

Premier Hosts Luncheon To Discuss Services

Two Antigonish representatives of womens' services were among the eight guests invited to lunch with Premier Russell MacLellan on April 27. Jean Crosby, executive director of the Naomi Society and Lucille Harper, director of the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre, joined the premier, deputy minister Patricia Ripley, office of the premier; Cathy Love, Bryony Transition House, Halifax; Jean MacLean, Mi'kmaq Family Treatment Centres; Louise MacDonald, Every Woman's Centre, Sydney; Bonnie Nicholson, Cape Breton Transition House, Sydney; Donna Gursky, Alice House/Dartmouth Family Resource Centre, Dartmouth; and Verona Singer, H.R.M. Victims' Services Program, Halifax. The premier invited the group to discuss issues and challenges faced by women's services in the province.

Some issues raised for discussion with the premier were: poverty, services to 16-18-year-olds, housing, social assistance, retraining, and funding for community-based organizations.

The Premier indicated that core funding for women's services is a priority for his government and for this year's budget. It was noted at this meeting that Nova Scotia is the only province that has not yet developed a comprehensive plan for supporting and delivering women's services.

MacLellan voiced the need for developing a provincial strategic plan for addressing the issues raised at this meeting in order to provide a more comprehensive set of services for women and children in Nova Scotia.



REPRESENTING WOMENS' SERVICES in the Antigonish community, Lucille Harper of the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre (left) and Jean Crosby of the Naomi Society were among the luncheon guests of Premier Russell MacLellan on April 27. The luncheon discussion focused on issues and challenges faced by women's services in the province.