



Antigonish Coalition for Economic Justice

c/o 30 Crockett Court, Antigonish, B2G 2W9 (902) 863-6965, 863-6221

January 22, 1998

Ms. Pat McInnis
Women's Program
Status of Women Canada
6080 Young St., Suite 212
Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3K 5L2

Dear Ms. McInnis,

The Antigonish Coalition for Economic Justice is pleased to have this opportunity to support the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre's recent initiative proposal regarding low income women in the Antigonish area. We were glad to be asked to participate in the proposed *'Initiative Advisory Committee'* and passed a unanimous resolution of acceptance at our regular meeting on December 20, 1997.

As we see it, the initiative provides a 'space' to bring together low income women to identify their needs themselves, and then provides the opportunity to identify, summarize and spotlight the most pressing of those needs. It also provides for the formation of a *'low-income women's caucus'* which could provide an indispensable voice among the organizations working for social and economic improvement in the region. As well, by involving various service organizations, mostly in the voluntary sector, who have been responding to the otherwise unmet needs of this portion of the community, the project allows the two groups, the women themselves, and the organizations, to examine and address the changes needed to enable low income women take their rightful place in sharing in the resources and participating in the decision making in the community.

Our support for this initiative by the Antigonish Women's Resource Center (AWRC) also reflects our confidence that the proposal's various parts will be carried out in a careful, professional, and complete fashion, with due regard to the sensitive nature of the interviewing involved, and with a careful and thoughtful approach to the development of the interview instruments and the reporting that needs to be done. In all of these areas we have had opportunities to see the fine quality of similar tasks undertaken by the AWRC staffers and volunteers.

In summary then, The Antigonish Coalition for Economic Justice fully supports this proposal of the AWRC, and hope that it receives positive and timely sponsorship.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to call me at (902) 863-6965.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Miller', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ed Miller
General Secretary