mairi St. John Macdonald, chairman of the task force, praised the WIT brief and said it was the most comprehensive

presentation her group has received to date.

Lynne MacLean of St. Andrews, a member of the provincial IWY steering committee, read the brief at the afternoon hearing.

Listed under legal rights in the brief were recommendations to change the Towns Act to allow the franchise to be exercised by a ratepayer or spouse; that deserted spouses be provided with some form of financial security through legislation; and that the contribution of both spouses to the total property be legally recognized at the dissolution of the marriage.

The brief also called for extending the Canada Pensions Plan to the nonwage-earning spouse; consideration of pension benefits as assets of a marriage in the event of

divorce; restriction of abortion committee reports as evidence in future court actions; amendments to the Adoption Act to place restrictions on the availability of the names of natural parents and children; and consideration of the rights of the common law wife in allotting benefits under the Canada Pension Plan upon death of the spouse.

The brief drawn up by the Women in Transition also recommended that a study and evaluation be made of day care service in the province.

Another proposal was that radio stations hire women as announcers, and that women's groups offer more constructive criticism of local media programming.

The recommendation that St. Francis Xavier University

[Turn to Page 4 Col. 5]

SDAY, JUNE 12, 1975

Conference Proposals

[Continued from Page 1]

should extend its resources to a greater degree in the community struck a responsive note in task force member Mary Wall who said "the whole area of higher education does not look good as far as women are concerned."

The brief also called for more emphasis on the development of recreational programs for young girls and women.

According to the WIT brief, health services could be extended in the community by using nurses and para-professionals in more frequent medical clinics and that nutrition be stressed in the education system.

Increases were recommended in the minimum wage and welfare benefits, and that the right to organize be granted to all employees regardless of the size of a work unit.

The WIT brief concluded with a request that guidance centers in high schools and universities be evaluated on their promotion of opportunities for women, and on the utilization of the acquired knowledge and experience of the mature person.

In an exchange of views with members of the task force, several high school students expressed their frustrations at what they considered was stereotyped guidance counselling. The students were advised to be more assertive in demanding career programs, and to retain their confidence until the specific education "package" was available.

At the evening session, Councillor Eileen Henry presented a short brief on an amendment to the Town's Act that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities is promoting. The amendment concerns with the right of the spouse of the ratepayer to vote in plebiscites and to serve on town councils. The amendment is now before the minister of municipal affairs.

Rita Dinn presented a brief opposing any amendment to the present law on abortion. A lengthy discussion followed on the pros and cons of taking the abortion law out of the Criminal Code altogether.

Many of those present felt that the real problem was education on sex, not only for

children but also for parents. This education, it was stated, should be done through public health departments, premarital counselling and schools.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Kontak presented a brief which noted that they would like to see more emphasis placed on the philosophy of where women are going with regard to their style of living. They would like to see more effort spent on posing the questions of who women are, what they are and what they are doing as women.

A lengthy discussion followed with regard to the traditional roles played by women. It was noted that women are what they are today largely due to the fact that historical demands made them the homemaker rather than the breadwinner.

The request was brought up that the commission make more of an effort to seek out the views of underprivileged women and note their particular problems. It was considered that most of the meetings were geared to the middle income group and ignored the problems of the people in economic difficulty.

The commission members said they had met with groups of domestics, clerks, waitresses as well as women on welfare. They noted that what women on welfare wanted was the opportunity to be retrained so that they could get out of the welfare circle.

The commission noted that