Celebrating the Fifth Anniversary of the 2000 World March of Women

Plans are under way for a celebration of the fifth anniversary of the World March of Women 2000 in Antigonish. Events are scheduled for Sunday and Monday, October 16th and17th. Event organizers are planning an evening of celebration and information-sharing for residents of the Antigonish area on Sunday, October 16th from 6 to 8 pm, and on Monday, October 17th, participants will gather in front of the Antigonish Town Hall once again at 12:15 as we did for 33 consecutive weeks in 2000. Similar events will take place in a rolling fashion all over the world on Monday as the clock strikes twelve in each time zone.

The Global Women's Charter for Humanity

A focus of this celebration will be the Global Women's Charter for Humanity. Since the 2000 World March of Women, an international group of women have developed a Women's Global Charter for Humanity. This represents a vision of the kind of world that could be shared by all of humanity if, as is written in the preamble to the Charter, we build

> ... a world where diversity is considered an asset and individuality a source of richness; where dialogue flourishes and where writing, song and dreams can flower. In this world, human beings are considered one of the most precious sources of wealth. Equality, freedom, solidarity, justice, and peace are its driving forces. We have the power to create this world.

The Charter will be featured throughout the two events. On Sunday evening, the Harbour Players, a local theatre troup will present the Charter as a choral piece. On Monday, the five values advanced by the Charter -- equality, justice, peace, solidarity, and freedom -- will be embraced by five different groups of participants who will converge on the Town Hall from five different starting points. Each group will have a colour linked to the value they are representing: blue for equality; yellow for justice; white for peace; red for solidarity; and green for freedom. These colours will symbolize the five values in many different forms throughout the events.

The 2000 World March of Women in Antigonish

In 2000, from March 8, International Women's Day, to October 17, the United Nations Day for the Eradication of Poverty, groups of people concerned about poverty and violence against women gathered in front of the Antigonish Town Hall each Wednesday at lunch hour. Local unions, faith groups, community organizations, and institutions took turns "godmothering" each event. The godmothering group would make a presentation on a topic of their choosing that relates to the concerns of the overall campaign. Following the presentation, there would be singing, announcements, networking, and discussion. A large march down Main Street and a celebratory meal at St. John's Anglican Church capped off the 33 weeks of solidarity and awareness-raising.

The Antigonish Casket featured a weekly article outlining the details of each event, including who the godmothering group had been and what issues they had raised. A scrap book which chronicles the entire campaign is on hand at the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre along with a video featuring World March activities of women from selected countries all over the world. This film will be part of the St. Francis Xavier Women's Studies program's annual Women's Film Festival, scheduled for late October.

To contact the organizing committee for more information call the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre at 863-6221. Union locals, churches, organizations, and clubs are encouraged to join in. Please call the organizers if you would to support this event with a donation and/or have your group formally included.