

NO LONGER WOMEN IN TRANSITION

Sylvia Parris of the Antigonish Women's Association (AWA) is an educator who is supported by and gives support to the AWA. Located in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, the AWA is a complex, concerned group composed of a diverse group of women who are continually active as social activists.

We formed the Antigonish Women's Association in May of 1983. The Antigonish Women's Association operates from a feminist perspective. We celebrate the diversity among women and are committed to offering information about issues and options in a balanced manner so that all women, regardless of their point of view, are able to trust that the Association is one that supports women. Our first major project was to open the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre in November of 1983.

Our original vision for the Centre was to create a place where women from all walks of life could drop in for information on a wide range of women's issues, to establish a lending library, to provide a place for women to meet, lobby, network and to sponsor educational programs on issues of concern to women. This vision continues. We continue to celebrate with pride the qualities which are our diversity: women who are courageous, inspiring, playful, scandalous, loyal, fierce, devoted, talented, passionate, rebellious, loving, kind, nurturing, impassioned, prayerful, responsible and many accolades not echoed here. These women form our soul. The Centre is also supported by the larger community through use of resources: human, print and audio. Events sponsored by the Antigonish Women's Association and/or the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre are open to and attended by members of the community. We receive in-kind contributions and donations from local businesses and individuals.

We have united with women attending the Coady institute to share and learn. We have lobbied for better housing. We formed a single mothers association which is active, intra-active and inter-active. We challenge affirmative action policies and sexual harassment policies to be proactive in their delivery. We are a catalyst. We have been there for the birth of food banks, recycling depots, self-help groups and survivor support groups. We were there and we are there. We are expressive in a variety of ways. Yet, this variety remains connected through "our way of knowing and our way of doing."

