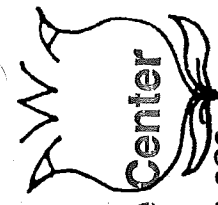


AWARE



Antigonish
Women's Resource Center
315 Main Street
Antigonish, N.S. B2G 2C3

Newsletter published by Antigonish Women's Association

VOLUME 1 No. 8

August 1984

RESOURCE CENTRE: 863 - 6221

BATTERED WOMEN'S HELP-LINE: 863-2852

Special Federal Elections Issue

*"In politics, if you want
something said, ask a man;
if you want something done,
ask a woman."*

Margaret Thatcher
Politician

Another surprise issue of AWARE!! We told you there would be no more newsletters until the Fall, but here we go again with a SPECIAL for the federal elections. We don't intend to be partisan, just want to give you some facts ma'am; fresh facts filched and cut from many wondrous sources, also questions for the candidates framed by various and sundry members. Our thanks to the Social Action Committee, Centre Staff, NAC election kit, other friends and anonymous graphic artists. REMEMBER:

**We can make
the difference.**

....KNOW THE CANDIDATES
....PRESSURE THE CANDIDATES
....SUPPORT YOUR CANDIDATE
....GET OUT THE WOMEN'S VOTE
....KNOW THE ISSUES;
ASK THE QUESTIONS



IN the 1980 federal election, the NDP ran the most women candidates (33); the Liberal Party ran 23, and the Progressive Conservative Party 14.

Compared to the 1984 statistics, the PC's have increased their women candidates by 50% with 21 women running, the Liberals a slightly less than 50% with 34 women candidates. The New Democrats are also less than 50% with 65 women candidates in 1984. Here's how it stands:

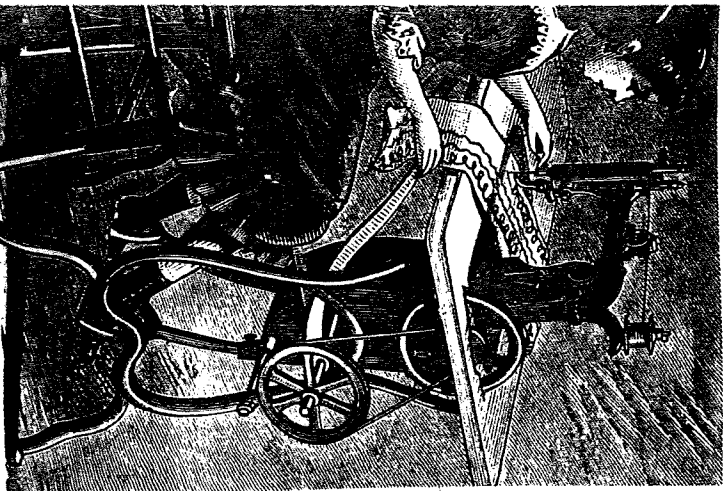
	1980	1984
Liberals	23	34
Conservatives	14	21
New Democrats	33	65

Work

WOMEN'S WORK

.....World wide:

.....Canada:



THE VALUE OF HOUSEWORK

A UN Document puts women's work as 66-75% of all the world's work. Women get 10% of earned income, world wide. Women own 1% of all property world wide. Canadian women now perform 55% of all the hours of paid work in Canada. Canadian women earn 29% of the taxable income in this country. Canadian Women are 42% of the full time labour force. In 1983 less than 40% of women between 20 and 64 years old had full time paid jobs. 13% had part time employment. In 1981 54% of women with children under 6 were full time home makers. A conservative estimate of the number of hours an employed married women works, including hours of paid work, transportation, housework, is 63 hours plus 2 to 3 hours in addition for each child. Men's weekly figures are 55 hours, everything included. Men's working hours have declined steadily all the way through the turn of the century. Estimates of the time women spend in housework and child care vary. If a woman with no children under 10 does 38 hours of housework; and 99.6 hours for one with children under ten, the average for fulltime homemakers is 68.8 hours per week. Estimates of the value of goods and services produced by housework vary from: 11% of the GNP to 25% of the GNP to 40% of the GNP. The last figure is from the most detailed and sophisticated Statistics Canada study.

Equal pay for work of equal value

The average wages of women in the labour force are about 60% of the average wages of men. This is partly because work which is seen as "women's work" is systematically underpaid. The public health nurses in a number of communities in Canada earn less than the people who collect the garbage. Many secretaries earn less than the people who park the cars in the parking lot. In order to correct such inequities there is a guarantee in the Canadian Human Rights Act of equal pay for work of equal value. If an employee or a group of employees under federal jurisdiction feels that they are paid unequally compared to others in the same operation, they can request that the Canadian Human Rights Commission evaluate the relevant positions.

PART-TIME WORK

- Labour Canada has been studying the advisability of amending the Canada Labour Code to legislate pro-rata pay and benefits for part-timers since 1979.
- In 1983, the Wallace Commission, appointed by the federal Minister of Labour, recommended that the Canada Labour Code be amended to force employers under federal jurisdiction to accord pro-rata pay and benefits to part-time workers.
- Amendments to the Federal Labour Code (which received first reading on May 17, 1984) failed to address this issue.
- Equal value is judged on the basis of four criteria: skill, effort, working conditions, and responsibility.

Question

- If elected, will your party amend the Canada Labour Code so that all part-time workers under federal jurisdiction will be entitled to pro-rata pay and benefits?

Question

- Would you require that companies doing business with the federal government pay their employees on the basis of equal pay for work of equal value?

DINNER for 12
or 24?



Child Care

For many years, women's groups, labour day care workers and parents have drawn public attention to the severe lack of high quality, affordable day-care in Canada. The federal government supports day-care only as a welfare service available to the poorest families.

This policy ignores the needs of all children for good care. For all parents who must hold a job and raise a family, day care is an essential service, and thus merits recognition as a collective responsibility rather than an individual one. (From the Shocking Pink Paper.)



Facts

- During World War II, when society wanted women in the labour force, a good day care system existed in Canada. After the war it was dismantled.
- In 1980 only 3.8% of infants of working mothers were in licensed day care, and only 15.8% of children 2-5 years old were in licensed day care. Unlicensed child care arrangements are, at best, of questionable quality.
- Current day care funding in Canada was designed as a service to people in financial need. This is entirely out-of-step with current realities. Day care should not be a welfare service. It is a service required for the vast number of children of working parents.
- The federal government now spends about \$150 million a year on day care. The money goes on the one hand to a small number of fully subsidized day care spaces for people on social assistance, and, through the tax system, to the wealthiest people who purchase child care.

DAY CARE*****

There is no public day care for children under two years old in Antigonish.

Women who work must rely on private babysitters, many of whom have large numbers of children of varying ages in small spaces with inadequate resources.

Only one public day care facility in Antigonish is subsidized by the province to give a sliding scale of fees for low income parents.

Women doing shift work (nurses and others) have no public child care services.

Universal, affordable day care is estimated to cost 1.5 billion dollars. To put this into perspective, it is estimated that the projected expenditure for new equipment for the military in 1984-85 will be 2.3 billion dollars.

Daycare

Q. *What steps would your party take to set up a daycare system which is not income related, but accessible to all and totally subsidized through public funds?*

NDP have suggested increasing the number of daycare centres in Canada and passed an extensive policy on daycare at the last convention.

CONSERVATIVES would allocate funds to ensure that daycare needs of the women of Canada are met but would not say if it would be direct grants to a day care system.

LIBERALS would participate through the Canada Welfare Plan but social services are the jurisdiction of the provinces. (EDITORIAL NOTE: Task Force on Day Care announced in June/84)

- The vast middle range of Canadians and the working poor are not served by the federal government's involvement in day care funding at all.

- The cost of licensed day care has now become prohibitive for most middle income parents at about \$3000-\$3500 a year per child.

- Day care should be available in a variety of ways, as long as these are licensed and supervised. It should be possible to fund adequately-supervised child care centres, family day care services, parent-cooperative day care centres, workplace day care, and round-the-clock care for families in emergency or for shift-workers. A mix of possible ways of delivering child care is desirable.

- Most child care workers are women and they are radically underpaid, at \$8000 a year on the average.

- Using tax vouchers and tax credits for parents to buy child care will not create the infra-structure for a high quality day care system in Canada.



POVERTY

Women and Poverty: What are your chances?
"How do we manage? We pay our rent and utilities and we eat less. We live in fear. Fear of the future, of more illness, less money, less pride."

from WOMEN AND POVERTY
National Council of Welfare, Oct./79
p. 12.

According to 1981 census, 62.2% of women over 65 have incomes below Stats Canada poverty line.

40% of single women 65 and over had incomes below \$6,000.00

Canada's public pension plans (CPP) pays 25% of pre-retirement earnings, so that women with lower pay than men throughout their working lives, continue to receive less in retirement.

Full time homemakers are entitled only to benefits under the Old Age Security/Guaranteed Supplement Program, which as the sole source of income insures a life of poverty.

WHAT STEPS WOULD YOUR PARTY TAKE TO ENSURE ADEQUATE PENSIONS AND DECENT LIVING CONDITIONS FOR ALL WOMEN IN THEIR OLDER YEARS?

POVERTY AND THE MINIMUM
WAGE: NOVA SCOTIA, 1984.....Minimum wage:

\$3.75/ hour over 18
\$3.40/hour under 18

Women's Poverty
Women never married or separated or divorced without children:

54% will be poor at some time of their lives.

Widows:

66% will be poor.

There are 1,025 widows in Antigonish county; 175 widowers. (1981 stats.)

Women over 65 living alone:

62.5% living below the poverty line;
40% have incomes less than \$6,000.

Female headed single parent families:

46% are poor;
2/3 of the children in these families are poor.

Yearly incomes at minimum wages:

3.75x40hrs.x50wks.=7500/Y
3.40x40x50=6800/year

1984 poverty line for a single person in Nova Scotia is \$8,154 in a town the size of Antigonish, \$7,322 for rural areas.
In January 1985 the minimum wage will go up to \$4.00 for those over 18 and to \$3.55 for those under 18.

2/3 OF MINIMUM WAGE EARNERS ARE WOMEN.

4. Work with the provinces to set a federal minimum standard for the minimum wage.

5. Increase access for women to training and education in higher paid skills and qualifications.

6. Work to increase people's awareness of the important social and economic contribution made by all women who work in the home and raise children; therefore decrease the stigma attached to the receipt of government support.

7. Work with the provinces to introduce a federal minimum level of family benefits.

WHAT CAN BE DONE????????

1. Increase access for women into non-traditional work.

2. Introduce and enforce equal pay for work of equal value in the public and private sectors.

3. Introduce legislation to require comparable pay and security and pro-rated benefits for part-time work.

The top fifth of Canadians get 40% of income; the bottom fifth make it with 5.2%.

Divorce and Maintenance

-In Antigonish in 1976 there were 70 divorced people. In 1981 the number rose to 190. This is a 270% increase.
-The likelihood of marriage breakdown for young people marrying today is 4 in ten.
-Nearly half of divorcing couples have dependent children.
-Wives get custody of children 85% of the time.
-Child support payments amount to about $\frac{1}{2}$ the minimal cost of bringing up a child, minus child care costs (which is about \$250 per month) or income lost to the mother taking care of them at home.
-In families that make \$30,000 to 39,000 per year the divorced wife's income is reduced to about 40% of previous family income while the husband's income is about 78% of what it was.
-divorcing couples who made under \$20,000 together each make about 75% of previous income.
-Because the man keeps most of the money while the woman keeps the dependent children, after a divorce the woman's income collapses while the man's rises to almost double the amount of disposable income as before the split.
- $\frac{1}{2}$ female headed single parent families live below the poverty line in Canada.
-An Alberta Study found that 1/3 of women receive the full amount of maintenance awarded; 1/3 receive part of the money and 1/3 receive not one cent.

Maintenance Award and Enforcement

- In modern marriages where both spouses had equal opportunities to develop their careers, the general principle used in established maintenance awards on divorce should be that each spouse is responsible for her or his own support.
- The federal government can and should take the responsibility for correcting the shameful fact that the vast majority of Canadian maintenance awards are not respected.
- The principle of each spouse's responsibility for her or his own support should *not* be given priority in establishing maintenance awards when:

1. young children are involved
2. one spouse was a long-term homemaker and a permanent dependency was created
3. a spouse suffered economic losses because of the marriage
4. one of the spouses is disabled.



1. Do you support the inclusion in the Divorce Act of specific criteria entitling long-term homemakers to continuing maintenance payments allowing them to have a standard of living similar to that of their ex-husbands?
2. Will your party set up an effective national system of enforcement of maintenance payments that would include a registry drawing information on defaulting spouses from all federal government data banks?

ACTRA SAYS: Watch Carefully!



CPF

In September the CRTC will be reviewing the two year period of self-regulation regarding the guidelines that came out of the 1982 Task Force on Sex Role Stereotyping. The review will consider whether the Images of Women Guidelines have been successfully implemented. If not, the CRTC will either decide on another two years of self regulation, or drop the guidelines altogether if it is judged that not enough complaints have been registered. If you see a commercial on television that you find sexist and stereotypic--Complain. ACTRA's National committee on women's issues needs your support on this. Watch carefully and act now! Send your letters, including details of dates, times and stations or channels to: Media Watch, 209-636 West Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 1G2

Get out the Women's Vote

KNOW THE CANDIDATES — Candidate Literature, Forums, Questionnaires, All-Candidates' Meetings

SUPPORT YOUR CANDIDATE — Nominations, Campaigns, Campaign Committees, Elections Act

KNOW THE ISSUES; ASK THE QUESTIONS

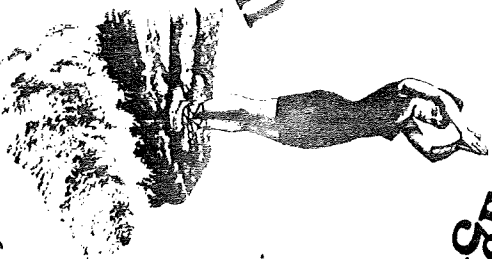


Survival

Property Rights

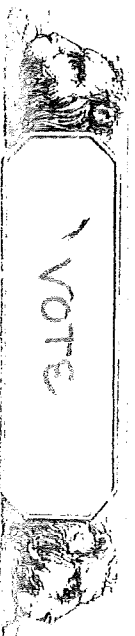
Unemployment

Part-time Work



Violence Against Women

Constitutional Protection for Native Women



SONIA JOHNSON: U.S. PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

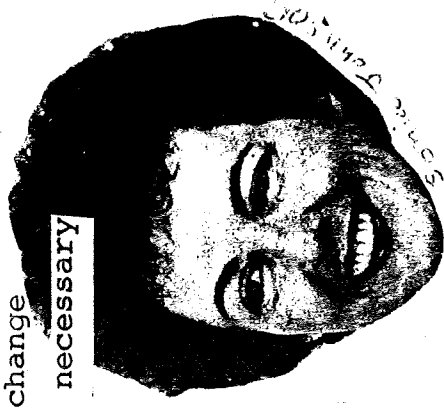
In an interview with Brigitte Sutherland which appeared in part in the August, 1984 edition of HERIZONS, Sonis Johnson said, "I am running for president because no one is saying we must listen to women. We must take ourselves seriously. We must stop trivializing our values. Non-violence, life over profit, nurturance, negotiations are values that have arisen to save the planet. It is the only analysis and we must evolve to it.

Speaking about violence against women, she said, "one half the world is waging all out war against the other half and we can't keep killing each other and hope to survive. As long as (violence against women) is invisible and it is legitimate to wage war against women, there is no safe place for any class or ethnic group nor for any country. It is the only way to stop rape, never mind incest, battering, sexual harassment, genital mutilation) in one place at a time, what hope is there for global peace?"

Sonia Johnson was excommunicated from the Mormon church in 1979 for her public support of the equal rights amendment. She wrote FROM HOUSEWIFE TO HERETIC, her best selling auto-biography in 1980. She feels that Reagan will win in the United States because people are so terrified of the future the are not "concentrating on what they want, what they love and what they believe in."

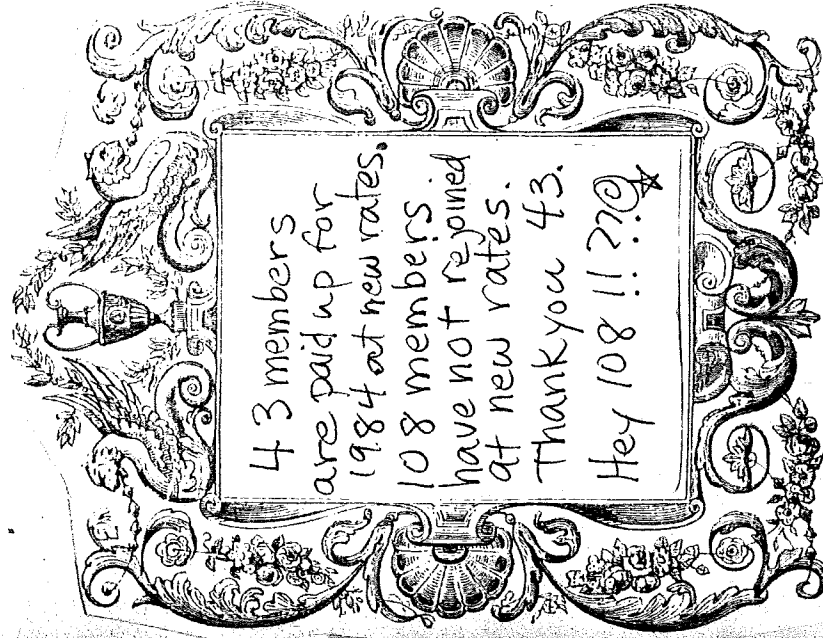
The HERIZONS article concludes with this statement from Sonia Johnson: "Soon we must take the courage to vote out of principle and integrity. It is the only way to help change values, to achieve the shift in consciousness that is necessary for us to survive."

HERIZONS is on the WRC shelves. You can read "American Women & Politics" and other articles of great interest in this good-looking magazine from Manitoba.



*"Between two evils, I
always pick the one I
never tried before."*

Mae West
Film Actress



BREAD AND ROSES

Music by CAROLINE KOHLISAAT
Words by JAMES OPPENHEIM

Hopfully

As we come march- ing, march- ing, in the beau- ty of the day, A

mil - lion dar - kened kit - chens, a thou - sand mill - ers gray, Are

touched with all the ra - diance that a sud - den sun dis - closes, For the

pleo - pic hear us sing - ing, "Bread and no - ses, Bread and no - ses."

As we come marching, marching, unnumbered women dead
Go crying through our singing their ancient cry for bread.
Small art and love and beauty their drudging spirits knew.
Yes, it is bread we fight for—but we fight for roses, too!

As we come marching, marching, we battle too for men,
For they are women's children, and we mother them again.
Our lives shall not be sweated from birth until life closes;
Hearts starve as well as bodies; give us bread, but give us roses!

As we come marching, marching, we bring the greater days.
The rising of the women means the rising of the race.
No more the drudge and idler—ten that toil where one reposes,
But a sharing of life's glories: Bread and roses! Bread and roses!

As we march, marching, marching,
More voices join the song,
It's a "woman's right" rising,
Round the world it's growing strong,
Now the world now shows us—
Our "good" now shows us—
Women to share the bread
and give the roses: Bread and roses!

In 1912, in the great woolen center of Lawrence, Massachusetts, 20,000 workers walked out of the mills in spontaneous protest against a cut in their weekly pay. Workers had been averaging \$8.76 for a 56-hour work week when a state law made 54 hours the maximum for women and for minors under 18. The companies reduced all hours to 54 but refused to raise wage rates to make up for the average loss of 31¢ per week suffered by each worker because of the reduction in hours. This caused the walkout which rocked the great New England textile industry. Under the aggressive leadership of the Industrial Workers of the World the strike became front-page news throughout the country. This is how IWW leader Bill Haywood described the Lawrence strike in his autobiography, *Bill Haywood's Book*:

"It was a wonderful strike, the most significant strike, the greatest strike that has ever been carried on in this country or any other country. And the most significant part of that strike was that it was a democracy. The strikers had a committee of 56, representing 27 different languages. The boss would have to see all the committee to do any business with them. And immediately behind that committee was a substitute committee of another 56 prepared in the event of the original committee's being arrested. Every official in touch with affairs at Lawrence had a substitute selected to take his place in the event of being thrown in jail."

After ten weeks the strikers won important concessions from the woolen companies, not only for themselves but also for 250,000 textile workers throughout New England.

During one of the many parades conducted by the strikers some young girls carried a banner with the slogan: "We want bread and roses too." This inspired James Oppenheim to write his poem, "Bread and Roses," which was set to music by Caroline Kohlsaat.

There is also an Italian song with the same title, "Pan e Rose," written by the Italian-American poet Arturo Giovannitti which is used by the Italian Dressmakers Local 89 of the International



August



September

*****UPCOMING FALL EVENTS*****

BRIDGE NIGHT

BRIDGE nuts and beginners, contact Grace MacKinnon or the centre.

READING CLUB: Anyone interesting in starting a reading club, get in touch with Vicky MacLean or the Center ***** Interested in Bowling?!! Whether for fun or fit-ness or as a team in a league; If you'd like to bowl, contact resource center or call Mary Burns. 863-5937 after 5 PM

AWA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Would you like to meet people - make

new friends - see lots of people you already know? Volunteer

a couple of hours of your time on SEPTEMBER 21st to help

explain to people the advantages of belonging to AWA. If

you can help, call Mary Lou at 863-3027 after September 4th.

Women's Volley ball: Fun and Fitness! and FREE

One evening per week,

Regional High School Gym.

Sign up at the Centre: 863-6222

SEPTEMBER 12th:

THE FORMULA FACTOR:

This film shows that bottle feeding is the major factor contributing to infant malnutrition and death in developing countries. Government information programs promoting breast-feeding there are shown to be largely ineffective against aggressive marketing by manufacturers of baby formula, whose representatives promote the bottle as a symbol of status and progress for Third World women. But mothers often cannot afford to buy enough formula after free samples run out. The resulting infant malnutrition is shocking While this problem is most prevalent in developing countries, we can make comparisons with our own society: the manipulation of women by advertising, the complicity of other women in this manipulation, attitudes of health care personnel and attitudes toward breast feeding and bottle feeding.

SEPTEMBER 26th: Child Sexual Abuse: The Untold Secret.

In this film five adolescent girls describe the trauma of being sexually abused by their fathers or stepfathers over a period of many years. Although they knew that what was happening to them was not right, they were afraid to speak out for fear of reprisals, disbelief and hurting other members of their families.

Through the young girls' testimony, the film alerts the public to its responsibility to recognize this alarming problem and to reach out to victims. The film points out the value and effectiveness of counseling, not only for the children affected but for the families as well.



1863:

Former slave Harriet Tubman, leader of the Underground Railroad, has 3 Union gunboats under her command as she leads a crucial military mission down the Tennessee River that will involve destroying a bridge, gathering vital intelligence information and rescuing 756 slaves.

