

ANTIGONISH WOMEN'S RESOURCE
CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT 1993 - 1994

SUBMITTED BY
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SUBMITTED TO
BOARD OF DIRECTORS, ANTIGONISH WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE

AND

THE WOMEN'S PROGRAM
HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT CANADA

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Introduction

Once again it has been a very busy year at the Women's Centre. It continues to be a challenge to balance our efforts between trying to influence systemic change and meeting the needs of individual women. We are strongly committed to the principle that both are equally important to our goal of gender equality.

This year was oriented toward working "from the inside". We did not stage demonstrations or involve ourselves in any significant controversy. We worked among people with whom we have not had links up to now, and we tempered our voices. This approach has been every bit as effective as taking a "speaking out" stance.

As usual our work was diverse. The areas of activity were:

- **programming:** our main focus this year involved evaluation and reflection on the work of the AWRC
- **annual events** (e.g. IWD Cabaret, National Women's Centres' Day, December 6 Remembrance, etc.)
- **outreach and public education**
- **presentations and briefs to government** on status of women issues and broader issues which affect women
- **direct service to individual women** (e.g. peer counselling, information, referral, advocacy/accompaniment, library)
- **fundraising**
- **support of AWA projects and joint AWA/AWRC work** (producing newsletter, joint events, etc.)
- **community committee work:** participation on community committees around specific projects and/or for on-going networking purposes
- **networking, mutual support and information sharing with other (mostly women's) organizations**
- **volunteer coordination & work placements**

We enjoyed a 10th Anniversary Celebration this year which was well-attended, fun, and virtually paid for itself. Many, many women who have built the AWA and the Centre from the ground up were honoured and our achievements were celebrated.

Our evaluation and reflection work this year also involved conducting surveys and focus groups. The focus groups allowed us to establish new relationships with women from Club 60 and the Afton Reserve. We plan to build on these new links. The information-gathering we did through both the focus groups and the surveys brought relatively few surprises and helped us to "reality check" our perception of our position in the community. A committee was set up to analyze the data collected. A summary was produced by this committee and formed the basis for discussion at the spring board retreat. In the process of doing this work, there was much education and information-sharing in the community.

Some excellent work has been done through the AWA and AWRC in the interests of assisting women survivors of childhood sexual abuse. The Centre was a catalyst for the development of a provincial Department of Health project which informed the public and human service workers on this issue. The project also enabled us to provide five women with a 16-session therapy group. The group was facilitated by Shirley Burkett and Betty-Anne Fraser, two very skilled and inspiring therapists.

We have added roughly 80 new and used books to our library this year. Donations of books by AWA members and other supporters and the Provincial funding we received this year enabled us to do this. All our library books are now catalogued in the computer and can be retrieved by subject, author, cue word, or title. All staff and a few volunteers have a working knowledge of the Bibliotrack program. Also at the 10th Anniversary Celebration the AWRC library was dedicated to Sr.

Isabel MacDougall, CND. Sr. Isabel was a strong supporter of the AWRC and AWA in our early years. A plaque was received by Sr. O'Hadely, CND at the Celebration and is now displayed in the library.

We experienced some frustration of our efforts this year. Some of our work was delayed in the fall by a complicated hiring process. Three new AWA projects began in October and the need for staffing adjustments consumed a considerable amount of time and energy. The writing of a short "Herstory" had to be put on the back burner for now, and our "streeter" survey had to be scaled down and carried out as a telephone survey. We were still able to collect useful data by this means.

We were frustrated that our work with the Society for Affordable Community Housing in Antigonish (SACHA) did not result in a new neighbourhood being built. In spite of this disappointment, much was learned, much education was done, and we now have contacts and some shared history with other community people who are interested in addressing the lack of affordable, suitable housing for low-income people. We will continue pursuing this issue. The need is far from being met.

This fall we joined the Regional Development Board of the "Kid's First" project, (recently re-named "Children First") and the local Antigonish Family Support Society. These two new community-based initiatives have laid the groundwork for providing family support and educational programming. We brought to these groups a feminist perspective, a critical social analysis, and an understanding of the effects of poverty on parents, children, and the community. The eventual goal of this group is to establish a family resource centre in Antigonish.

Our lobby efforts around provincial funding were strenuous and effective. Connect! has done some spectacular work this year

in negotiating an agreement for partial support for women's centres from the Province of Nova Scotia. CONNECT! also produced a video titled "Come on In: Women's Centres in Nova Scotia". The success of Connect!'s lobby of the provincial government resulted in an additional \$16,000 of support to the Centre.

We experienced some changes in fundraising practices due to our new Charitable Tax Status. A well-researched and coordinated direct-mail fundraising appeal was conducted by Lorraine Keating with the assistance of volunteers. This effort was supported by our charitable status and it laid the foundation for future campaigns. A total of \$805 in cash donations was collected in response to the campaign. We hope that as we hone our direct mail skills and build a base of support, donations will increase.

Overall, the Women's Resource Centre is "on a roll" in terms of building partnerships in this community. We are progressively more widely perceived as experts on topics such as gender discrimination, sexual assault, sexual abuse, sexual harassment, and poverty and housing issues. We are involved in work that is central to the improvement of the human services which affect women in the Antigonish area. We have many allies in the community and the voices of opposition to our efforts toward the advancement of women are tiny now compared to what they were when we began. We have made this progress not only because of the work of Centre staff, Board, and volunteers, but also the AWA projects which have made inroads in specific areas and continue to bring many people into contact with the Centre and AWA.

Funding/Underfunding

We were operationally funded by the Women's Program, Human Resources Development Canada (formerly Secretary of State) as we have been since our founding. The Women's Program contribution

totalled \$38,966. This level of funding is not adequate. We are not now, and have never been able to pay adequately for staffing, office space, resource persons, materials and supplies, or any of the costs associated with both the public education/institutional change work and the service delivery we do. We have seen continuous funding cuts for the past five years. Between 1989 and 1993 our operational funding was cut by 40%. We were cut another 10% this year.

We are accustomed to having approximately \$43,000 in federal funding to work with annually, and this amount would ideally have been adjusted for cost-of-living increases (which it has not been). In the current year we have seen this funding reduced to 38,966. We have always fundraised to supplement this federal support. Since 1988 a minimum of between \$50,000 and \$55,000 has been needed in order to operate each year. Usually the fundraising activities of the AWA brought us close to this.

Because our federal funding has been continuous for the past 10 years, we have been able to build on our successes. We are a well-established community resource. Although we struggle with inadequate funding, we do better than merely survive. We are thriving. This is due to the support we have had from the Women's Program, and to the efforts and commitment of the women of the AWA and AWRC Boards of Directors, the staff of the Centre and the numerous volunteers who log thousands of work-hours each year.

It is a source of anger and frustration for all of us to struggle along each year, facing continually reduced funding. Women's contribution to the Canadian economy, were all of it calculated into the Gross Domestic Product, would more than justify the current levels of public money being spent on gender equality work. We will continue to press for adequate funding from all levels of government.

Centre staff and volunteers planned and carried out a large fundraising appeal which was for the first time underpinned by our having Charitable Tax Status. Just over 300 letters went out to potential supporters. A total of \$810 in donations came to us in response to this. A donation of \$1,000 was made early in the summer by a strong supporter and former board member of the AWA. Another member donated \$200 to help us provide crisis money for low-income women. This support allowed us to improve our computer system, pay for our contents and liability insurance, pay for memberships in provincial and national organizations, subscribe to various periodicals, and assist women in crisis.

Staffing

a. Resource Centre Staff

We had 2 full-time staff positions in the Centre this year. AWRC Director, Lucille Harper took a 2-year leave of absence beginning in October 1993 to work on the AWA Sexual Assault Project. We knew that the personnel we needed to hire in Lucille's absence would have to bring with them a variety of skills in administration, counselling, community development and program design and facilitation.

We were unable to find the right combination of skills in one candidate, so we divided the position in half and pooled the skills of two people. Lorraine Keating and Martha Mc Ginn were hired and the three of us shared the "co-directorship" of the Centre. This was a new model for staffing. It brought with it both benefits and drawbacks. I feel it can be safely said that three heads are better than two. The arrangement is somewhat complicated, and we had to be careful to keep each other abreast of the work under way and the service needs of Centre users.

b. Work Placements

Two trainees performed a total of 28 weeks of work experience between September and March, which increased the complexity of the new staffing adjustments. Both of these women were efficient, reliable, and full of energy. They brought valuable skills to the Centre and accomplished things that regular staff would not have had the time to do. Neither arrangement involved any cost to us and they accomplished more than enough work to balance the time put into training and supervising them. The trainees supported us as we took on our new roles, and challenged us to learn about ourselves and ways our work can be done more effectively. They were both very pleased with having had the opportunity to work with us. It was definitely a win-win situation.

Vangie Babin spent 8 weeks with us beginning in September. Her placement here was in partial fulfillment of the requirements of a computer course she was taking through Charles Fraser Computers in New Glasgow. She assisted us with large mail-outs, our fundraising appeal, and many other computer-based tasks. She also helped handle the daily visits and telephone calls and staffed the Centre in the absence of regular staff.

Just before Vangie finished her placement, Yvonne Myatt came to us through a Dept. of Community Services program called "Work Experience for Social Assistance Recipients" (WEPSAR). Yvonne coordinated volunteers, kept our library organized and developed a new system for keeping track of borrowing. She computerized the tables of contents for the binders in the library, did massive amounts of photocopying and collating, and relayed messages for staff, volunteers, users, and board members. Yvonne also handled the contacts made by all the different people who come into contact with the Centre each day. It was enormously helpful to have her here to cover the Centre while regular staff were out or meeting in another room.

In September we had the assistance of an Antigianish Guysborough Learning Centre student for 2 days. She was here on a work experience placement.

c. volunteers

Volunteers make so many things possible for the Centre and they are the backbone of many of our activities and achievements. This year a total of 1942 hours were logged by volunteers both within the Centre and out in the community working on behalf of the AWA and the AWRC. Volunteers represent the Centre at community functions and on committees, they do public relations and charitable work. In the Centre they answer the telephone, photocopy, type, organize materials, and staff the Centre when regular staff have to be away. Their help in creating and mailing out the newsletter is absolutely invaluable. Volunteers often work on fundraising initiatives. Sometimes they build shelves and repair office furniture.

d. Summer Staffing

As usual, we applied to the Canada Employment Centre for a SEED (Student Education/ Employment Development) grant to hire a student to work in the Centre through the summer. We were not approved for funding. However, emergency funding from the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services enabled us to keep the Centre open through the summer. I worked full-time through June, July and August (except for a 2-week holiday), and was able to accomplish many things that could not be done during the regular year. I developed a volunteer orientation kit and ran an orientation session, organized resource materials and the library, and furthered the housing agenda we developed during the 1992-93 year.

e. Professional Development

This year there were some opportunities for staff to further develop their skills. Lucille attended a lecture by Sandra Butler dealing with treatment of sexual assault victims. Lucille and Judy Whitty attended a community development education session called "Making it Work: Community Participation in Health Planning in Nova Scotia".

Keeping a narrow enough focus to allow for quality work is struggle staff face continuously. Centre staff and board are pulled in many directions by the needs of the community and the women we serve. Community efforts undertaken must be followed through on, and "it-never-rains-but-it-pours" situations develop inevitably. Our contact with local, provincial, national, and international groups demands more than we could ever do. Selections have to be made from among the numerous invitations to combine efforts with other groups toward improving the status of women and furthering the growth of our centre and our sister centres accross Canada. It is an agonizing process to prioritize and select efforts which are manageable.

Useage

At the end of each month we tabulate the statistics we recorded daily. These statistics reflect the number of calls and visits to the Centre. Table 1 shows the monthly totals. These numbers are broken down according to the reason for the contact. (see Table 2)

TABLE 1
Calls and Visits to Centre Recorded on Monthly Basis

MONTH	CALLS	VISITS	TOTAL
April	195	149	344
May	178	113	291
June	155	151	306
July	123	105	228
August	119	86	205
September	215	258	473
October	219	142	361
November	218	145	363
December	155	121	276
January	171	123	294
February	176	135	311
<u>March</u>	<u>231</u>	<u>161</u>	<u>392</u>
TOTALS	2155	1689	3844

Table 2 (next page) shows the monthly breakdown of calls and visits to the Women's Centre. Numbers are recorded and types of contacts categorized according to the nature of business reflected.

TABLE 2
Breakdown of Centre Usage

<u>Reason for Calling</u>	<u>Number of Calls</u>
Information	357
Board/Committee/Staff Business	971
Fundraising	172
Requests for Interviews/Presentations	26
Personal Problems/Complaints	332
Check-Ins	298
Networking	486
Use of Centre Facilities	302
Library	191
Program Development	405
Other	271

Calls and visits to the Centre were further broken down into subject matter categories. This enabled us to assess which issue areas women were most concerned with over the year. These statistics reflect the increase in our activities around issues of sexual assault and sexual abuse, housing, poverty, and health. Calls relating to the AWRC/AWA were frequent since our year's programming focussed on reflection and evaluation. Most of these contacts occurred in November when we held our 10th Anniversary Celebration. Contacts relating to sexual abuse and sexual assault issues were numerous this year due to the influence of the work of the AWA's CHPF and Sexual Assault projects.

These statistics reflect all of the contacts we receive including those from women requiring services, people participating in and developing Centre programming, board members, staff, AWA members, volunteers, journalists, government representatives, and people from other local, provincial, national, and international groups.

Table 3
Subject Matter of Calls to the Centre

<u>Nature of Call</u>	<u>Number of Calls</u>
Abuse (Relationship)	163
Sexual Assault/Sexual Abuse	286
Sexual Harassment/Discrimination	102
Business	23
Childcare	8
Education & Training	88
Employment	48
Finances	75
Health	128
Reproductive Health	34
Housing	154
Legal	84
Parenting	84
Sexuality	11
Social Assistance	121
Women's Centre	290
Poverty	176
Sexrole Stereotyping	17
Other	112

Utilization Increase

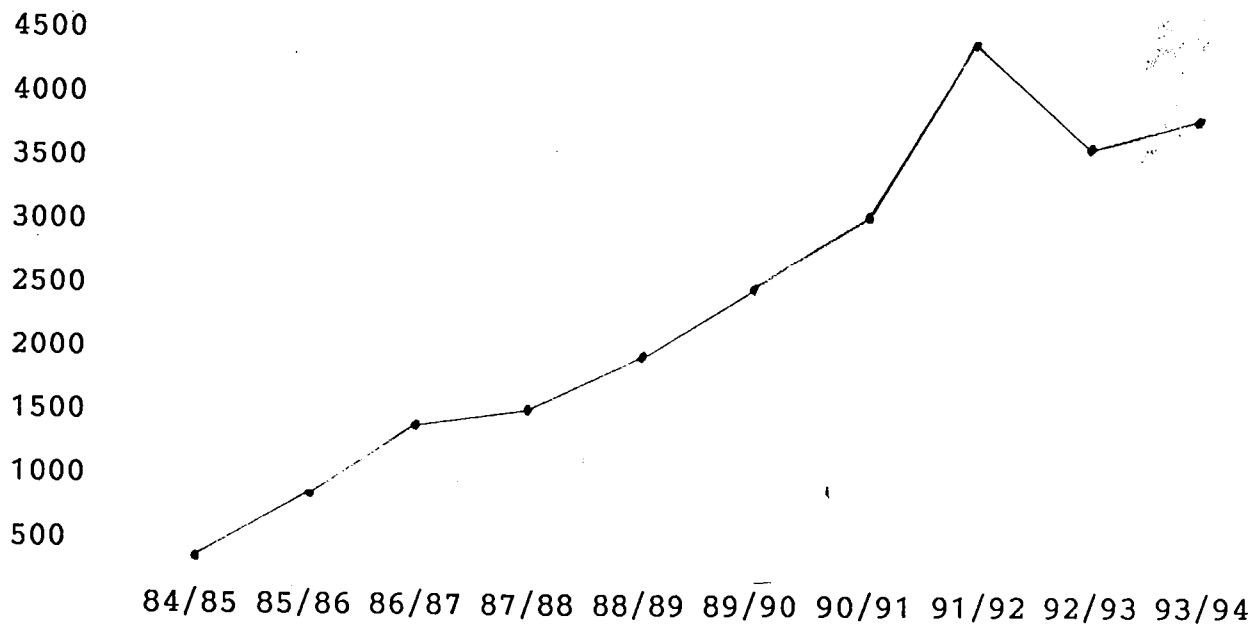
Over the past year we have seen a slight increase in the numbers of people accessing the Women's Centre. During 1993-94, 3844 people accessed the Centre. This was an increase of 234 people from 1992-93. Table 4 (next page) shows the utilization statistics for the past 10 years.

Table 4
Utilization Increase

<u>Year</u>	<u>Calls & Visits</u>	<u>Total</u>
1984-85	410	0
1985-86	898	488
1986-87	1444	546
1987-88	1514	70
1988-89	1993	479
1989-90	2503	510
1990-91	3123	620
1991-92	4482	1359
<u>1992-93</u>	<u>3610</u>	<u>-872</u>
1993-94	3844	234

Figure 1 shows the general trend in utilization patterns.

Figure 1
Utilization Increase



Referrals

We continue to receive referrals from The Naomi Society and Tearmann House, The Dept. of Community Services, St. Martha's Regional Hospital Dept. of Psychiatry Out Patients, North Shore Drug Dependancy. Women are also referred by their friends, by therapists in private practice, local physicians, university professors, adult educators, (eg. the Antigonish Guysborough Learning Centre), and Rosalie Vincent, a local woman who provides help to the poor. (For detailed information on services women are referred here for, see the summary of the Community Impressions Survey.)

In the interests of keeping an informal atmosphere in our delivery of direct service to individual women, we have made a conscious choice not to ask women how they first came to the Centre. The lack of a formal "intake procedure" sometimes makes referrals invisible. Occasionally, long after a woman's first contact with us she will mention that she first came to the Centre because she was referred here. This tells us that there are many referrals that we are not aware of.

We make many referrals to other human service agents. Often women first come to us in crisis and they do not know where to turn for help. We assist women in assessing their situation, and then refer them on to the places where they can get the services they need. We referred women needing help with

- poverty issues to The Dept. of Community Services
 Rosalie Vincent
 The Opportunity Shop
 The Community Food Bank
 St. Vincent de Paul Society

- legal problems to Public Legal Education
local lawyers
Legal Aid
The Crown Prosecutor
The N. S. Human Rights Commission
- sexual abuse/sexual assault issues to
Chris Tragakis, psychologist
Shirley Burkett, therapist
St. Martha's Hospital, Dept. of Psychiatry
Out-Patients
- relationship abuse issues to
Naomi Society
Alena MacDonald, Dept. of Attorney General
- housing problems to The Antigonish Housing Authority
St. Vincent de Paul Society
Dept. of Community Services

We also referred women needing counselling to Family Service of Eastern Nova Scotia and to psychologist Annette Goring. We have referred women seeking contacts in the area of advanced education to The Canadian Congress of Learning Opportunities for Women. Women interested in entrepreneurial activity were referred to the NS Dept. of Small Business. North Shore Drug Dependancy was a referral point for women dealing with addictions.

Evaluation and Reflection

Our evaluation and reflection activities began with a mini-survey of the AWA membership. 37 members were surveyed regarding the length of their membership and their intention to continue being a member; their connections to other members; their ideas about potential AWA and AWRC activities; and their interest in volunteering and/or in participating in the evaluation and reflection focus groups.

All of the members surveyed intended to continue their membership. Many expressed dismay that they did not know many other members and had no way to identify which of their acquaintances belonged to the AWA. They felt that there have been few opportunities for members to meet each other. Several of the respondents signed up to volunteer for specific tasks either in conjunction with AWA committees or at the Centre, and a few participated in the reflection and evaluation process.

Through the early winter we conducted a "Public Impressions Survey". 50 Antigonish and Area residents were chosen at random from the phone book and surveyed over the telephone. We learned from this that more public relations work is needed to raise the profile of the AWRC. Many of the respondents knew nothing about the Centre, or confused us with Naomi Society. We found that the major issues respondents were concerned with were violence against women, sex role expectations and their effects on women's self esteem, double standards applied to women, sex discrimination, poverty, and unemployment. Also, women's lack of affordable housing, child care services, and educational opportunities were seen as issues needing to be addressed.

Through mid-winter we carried out a "Community Impressions Survey". This involved mailing out a questionnaire to approximately 100 human service workers. Respondents included clergy, social workers, adult educators, doctors, nurses, psychologists, psychiatrists, lawyers, and various public servants. All Municipal councillors of both the Town and County of Antigonish received questionnaires as well as the Mayor and the Warden. We received a total of 23 responses. This is 10 times the average return rate (of 2%) for mailed out surveys.

Most of the health care professionals surveyed were not well informed of the work of the AWRC. Respondents in this category were generally supportive of the Centre, and saw us primarily as

a referral point, an information resource, and a support & advocacy service. One suggested that we create a booklet outlining our resources and services and distribute this to local physicians.

Human service workers were well informed about the AWRC and most had worked with us on local committees and joint projects. We were certain of the accuracy of their perception because their answers to the question "What is your understanding of the role of the AWRC?" matched up very well with what they saw as being local women's issues. It was also congruent with the AWRC services they referred their clients here for. All of them had referred women to the Centre for services and information. They were very supportive of our efforts and our continued existence. Many expressed a hope that we will someday be adequately funded so that we could provide more of the services we are already provide.

In our focus groups we met with low-income women, women students, black women, aboriginal women, union women, and senior women. They commented that we need to work on inclusivity by providing events that will attract minority group members and that we should help to make minority women more visible. They felt that we needed to clarify our organization's position on the abortion issue, and that we should stimulate more communication between ourselves and women of the aboriginal community. Of all the focus groups, the low-income women were the most well informed about the AWRC.

In November we held a 10th Anniversary Celebration. Approximately 80 people had dinner together and enjoyed an evening of entertainment and celebration of our achievements and the women who have made the Centre and the AWA what it is today.

Evaluation and Reflection Activities

Activity

Attendance

Focus Groups:

- meeting with Judy Julian of the Afton Reserve regarding the development of the Native Women's Focus Group. (2)
- Internal Reflections Focus Group (2 meetings) (9)
- Low-income Women's Focus Group (6)
- Aboriginal Women's Focus Group (4)
- Black Women's Focus Group (3)
- Senior Women's Focus Group (18)
- Women in Unions Focus Group (3)

Surveys:

- Public Impressions Survey (50)
- 50 people from Antigonish Town and County surveyed over the phone...selected at random
- Community Impressions Survey (23)
- 100 questionnaires mailed out to human service workers in Antigonish Town and County

AWA/AWRC Analysis Committees:

- Evaluation Committee (4 meetings) (18)
- began an analysis of survey and focus group results
- Oona Landry, Rieky Stuart, Lucille Harper, Katherine Reed, Martha McGinn, Lorraine Keating, Brenda Silver, Sylvia Parris, Susan Jewkes
- Membership Committee (4 meetings) (11)
- analyzed the composition of our membership, identified groups of people to target for a membership drive, and looked for any trends in profiles of women who become members
- Judy Whitty, Oona Landry, May Goring, Katherine Reed
- Fundraising, PR, and Membership Recruitment Strategy Committee (3 meetings) (7)
- assessed current financial status and began devising a more coherent strategy for fundraising, PR and member recruitment
- Oona Landry, Lorraine Keating, Katherine Reed

Celebration:

- Tenth Anniversary Celebration Planning Committee
(4 meetings) (20)
- Lucille Harper, Barbara Hayes, Martha McGinn, Janette Fecteau

- Tenth Anniversary Celebration (80)
- an evening of celebration and honouring women of the AWA & AWRC

Public Education Events

This year we involved ourselves in a wide variety of educational activities because we did not have a specific focus around public education as we have had in other years. For the most part we simply responded to requests for workshops and other types of involvements on an as needed basis. The numbers on the right side of the page indicate attendance.

a. Workshops

- Topshee Memorial Conference Discussion Groups & Workshops
"Violence Against Women" (no data)
- facilitated by AWA & AWRC representatives Lucille Harper,
Sylvia Parris, Katherine Reed

- WEPSAR (Community Services) Trainees "Sexual Harassment"
Workshop (17)
- Lucille Harper

- St. F. X. U. Residence Administrators Gender Workshop . . (63)
- heightening gender awareness
- Lucille Harper and Barbara Hayes

- "Women And Poverty" (3)
- a workshop provided for Lee Place Transition House staff
- Katherine Reed

- "Race and Gender" (10)
- a workshop provided for adult learners enrolled in the
Guysborough Learning Centre program.
- Katherine Reed

- Sexual Abuse Survivors Therapy Group (10 sessions) (53)
- sponsored by AWA/AWRC, funded by Dept. of Health, NS.
(CHPF grant)
- a 16 week directed therapy group for women who are survivors of
childhood sexual abuse *Cheryl, Embert, Betty Ann, Susan (5)*
- Mothers and Daughters: Body Image Workshop (15)**
- a group of mothers and pre-adolescent daughters

b. Presentations and Discussions

- "Women Who Run With The Wolves" Discussion Group 7 meetings (35)**
- this group met through the winter to discuss this ground-breaking book by Clarissa Pinkola Estes
- Lorraine Keating
- Poverty Awareness Day Evaluation (4)**
- evaluated the success of Poverty Awareness Day
- Safe Home: A Guatemalan Woman Breaks the Silence (50)**
- Yolanda Montejo spoke about the plans of refugees to return to Guatemala
- co-sponsors: AWRC, Oxfam Atlantic, Project A, Development and Peace, Praxis, Atlantic Christian Training Centre
- Black History Month Display (mounted in reception area of AWRC)**
- featured notable Black women in history and today from all over North America, but especially from Nova Scotia
- Black History Month articles in "The Antigonish Casket"**
- used AWRC space in local paper to print articles written by and about Black women
- "All Candidates' Public Forum" (150)**
- during provincial election campaign this forum was co-sponsored by AWRC and 2 Public Service Alliance of Canada Locals.
- All Candidates Public Forum Planning Sessions (2 meetings) . (9)**
- met with PSAC members to plan forum
- All Candidates Public Forum Evaluation Meeting (7)**
- met to evaluate the forum
- Presentation to Town & County Councils re. CHPF project..(16+18)**
- informed councils of our intentions to do public education and provide a sexual abuse survivors' therapy group for women
- requested funding to sponsor low-income women with enrollment fee

- Provincial Election Candidates' meeting with AWA and AWRC Board members (30)
- a Question & Answer Session on issues affecting women
- Panel Discussion "Survivors of Sexual Abuse" (45)
- sponsored by AWA, funded by Dept. of Health, (CHPF), AWRC represented on panel to give a social context
- Presentation to the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women (35)
- AWRC spoke of women's poverty in Antigonish Area

c. Community Events, Celebrations

- December 6 Remembrance (12)
- a quiet gathering of people remembering the Montreal Massacre and victims of violence against women everywhere
- International Women's Day Open House (12)
- an opportunity for the public to visit the Centre and learn about our services and resources
- National Women's Centres Day Open House (30)
- an opportunity for the general public to learn more about our centre and sister centres across Canada
- Christmas Lunch at AWRC (12)
- a drop in event at the close of the season
- International Women's Day Cabaret (40)
- an evening of celebration for women...guest performer singer /songwriter Emmy Alcorn
- "Champions' Breakfast" (8)
- a show of appreciation on National Women's Centres Day for the volunteers that make so many things possible

d. Joint AWA/AWRC Meetings and Programs

- Annual AWA Coady Picnic (35)
- a regular summertime get-together with the women studying at the Coady International Institute
- AWA & AWRC Fall Board Retreat (16)
- serves as a way to kick-start the fall activities and orient new board members

- AWRC and AHP representatives met with Bill MacNeil,
Superintendent of Schools (3)
- an invitation to the school system to use community resource
people (including AWRC & AHP) to help educate students, staff and
administration about issues that affect women and teens
- Susan Jewkes, Lucille Harper

Naomi Society Information Fair

- AWRC information booth at fair

- World Council of Churches International Visitors Meeting
- profiled AWRC and how Atlantic Christian Training Centre
supports us

- Bergengren Credit Union workers information session
- profiled the AWRC
- Lorraine Keating

- TV interview "Antigonish This Week" with host Marjorie MacHattie
(Antigonish Cablevision)
- topic was AWRC activities and philosophy
- Martha McGinn

- Interview on CJFX Radio
- information interview re. AWRC and other Canadian women's
centres on National Women's Centres Day, September 23
- Katherine Reed

- meeting with Bill Gillis, MLA (5)
- met with Dr. Gillis to ask for his support in the effort to
obtain provincial funding for women's centres
- Oona Landry, Lucille Harper, Rieky Stuart, Katherine Reed

- St. F. X. University's Topshee Conference Planning Committee
- Lucille worked with this Committee throughout planning and
evaluation process
- conference theme was violence against women

- Annual Meeting with Francis LeBlanc, MP and his constituency's
Women's Organizations (9)
- an opportunity to inform our MP about the issues women and
women's groups are facing, and to update him on our activities
- Lucille Harper, Susan Jewkes, Judy Whitty, Barbara Hayes,
Martha McGinn, Lorraine Keating
- other participants were Brenda Berthuaime and Dorothea Gilson
of Naomi Society

Women and Aids (8)

- Jane Allen met with AWRC women to discuss the need for AIDS
awareness among women of Antigonish
- part of Ms. Allen's province-wide needs assessment

g. Services/Sponsorships

-Sr. Mary MacLeod Bursary

-a \$250 bursary awarded to a student who demonstrates financial need and an intention to work towards gender equality (two bursaries were awarded this year)

-Income Tax Preparation for Low-Income Women (28)

-a free service provided by volunteer tax preparers through the Centre

-volunteers were Agneta Sand and Cecilia Hasey

h. Community Use of AWRC

The Mother's Support Group for mothers of sexually abused children (4 meetings) (19)

Meeting with Human Rights Officer

-client needed place in Antigonish to meet with officer from New Glasgow

Don Peters RCMP met with woman regarding a stalking complaint

-AWRC client needed comfortable meeting place to deal with her complaint

Group of local business people

-met to view and discuss a video

Dept. of Community Services STEP Teen group

-parenting training

Dept. of Community Services TRUST training

-training foster parents to deal with sexual abuse issues

Mental Health Consumer Advocacy Network of Nova Scotia

-workshop planning session

SACHA Hiring Committee

-interviewed SEED grant student worker

CIBC Bank Workers Union Meeting

Liaison

AWRC staff participate in local, regional, and provincial organizations in the interests of sharing information, working on joint projects, and for mutual support. We bring a feminist perspective and a critical social analysis to these other groups. All of these groups meet monthly and their sub committees meet more often as necessary.

Our involvements locally were as follows:

Community Liaison

The Antigonish Community Family Support Society

- committee newly formed to develop educational programming and support for families with young children
- Katherine Reed, Pam Swainson, Susan Jewkes

Kids First Regional Development Board

- board oversees the implementation of the "Kids First" project funded by Health Canada's Brighter Futures initiative and sponsored by "Taking Control, Making Changes", a low-income women's group in New Glasgow
- Antigonish Family Support Society represented on the Development Board by Debbie Sullivan and Pat Norman of Community Services, and Katherine representing the AWRC

Kid's First Human Resources Committee (Staff Recruitment)

- Katherine

Society for Affordable Community Housing in Antigonish

- attended regular monthly meetings
- Lucille Harper, Pam Swainson, Katherine Reed

-Land Search Committee - Lucille

-By laws Committee - Pam

-SEED Grant Support Committee - Katherine

-Publicity Committee - Lucille

Antigonish County Literacy Network

- newly established to look at the needs of adult learners... funding available from Dept. of Education, NS
- Martha McGinn

AWA Community Health Promotion Fund Project Advisory Committee
-assisted with the public education campaign and recruitment of participants for the sexual abuse survivors' therapy group
-Katherine Reed, Shelagh McCulloch-Taylor, Shirley Burkett, Betty-Ann Fraser

St. Francis Xavier University Task Force on Violence Against Women

-AWRC provided a representative to take the place of the student "Women For Social Awareness" group's representative
-task force developed terms of reference and recommendations for university administration
-Katherine Reed

The Antigonish & Area Inter-agency Committee on Family Violence
It has been my role to represent the AWRC on this committee since 1988. This year saw the inclusion of several AWA/AWRC affiliated women. Brenda Silver, Jean Collins, Susan Jewkes, Shirley Burkett, and Betty-Ann Fraser worked on the Committee representing the organizations and institutions they work with.

Inter-agency involvements this year were:

-Housing & Poverty Sub Committee - Katherine, Jean - watchdog and advisory regarding municipal social assistance
-Fundraising Sub Committee - Brenda
-Membership Sub Committee - Katherine
-Vice-chairperson - Katherine

The Centre has submitted many useful articles to the Inter-agency's Newsletter Sub Committee on family violence issues.

Provincial Liaison

-Connect! Steering Committee (see next page for details)
-Oona Landry and Lucille Harper

-consultation with Katherine MacDonald, in-coming President of the NS Advisory Council
-updated her on the concerns of local women
-Lucille Harper, Katherine Reed,
-AWRC and AHP staff and representatives from Guysborough Learning Opportunities for Women

-Provincial Health Council
-needs assessment for Antigonish Area
-Judy Whitty and Lucille Harper

- Nova Scotia Health Action Coalition conference
- Judy Whitty
- Mental Health Consumer Advocacy Network annual conference
- Katherine Reed and Judy Whitty
- Women's Health Education Network annual conference
- Oona Landry
- Provincial Health Council community consultation
- Judy Whitty, Lucille Harper and Katherine Reed

Regional Liaison

Northumberland Regional Health Agency

- regular meetings
- NRHA Search Committee
- Lucille Harper
- National Action Committee regional consultation
- information-sharing between new NAC President and women's groups in Atlantic Canada
- Katherine Reed
- planning session for "Maritime Area Leadership Training Program"
- an initiative of groups affiliated with Atlantic Christian Training Centre aimed at providing leadership training to social justice groups in Atlantic Canada -Katherine Reed

International Liaison

- "Safe Home" Planning Group (7)
- planning a local presentation and strategizing around the need for support for Project Accompaniment, a solidarity organization concerned with Guatemalan refugees returning home

Beijing Conference Planning Session

- planning for the 1995 world conference for women
- Rieky Stuart, Oona Landry

provincial funding agreement for Nova Scotian women's centres; the women who have staffed the AWRC this year: Lucille Harper, Lorraine Keating, Martha McGinn, Yvonne Myatt, and Vangie Babin; the boards of directors of the AWA and AWRC; all of the AWA and AWRC volunteers; the people of this community who supported us publicly and privately in so many ways; the people who gave of their time and energy in our survey and focus group activities; and the women of Nova Scotian Women's Centres Connect!