

THE ANTIGONISH WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Michael Wilson's February 21st budget slashed 100% of its government funding for 80 women's centres across Canada, including the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre. While the deficit is of course being used as the excuse to justify the cuts, many people feel instead that they are designed to silence advocacy groups who have been openly critical of the government's social and economic policies.

WHY ARE WOMEN'S CENTRES IMPORTANT?

Women's centres are community-based and provide services in direct response to the needs of women in the local area.

The Antigonish Women's Resource Centre addresses the need for PUBLIC EDUCATION through workshops, films, speakers, and our newsletter on such topics as parenting, sexual assault, career planning, etc.

We AVOCATE with and on the behalf of women needing support through legal proceedings, social assistance, housing searches and career changes.

We keep an updated resource, lending LIBRARY and assist in research on topics of vital concern to women. Such topics include poverty, pornography and violence against women.

We offer women a SAFE PLACE to talk through a problem and provide REFERRALS to appropriate professionals and agencies.

The Antigonish Women's Resource Centre has been open since December 1982. Last year 2,700 women called, visited or participated in programs sponsored by the Centre.

WE NEED TO KEEP OUR CENTRE OPEN AND WE NEED YOUR HELP TO DO IT.

Public opinion is important to politicians. We need to let them know how vital our centre is to our community. We need to use every forum at our disposal to register our shock at the slashes.

PHONE CALLS can be a quick, very effective, and relatively inexpensive way to voice your concern. Make notes before, during and after so you have an accurate record.

LETTERS also influence politicians a great deal. Remember to be logical, accurate, have your facts straight and be specific in the action you urge. Make a copy of your letter or report the results of your phone call to the Women's Centre.

PLEASE CALL AND/OR WRITE AS MANY POLITICIANS AS YOU CAN.
Addresses on reverse page.

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FEDERAL POLITICANS (no postage necessary)

Francis LeBlanc
MP - Cape Breton Highlands Canso
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6
625-3340 (local office)

Hon. Gerry Weiner
Minister for Secretary of State
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Rt. Hon. Brian Mulroney
Prime Minister
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Hon. Mary Collins
Minister Responsible for the
Status of Women
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Send copies to members of the opposition, including:

Hon. Herb Gray, Acting Leader of the Liberal Party
Audrey McLaughlin, Leader of the New Democratic Party
Ms. Mary Clancy, Women's Critic, Liberal Party
Ms. Dawn Black, Women's Critic, New Democratic Party

PROVINCIAL POLITICANS

Stress how services provided by the Centre will fall out onto over-stressed provincial services. Remind the provincial government of their commitment to "strengthen the network of women's centres in the province".

Dr. Bill Gillis
MLA - Antigonish
7 Sunset Terrace
Antigonish, N.S.
B2G 1K8
863-3242 424-8637

Hon. John Buchanan
Premier
Province House
Halifax, N.S.
424-6600

Hon. Donald P. McInnes
Minister Responsible for the
Status of Women
3rd Floor, Purdy's Wharf Tower
P.O. 2223
Halifax, N.S. B3J 3C4

Alexa McDonough
Leader of the New Democratic
Province House
Halifax, N.S.

Postage required. Photocopying may be done at the Women's Centre for 10¢ per copy.

