

AWARE



NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY ANTIGONISH WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

RESOURCE CENTER · 863-6221 SPRING 1995

WOMEN'S ACTION BEIJING. 95

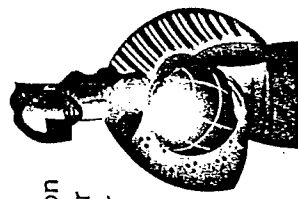


Between August 30 - September 15 1995, thousands of women and men from around the world will be gathering in Beijing, China for the 4th United Nations World Conference on Women. Since 1945, when the United Nations was first established, the international community has convened world conferences on subjects ranging from disarmament, peace, development and human rights. The primary objective in convening a United Nations World Conference is to produce an internationally approved plan of action around a particular issue that will be guided by principles and standards established through a process of national, regional, and global discussions. These conferences play a role in directing the work of the United Nations as well as influencing governments around national policy directions, changes, and commitments.

During the UN Decade for Women - 1975 -1985, three world conferences were held: Mexico City (1975); Copenhagen (1980), and Nairobi (1985). These conferences mobilized, invigorated, raised awareness, and resulted in a document: "Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000." These events also inspired women to work and organize locally, nationally, and internationally in addressing barriers to the advancement of women around the world. These barriers are identified in **A Draft Platform for Action: Ten Critical Areas of Concern**, which will direct the agenda in Beijing for both governmental and non-governmental organizations. These issues are: **Poverty; Health and Education; Violence; Armed Conflict; Economic Disparity; Politics; National & International Institutions; Human Rights; Mass Media; Environment & Development.**

The Goals of the Beijing Conference are to suggest actions to be taken by Governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, communities and individuals to remove the barriers to women's equal and full participation and opportunity in the betterment of our individual and collective lives. Recommendations, agreements, and commitments for action will include: eliminating and eradicating poverty; ensuring access to education and health; provision of opportunities for access to participation and sharing of power in economic development, decision-making, conflict resolution; preservation and protection of the environment; eliminating violence against women and armed conflict between peoples; presenting positive and realistic images of women in the mass media; and promoting women's human rights.

As international attention is focused on Beijing and this 4th UN Conference on Women, we in Antigonish will take time to reflect upon the meaning of this event and the obstacles to women's equality within both a global and local context. In this and the Summer/Fall AWA Newsletters, we will begin to explore the impact of the issues and actions put forward for Beijing and their meaning for our own community. As we move into the next millennium we must take the time to reflect upon our individual and collective lives and consider how far we have progressed and how very far we have still to go towards realizing women's full equality. Most importantly, we must take action both locally and globally for we are the women of the world.



Action for Equality,
Development and Peace

Development and Peace Delegate Chosen to go to Beijing

This past January I found out that I have been chosen as one the three delegates from the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace to go to the Women's Conference in Beijing. I am excited about this conference and am very privileged and honoured to be chosen to go.

Development and Peace is an international Non-government Organization working with partners in the Third World as well as with Canadians to bring about changes which will lead to a more just an equitable global society. Throughout its 27 year history, D & P has come to recognize the importance of considering gender in development and has seen the problems which arise when women are left out of the development process. It is important that D & P go to Beijing to listen and understand the perspective of Third World women and avoid our Western analysis.

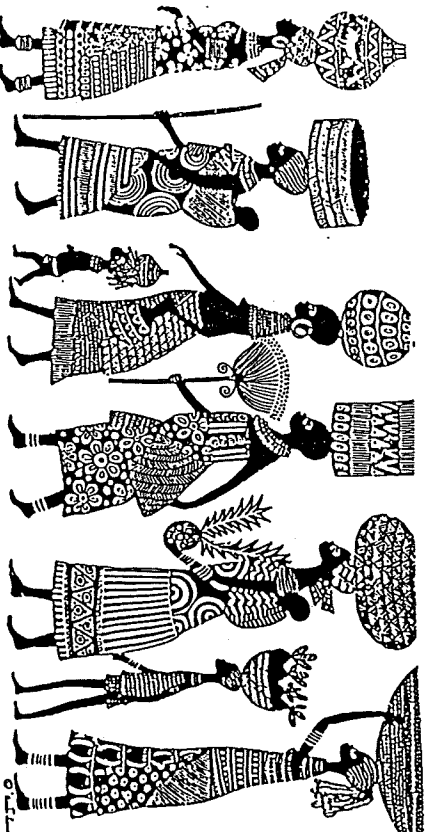
The Nova Scotia Women's Action Network believes that women in N.S. face the same hardships that women in Third World countries face poverty, lack of control over land and production, exclusion from government, and physical danger. The NGO Forum '95 will be a chance for women to be reminded that many local and national problems have their roots in global structures.

In 1985 the Nairobi Conference adopted the Forward Looking Strategies for Women to be implemented by the year 2000. It is evident that in the last ten years the promise of equality and partnership has fallen far short of

expectations. The NGO Forum will give women an opportunity to measure the impact of world change.

The input for the Platform for Action which will be adopted by governments in Beijing has now been mostly completed. There will be no great changes made at the Beijing Conference. What this conference will do however, is highlight women's issues around the world since there will be world wide media coverage. Perhaps, what is most important about this conference is the fact that for the past few years women have been coming together in preparation for this conference and talking about the issues which are facing them. Beijing's greatest gift to women may not be the Platform for Action, but a better knowledge of ourselves, and our sisters.

By: Colleen Cameron



Spring Gardening Tips

Sowing Annuals Directly Outdoors:

- ☉ Most seeds can be sown after the last expected frost.
- ☉ Water the soil a day before sowing unless already moist.
- ☉ After sowing, keep the seedbed moist using the finest spray from the hose nozzle.
- ☉ In sunny weather seedlings may need watering every day.

◆ What about Nairobi 85?

Individual Perspectives

In the midst of the excitement of preparing for the UN's official Fourth World Conference on Women, and the parallel unofficial Women's NGO Forum, it is easy to lose sight of the bottom line. The most wonderful promises are useless unless they are kept. There was a lot of excitement about Nairobi 85 and its resulting document the "Forward Looking Strategies" (FLS), but the promise of Nairobi has not materialised. The years after the Nairobi conference offer us lessons about the importance of follow-up work by women's NGOs to make sure that governments' noble words get translated into governments' actions.

FLS committed our governments (not just the feds) to do most of the things that women's groups have been demanding over the last couple of decades. The governments' job was to keep their commitments; our job was to see that they did. Both of us have failed to do our jobs effectively and thoroughly.

How can this be? The answer is not simple, but one important factor has been that we have been asleep at the switch. Women's groups have not done a good job of getting the word out. Many, perhaps most, groups have no idea what has been promised, and do not know they can

use the commitments of the Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and FLS to gain public support and lobby all levels of government more effectively.

If there had been widespread and repeated noise from women's groups about CEDAW and FLS, if every contact with government or media made mention of these obligations and cited chapter and verse, then at the very worst, it would have been more difficult for governments to act as they have. Difficult to consistently cut funding to women's groups, to "restructure" support for most human needs.

True, we need to try to influence the Plan of Action to be (we hope) adopted at Beijing. But the place to do that is here, not at Beijing; that's too late. And the place where it counts after Beijing is also here. It would be helpful if there were some language about assuring implementation, about accountability, in the Beijing Plan of Action. But words mean nothing by themselves. The words in FLS were terrific.

Have you read FLS? It is available free from Status of Women Canada in both official languages. Start there. Can you believe they agreed to it?

Wow! Then look at the draft Plan of Action. Pretty pathetic, but we won't even get what is promised there if we don't learn from the dismal history of FLS implementation (or lack of it) in Canada.

Going to Beijing won't get most women in Canada any closer to the commitments for equality, development and peace that were made in FLS. The UN is not the problem. Where it matters is here, in Canada, in our local groups and communities, at the provincial, regional and federal level. We have to start by educating ourselves and then educate other women, and we all have to make a lot of noise about the commitments that our governments made in Nairobi and the commitments they make in Beijing.

(Barbara Roberts co-authored with Deborah Stienstra a major study entitled "Little But Lip Service" which assessed Canada's Implementation of International Commitments To Women's Equality)

Newsletter of the CBFC - December 1994

The NOVA SCOTIA Beijing Women's Action Group

The Nova Scotia - Beijing Women's Action Group was formed in April, 1994 to plan and coordinate the input of Nova Scotian women to the United Nation's Fourth World Conference on Women. We are made up of a core group of about 17 women representing organizations such as CRIAW-NS, Congress of Black Women, Institute for the Study of Women, Micmac Native Friendship Centre, Voice of Women-NS, and the Women's Action Coalition. Since forming the group, we have contributed to Canada's National Report and members have participated in the National Consultation in Winnipeg, the Toronto peace conference and Vienna regional meetings. We have applied to Human Resources Development, Women's Program and to CIDA for funding for regional and equity group consultations to take place in the winter and spring of 1995. We hope to report on the diverse conditions and visions of women, and the unique situations experienced by women in Nova Scotia. We also want to ensure that our voices reach the Platform of Action. Our final report will be submitted to all interested organizations and institutions. For further information regarding our group and/or report, please contact the representative listed below: Meredith Ralston, Department of Women's Studies, Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, NS B3M 2J6, Tel: (902) 457-6472, Fax: (902) 443-1352 Email: mralston@linden.vsu.ca



**OUR CHANGING FACE - New Directions in Criminal Justice
with focus on the Truro Women's Facility**

By Brenda Silver

The Nova Scotia Criminology and Corrections Association held a conference in Truro on Thursday, April 20, and Friday, April 21, 1995. The purpose of the conference was to discuss the opening of the new federal penitentiary in Truro and its relationship with service agencies in the area.

The name of the new facility will be the Nova Correctional Centre. It will house the majority of federally sentenced women from the Maritime region. Currently, women who are sentenced to two or more years in Canada, serve their time in the Kingston Prison For Women (P4W). Kingston will be replaced by five new penitentiaries and a Aboriginal Healing Lodge, which are scheduled to be operational by the summer of 1996. Nova Correctional Centre will be the first to open.

Maritime women who were sentenced before January of 1995, will be given a choice as to where they will serve the remainder of their sentence. Women who have been sentenced after this date will be automatically sent to Truro. Nova will house 21 female offenders. (More statistics on Nova Correctional Centre and P4W will be given in the next issue of AWARE.)

The workshop in Truro opened with the Annual General Meeting of Nova Scotia Criminology and Corrections Association (NSCCA). Following this, Chris Manuge, Warden of Nova Correctional Centre, explained the philosophy of the institution and invited everyone to ask questions. She announced that on September 8, 1995, 10 national forums will be held across Canada to discuss prisons and incarceration for women.

Thursday afternoon consisted of concurrent sessions on the following topics: 1) Women Anger and Aggression - facilitated by Judy Crump, 2) Survivor Issues - facilitated by Mary Haylock, and 3) New Directions in Aboriginal Justice - facilitated by Dale Sylliboy. A focus group was also held in the afternoon. The subject matter was Women in Criminal Justice - Concerns Regarding the Relative Use of Incarceration. Information collected at this focus group will be presented to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

Therese LeBlanc, Warden of Kingston Prison for Women gave the Keynote Address on Thursday evening.

Panel presentations on External Partners in the community were given on Friday morning. Local community groups will work in association with the Truro facility to provide information and programming to the female offenders. The panel speakers were: Donna Jakeman of Coverdale, Rhonda Crawford of Elizabeth Fry

Society, Joanne Marriott-Thorne of Victim's Services, Bob MacDonald of John Howard Society, and Greta Pilgrim, of the Salvation Army. Concurrent sessions and a focus group identical to Thursday's sessions were held later that morning.

Participants of the workshop were treated to a buffet lunch on Friday afternoon followed by a presentation of the John Dunlop award. Edith Short, an ex-offender, delivered a very moving speech after the award ceremony.

Friday afternoon concluded with a second panel presentation regarding Community Integration and Community Services for Women, and Recovery Services. The speakers were Cindy Cox - Family Support Centre, Nora Jessome - Department of Community Services, Joyce McDonald - Community Living Programs, Bernice Law - Women in Active Recovery, and Deborah Tupper - Pictou County Women's Centre.

The NSCCA workshop was very informative. It offered a general overview of the history of Canadian prisons for women, and pinpointed problems within this system. The aim of the new penitentiary system in Canada is to encourage women to become part of the decision making process during their time in prison.

We are slowly moving away from the traditional view of incarceration and into a new era of rehabilitation and community responsibility. Hopefully society will recognize the factors which contribute to women serving time within our criminal justice system, and take an active role in prevention.

**Women's Action Coalition of
Nova Scotia**

Attention!! The future of W.A.C. is uncertain! The AGM and Lobby was held on April 1st and 3rd; some women attending expressed a need for an organization like W.A.C. to continue.

As a result of this discussion, the AGM agreed that after the lobby on Monday April 3rd, 1995 no one would speak for W.A.C.N.S.. Stella Lord and Linda Christiansen Ruffman expressed a desire to explore ways in which to reorganize W.A.C. or a group such as W.A.C. If your group would like to participate in this reorganization, please contact:

Stella Lord, P.O. Box 9436,
Stn.A, Halifax, N.S. B3K 5S3

In Honour of Mothers by Charlie Rogers

In honour of this coming Mother's Day on May 14th, 1995, I would like to express my admiration and gratitude for all the wonderful women whom we call "Mother." Upon conception, a baby changes a woman's life; she must now carefully watch what she eats, drinks and breathes, being always conscious of the new life inside her. When that baby is born, it is completely dependant upon its parents for many years. A mother spends countless hours caring for her new child, while worrying over its every cry.

The job of loving and worrying about your child does not end when the little baby becomes a teenager, or even an adult. The role of a mother is a lifetime career, one that is not paid and often underappreciated. Young children rarely acknowledge or even understand the sacrifices a mother makes for her child; it is only when that child becomes an adult that it is possible to recognize this amazing human being: the mother.

Now that I am an adult, I admire my mother for all that she has done for both myself and my brother. She is a wonderful person who still worries about us, and probably always will. For many years she put the needs of her children before her own and I would like to thank her for everything she did, and now ask her to put her own needs first. It is time to relax, enjoy life and perhaps buy a few treats that you denied yourself when

you opted for booties and diapers.

While working overseas, my mother was my friend and link to my world. Even though she was very busy, she found the time to write many long letters, which kept me in touch with all the events of the family, local news and weather, not to mention keeping my spirits up when I missed home. I loved receiving her letters and reread them often. This meant so much more to me than any gift anyone could buy - this was a gift of herself.

This past Christmas I was unable to come home to visit and although I was having a wonderful adventure, I really missed spending Christmas with my mother and her wonderful turkey and pies. The souvenirs are just an attempt to show my love and gratitude to you, mom, my friend. I hope I will never be that far from home at Christmas time again. It is truly a holiday for the family.

I look forward to the day when I too will be called mother. I hope that I will be able to do a good job and raise happy, healthy children. I am sure my mother will have endless advice for me, as she tries to prevent me from "finding out the hard way." For years now she has been dropping subtle hints which lead me to believe that she is eager to become a grandmother and have little ones running around again. Even though you look much too young, I think you will make a wonderful grandmother.

To all the miraculous mothers out there, a sincere thank you from your loving children. May you have a truly happy Mother's Day!



Spring Gardening Tips

Starting Seeds Indoors:

- ☉ Gently tap down the potting soil in the flat.
- ☉ Sprinkle the seeds or sow on rows.
- ☉ Cover the seeds with 1/4 inch of soil. Fine seeds need no covering.
- ☉ Water the seeds and cover with plastic
- ☉ Germinating seeds require adequate light (direct sun or 40 watt fluorescent tubes suspended 6" above plants.)
- ☉ Seedlings grow best at 10- 16 degrees Celcius. The lower temperature causes them to become hardier and more vigorous.

Antigonish Youth Attend Beijing preparatory meeting at UN

When the time finally came, after hours of phone calls, walking and letter writing, to head to New York our feelings of exhaustion were quickly mixed with an uncomfortable mix of excitement, anticipation, and fear of both the "big city" and that we would somehow fall flat and let down the many people who had invested their time, money and faith in us. As soon as we arrived in New York our fear left and we were filled with excitement. Sure we were probably naive to quickly become comfortable in such a huge city, but it was almost impossible not to. As soon as the proceedings began we were overwhelmed at the many friendly people from both the Canadian and other delegations.

Our first day in New York was spent touring the city- attempting to keep our jaws from dropping at the many stores and people, as well as the huge buildings and outrageous prices. After watching the incredible production of Vita and Virginia we headed back to our teeny, tiny rooms at the Vanderbilt YMCA, but hey- they had cable T.V.

The second day marked the beginning of the "real" reason we were there. We spent the better half of the morning meeting and connecting with the Canadian delegation, even spending lunch with the other youth and being updated on their concerns. The rest of the day was spent with many other women, with many different accents, waiting in line at the Church Centre of the UN and hoping we would be able to register. To our amazement some women had travelled for days to get to New York- without any chance of being able to get registered. In some ways we were no better off than they were for we were eventually sent home with the instructions to try again in the morning.



Try again we did- bright and early the next morning we resumed our familiar place in line, but we were rewarded with "official UN passes" (basically yellow and white cardboard name tags) and hurried off to the "real" UN. It was an amazing building and with our passes we were free to travel through it. We made our way to a massive conference room where we spent the next few hours with about 1000 women from across the world- all of us working on amendments to the section of the Working Paper of NGO Amendments to the Platform for Action regarding armed conflict and its affects on women. We also went to a demonstration to stop UN sanctions against Iraq. Later that night we crowded into an FBI filled room to listen to former US Attorney General Ramsey Clark speak on the sanctions against Iraq. After his speech we attended a gala at a nearby hotel. The reception had wonderful entertainment, but we were a little late for the food.

Wednesday began with a Canadian NGO meeting, and then we returned to drafting the Platform for Action. The three of us were asked to aid other youth from a few different countries to search through the Platform for Action and change the term "women" to "women and girls of all ages" where we saw fit. Later in the day we attended a speech by Hilary Clinton (a tribute to Eleanor Roosevelt) and then ended the day with a youth caucus and another NGO meeting.

Thursday before leaving for home we met again with members of the VOW team.

We gained so much as a result of this trip to NY. Networking across the country, a chance to meet with our representatives for the conferences with government officials, the chance to meet so many wonderful people and realize some of their concerns, we could go on and on.

We'd like to thank the AWA for all of the support we were given. It has been overwhelming, an experience we will never forget.

by Meghan Mulcahy, Fatina el Kurd, and Nancy Norman



THE CANADA SOCIAL TRANSFER

An Early Result of the Review of Canada's Social Programs

The 1995 Federal Budget announced that as of March 31, 1996 federal cost-sharing of provincial welfare and social services under the Canada Assistance Plan (CAP) will be eliminated. Federal funds for welfare and social services will be amalgamated with current block funding of health and post-secondary education under a new funding arrangement, to be known as the Canada Social Transfer (CST). This transfer will pay the provinces less money but will allow the provinces more control in how and where the funds are spent.

These changes will mean that:

- * there will likely be provincial cuts to health care, post secondary education and social services
- * there will be increased competition for funds between health, education, welfare and social services. People who collect welfare have no provincial organization to advocate for their needs with the provincial government;
- * because the CST will have no enforceable conditions, there will be no guarantee that funds allocated for specific purposes will be spent for those purposes;
- * with the elimination of CAP, there will be nothing that

defines

standards for delivery of welfare and social services; and

- * the loss of CAP, designed as a cost-sharing arrangement, will put even greater pressure on provincial treasuries when the next recession strikes and welfare rolls increase.

As the primary caregivers of the lederly and children, women will be most effected by cuts to social services, welfare, and health services. Of particular concern to women are such services as transition houses, child welfare, daycares and women's centres. Of the 14,271 single parent families who received family benefits in Nova Scotia in 1994-95, 13,881 were women led. The delivery of welfare services under the new GST will have a strong impact on the quality of life for these women and their children.



Spring Gardening Tips by Janette Fecteau

Transplanting Seedlings:

- ☺ Transplant when seedlings become crowded and roots have developed. Overcrowded seedlings become weak and spindly.
- ☺ Transplant into moist soil.
- ☺ When separating seedlings, push up from underneath rather than pulling by stem.
- ☺ Before seedlings are set out in the garden, they should be hardened off. This may be done in a cold frame, which may be closed on cool nights. Plants may also be hardened off outdoors for an increasing amount of time each day.

The Antigonish Women's Resource Centre

is now taking applications for its annual

Sr. Mary MacLeod Bursary

Deadline For Applications: May 31, 1995

This bursary is intended for a mature student who shows financial need. Applicants must show how the bursary will help them in their attempts to support women in dealing with issues that affect women. Application forms may be picked up at the Centre, 219 Main Street, Kirk Building, 2nd Floor.

For more information call 863-6221.

GRASSROOTS INFORMATION ASSOCIATION

May 3, 1995

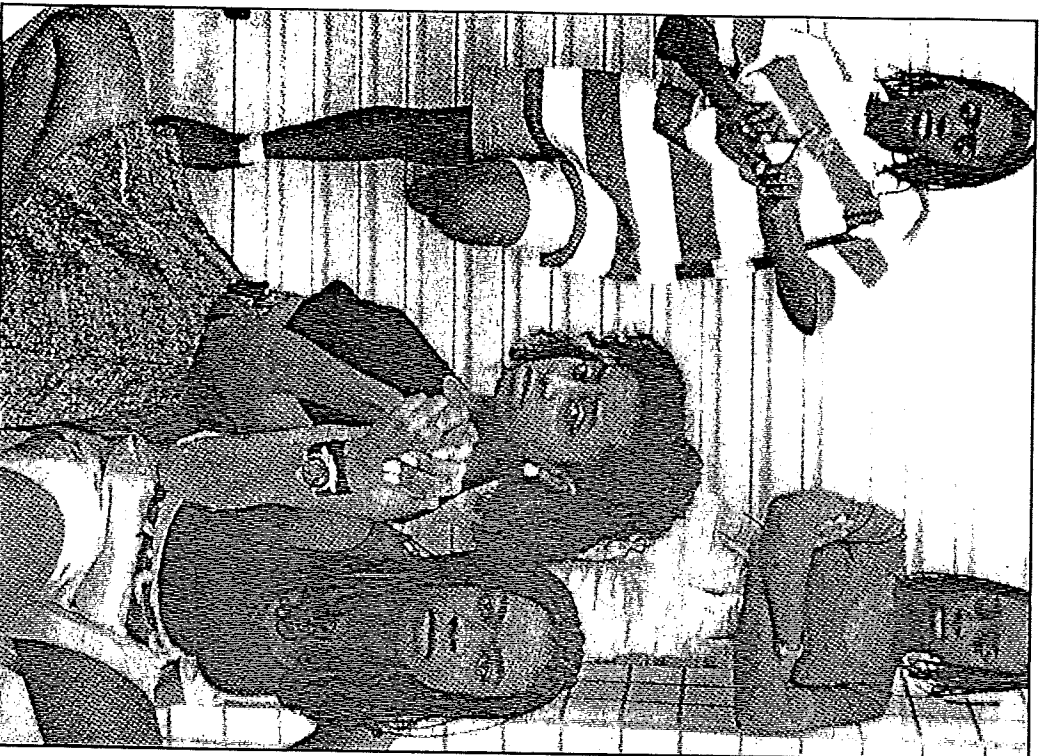
THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF GRASSROOTS INFORMATION ASSOCIATION
(GIA) IS SEEKING VOLUNTEERS WILLING TO SERVE ON ITS NEWLY FORMING
ADVISORY BOARD.

The Advisory Committee is a working committee of the Board
(currently composed of seven persons). It would very much like to
have WOMEN WELL REPRESENTED on the committee. Some issues GIA has
currently been involved with include the CD ROM student
entrepreneurial project at the high school, and in the works is a
public education health program. The advisory committee is keen
for "new blood, new issues", in order to help facilitate links
between technology and community grassroots issues. Please note:
a technical background is NOT required. Eligibility requirements
may include the following:

- members of diverse backgrounds, especially minority groups
- original project ideas and a commitment to their successful completion
- profile in the community
- a knowledge of and interest in issues concerning community economic development
- a variety of skills

If interested, please contact:

Candy Ballard (GIA Board Member), 863-5631 ASAP!



Brazilian rappers, "Geledes"

Voices of Consciousness

Each of us must think
That we have in our hands
Lost values and
forgotten rights.
We must change all of this!
Acting with integrity,
Analysing the facts,
With justice and humanity.

(Voices of Consciousness
is an all-girl rap group in
São Paulo)



NEWS FROM THE CENTRE

The Women's Centre has been working hard over the past few months at a couple of major projects. We are setting up a sexual assault crisis line which will respond to calls from sexual assault survivors, sexual abuse survivors, and non-offending parents of children who have been sexually abused. The other going concern is the wrap-up of our federally funded work on Women in Community Economic Development (CED).

Martha has been directing the Women in CED initiative. Local women involved in economic development have been surveyed and have responded to questions about their needs, their vision, successes and challenges. A group of women met for a "Community Roundtable" in February and shared strengths and concerns. They took a hard look at the skills necessary for successful entrepreneurship, and found that they had and were practicing many of them every day! The group recommended starting a support network of women in business. A follow-up planning meeting took place in April, and it was there that the **ANTIGONISH BUSINESSWOMEN'S NETWORK** was formed. The next meeting of the Network will be on Wednesday, June 14th, from 11:30 to 1:00 at the Bergengren Credit Union (board room, second floor). All women entrepreneurs are welcome - membership is an issue. Bring your lunch. The new Antigonish businesswomen's directory will be available at this meeting, and there may be a guest speaker.

The Sexual Assault Crisis Line was initiated after the Sexual Assault Project's needs assessment found that there is a need for more crisis support for women who are survivors of sexual violence. The incidence of sexual assault and sexual abuse is not in decline, and more survivors are ready to reach out for support, information, and other services providing they can be assured of sensitivity, respect, confidentiality and ongoing support and resources. (In a word, **SAFETY**.) It is hard to exaggerate the "fish-bowl effect" of living in a closely-knit rural community. Close relationships and a solid sense of community are certainly assets. Privacy and autonomy are also critical needs of women who have been violated. The Crisis Line will attempt to address these needs in a caring way with all of these issues in view.

Some 20 women are now in training under the direction of Shirley Burkett who has a thorough knowledge of the issues and has been doing a fantastic job of developing the training program, and advising Women's Centre staff as we put together the actual service. There is community support in principle and in tangible ways. We hope to have the service up and running in about mid-June, and it will operate on weekends only for the time being. Volunteers will do crisis counselling over the telephone, and will accompany survivors to the police station or hospital upon request. If you have any interest in becoming a volunteer, perhaps in the fall, we'd love to hear from you.

Here are some other things going on around the Centre:

- * We are assisting a community committee with planning a women's health event for the fall.
- * An educational event relating to the G-7 Summit is in the works. AWRC and AWA are involved.
- * We provided income tax preparation free of charge for around 25 low-income women and their families.
- * The Sr. Isabell MacDougall Library has been expanded with numerous new acquisitions in a variety of categories
- * We continue our participation on the Antigonish Community Family Support Society and the new "Kids First Family Centre", the Antigonish and Area Inter-agency Committee on Family Violence, and a new steering committee developing a leadership training program for social justice groups in the Maritimes.

If you would like to join a support group to pursue any aspect of healthy living, just call the Centre to discuss it.

Call the Centre anytime if you want information or would like to take part in any of the many activities described here. All these things are vital, exciting, and rewarding pursuits, and they need the energy and spirit of women determined to work toward a better world for women, and for all!

MOTHER

Mother's Day originated as a day for peace. More than a hundred years ago Julia Ward Howe, after her experience tending the wounded in the American Civil War, started a crusade to institute "A Mother's Day For Peace". This is her statement issued in 1870.

"Arise all women who have hearts... say firmly: we women of one country will be too tender of those of another country to allow our sons to injure theirs. In the name of womanhood and humanity I earnestly ask that a general congress of women, without limit of nationality, promote the alliance of the different nationalities, the amicable settlement of international questions. The great and general interest of Peace!!

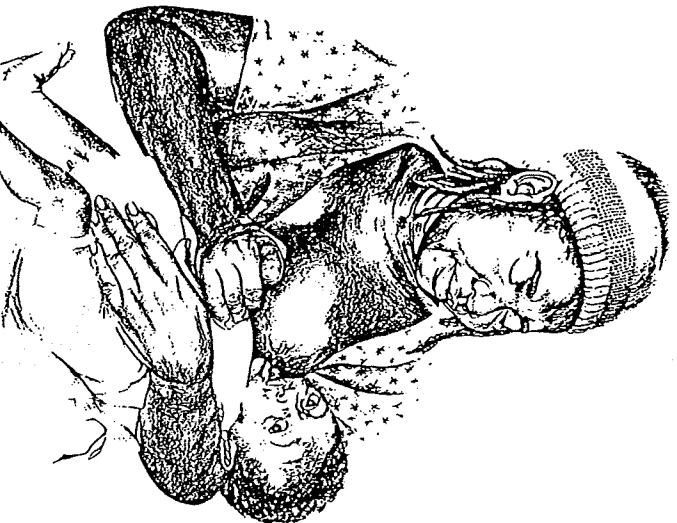
What can I say, but that it's not easy?
I cannot lift the stones out of your way,
And I can't cry your bitter tears for you.
I would if I could, what can I say?

But we're not one, we're worlds apart
You and I,
Child of my body, bone of my bone,
Apple of my eye.

Like a young tree, I see you sway and bend,
And I'm so afraid, afraid you might break,
Tossed by the wind, the storms that come your way,
And careless strangers, seeing fruit, who reach out to take....

But we're not one, we're worlds apart
You and I,
Child of my body, bone of my bone,
Apple of my eye.

Rosalie Sorrels



Mother to Daughter: Her Own Voice 1.0

That I not be a restless ghost
Who haunts your footsteps as they pass
Beyond the point where you have left
Me standing in the newsprung grass,

You must be free to take a path
Whose end I feel no need to know,
No irking fever to be sure
You went where I would have you go....

So you can go without regret
Away from this familiar land,
Leaving your kiss upon my hair
And all the future in your hands.

Margaret Mead

My hazard wouldn't be yours, not ever,
But every doom, like a hazelnut, comes down
To its own worm. So I am rocking here
Like any granny with her apron over her head
Saying, lordy me. It's my trouble.
There's nothing to be learned this way.
If I heard a girl crying help
I would go to save her;
But you hardly ever hear those words.
Dear children, you must try to say
Something when you are in need.
Don't confuse hunger with greed;
And don't wait until you are dead.

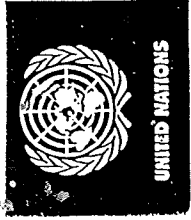
Ruth Stone

Wanted Urgent

Someone to donate a TV
to the Women's Centre.
We would prefer TV that
works with our VCR. Please
call us at 863-6221.

BREASTFEEDING
IS A FEMINIST
ISSUE

WOMEN HAVE
A RIGHT
TO CHOOSE
BREASTFEEDING



A DRAFT PLATFORM FOR

ACTION: Ten Critical Areas of Concern - The Fourth World Conference on Women

1. Poverty - One third of all families worldwide are headed by women, the majority of whom are poor with dependent children or elderly. Women constitute almost 60% of the world's one billion rural poor.

2. Education & Health - Almost 2/3 of all illiterate people in the world are women. In Canada for every 100 male third-level students in scientific and technical fields, there are only 29 females.

Half a million women die each year from pregnancy related causes, most of these in developing countries. Over 40% of HIV infected adults are women with young women being the most susceptible to infection. 70% of the 3,000 women who contract HIV and the 500 women who die daily from AIDS worldwide are between the ages of 15 and 25.

3. Violence - Violence against women is a problem that pervades our lives - globally and locally. Women everywhere and of all ages experience gender based violence: battering, abuse, assault, mutilation, rape and murder. In our very community, such violence is veiled in secrecy, shame and denial.

4. Armed & Other Conflicts - Although women often have no voice in the decisions that lead to armed conflict and war, women "stay behind" to maintain families, households, and social/economic life. Women are often the victims of torture, sexual violence/slavery and systematic rape. Women and their dependents constitute 80% of the world's 18 million refugees.

5. Economic Disparity - In most of the world women lack equal access to, and have little voice in relation to production, technology, land, and capital. Women's work in and outside the home is often underpaid, undervalued and often unacknowledged.

6. Politics - Only 6 of the 184 Ambassadors to the United Nations are women. In 1993 there were only 6 female heads of Government world-wide. The average proportion of women in the world's parliaments dropped to 10% - from 12% in 1989.

Women lack resources, opportunities, access to power structures, and decision making to effectively shape our lives.

7. National & International Institutions Although there are national institutions for the advancement of women in almost every country of the world, even in Canada we lack adequate resources, and the political will to impact fully upon policy and decision making.

8. Human Rights - Women are affected by discrimination throughout their lives despite the existence of national and international laws. Women's Rights are Human Rights.

9. Mass Media - The global, national, and local media in all countries still portray negative stereotypes and distorted images of women. Media remains largely in the control of men where women's overall share of jobs is disproportional to men. Of 200 media organizations in 30 countries worldwide, only 7 are headed by women.

A UNESCO study revealed that only 1.4% of television news items deal with women's issues, with 3/4 of these presented by male broadcasters.

10. Environment & Development - Women have a unique link, especially in the developing countries, with the environment. Women account for half of the food production in developing countries - we are most often the ones responsible for obtaining water, fuel, and maintaining household consumption.

Women have little voice in the setting of environmental and development policies which often do not reflect the reality of our daily lives.



focus on women

Antigonish Women's Association By-Laws

Philosophy

The Antigonish Women's Association operates from a feminist perspective. This means that we are committed to women's values, goals, and ways of knowing. We strive for a dynamical structure that changes as the issues change and as the voices of the women themselves change. We celebrate the diversity among women and are committed to offering information about issues and options in a balanced manner so that all women, regardless of their point of view, are able to trust that the Association is an organization that supports women. The Board of Directors for the Association is a working group committed to the ideal of consensus in decision making; the consensus of the collection of women's voices among us. There is active encouragement for all women to feel free to develop, and to voice, their own point of view. There is a lateral structure within the Board of Directors, and the Board encourages participation and input regarding decisions from the membership at all times.

Board Members

Emmy Alcorn
Sarah avMatt
Nadine Boudreau
Janette Fecteau
Catherine Gascon
Olga Gladkikh
May Goring
Shella Grant
Oona Landry
Sylvia Parriis
Theresa MacNeill
Lorraine Reddick
Brenda Silver
Judy Donovan Whitty
Katherine Winlo

ATTENTION:

"Women and Aids Information Meeting"
will be held at the Center on June 6th
at 12 noon. Corrine Popvich from the
Provincial Aids Network will be speaking
on Women and Aids.

Annual General Meeting

Date: June 22, 1995
Time: 7 to 9 PM
Place: CACL

THE ANTIGONISH WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE
219, MAIN ST., (KIRK BLDG.), SUITE 204
ANTIGONISH, NS

PRESENTS

FRIDAY BROWN BAG LUNCHESES

MAY, 1995

MAY 5	BETTY-ANNE FRASER, (PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE) BREAST SELF-EXAMINATION: AN INFORMATION SESSION
MAY 12	SUSAN JEWKES, (ADOLESCENT HEALTH PROJECT) "PARENTING A TEENAGER: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES"
MAY 19	DROP-IN: BRING YOUR LUNCH, CHAT WITH FRIENDS
MAY 26	HEATHER CARSON, (L'ARCHE) "CREATING HOME FOR THE DEVELOPMENTALLY CHALLENGED"