

GOOD MORNING -

WE FRAGMENT AND FREEZE THAT WHICH SHOULD BE MOVING AND DYNAMIC; WE COMPETE WHEN WE SHOULD CO-OPERATE. A COMMUNITY WITHOUT CONFIDENCE, COMPETENCE, AND COMMUNITY COOPERATION ONLY PERPETRATES CYCLES OF ANGER.

LET ME QUOTE FROM 'WOMEN A WORLD REPORT'.

"DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN IS A PROFOUND AND SUBTLE SICKNESS THAT HAS LODGED ITSELF DEEP IN THE SUB CONSCIOUS OF BOTH MEN AND WOMEN AS WELL AS IN THE STRUCTURE OF OUR SOCIETIES. THIS MAKES IT ONE OF THE HARDEST SOURCES OF INEQUALITY TO FIGHT, BECAUSE IT GRIPS WOMEN FROM WITHIN AND WITHOUT. WOMEN'S ANALYSIS OF THEIR COURAGE, BOTH TO WRESTLE WITH THEIR OWN INTERNALIZED VIEW OF THEMSELVES AS WEAK AND POWERLESS AND TO BEGIN STANDING UP FOR THEIR RIGHTS - OFTEN AGAINST MEN

THAT THEY LOVE - HAS COST THEM (US) DEARLY - AT BEST
CONFUSION AND HEARTACHE; AT WORST ISOLATION. BUT
(NEVER THE LESS) IT HAS PUT WOMEN'S CONCERNS AND
IN EQUALITY SQUARELY BEFORE THE WORLD AND THIS
CONFERENCE."

YOU HAVE HEARD MARY WOO SIM'S MESSAGE ABOUT
UNDERSTANDING AND TOLERANCE. ^{see notes}
↑ — MARGARET
FULTON'S THOUGHTS ABOUT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
REFLECTING THE TRADITIONAL SYSTEMS AND
STRUCTURE OF SOCIETY. THE NEED TO CHANGE THESE
SYSTEMS FOR THE BENEFIT OF WOMEN IN SOCIETY ^{see notes}

YOU AND I HAVE ATTENDED VARIOUS WORKSHOPS AND
LISTENED TO THE "VOICES OF EXPERIENCE" AND MANY OF
US ATTENDED THE BARNSTORMING SESSION ABOUT
PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN OUR
COMMUNITIES. I EXPECT YOU ARE FULL OF IDEAS AND
INFORMATION AND YOUR THOUGHTS ARE WHIRLING AT
HIGHSPEED.

I WILL SLOW YOU DOWN

I WAS ASKED TO SHARE SOME OF MY EXPERIENCES WITH YOU THIS MORNING AND I HAVE CONSIDERABLE RETICENCE ABOUT THIS TOPIC - JUST AS ALL WOMEN DO - FOR WE HAVE BEEN TAUGHT FOR CENTURIES NOT TO TALK ABOUT OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS. I WILL TRY TO OVERCOME MY APPREHENSION IN THE NEXT 30 OR SO MINUTES.

SOME THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT ME - MY MOTTO HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO ACT AS IF WHAT I DO MAKES A DIFFERENCE WITH THE FIRM BELIEF THAT A MINORITY OF INDIVIDUALS WOULD SOME DAY BE YEAST ENOUGH TO LEAVEN A WHOLE SOCIETY.

I KNOW THAT I DO NOT HAVE ALL THE TRUTH ONLY A SMALL PIECE OF IT AND AS WELL THAT WE ALL FILTER REALITY TO SUIT OUR OWN LEVEL OF COURAGE.

ENOUGH SAID - WHO, WHAT HAS FORMED MY LEVEL OF COURAGE AND CONTRIBUTED TO MY GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.

WHEN DID I KNOW THAT THE WORLD WAS DIFFERENT FOR WOMEN AND MEN? IN MY FAMILY I HAD TWO BROTHERS OLDER AND TWO YOUNGER AND BUT ONE SISTER. THE IMPORTANCE OF MY BROTHERS WAS GREATLY VALUED BY MY FATHER AND MOTHER. HOW WELL I REMEMBER, THE DAY I INFORMED MY FAMILY THAT I WAS GOING TO UNIVERSITY - MY BROTHERS SCOFFED, MY FATHER SAID "BUT WOMEN ONLY MARRY AND HAVE CHILDREN". MY MOTHER GAVE ME SUPPORT. WHY? SHE AND HER MOTHER BEFORE HER HAD BOTH BEEN TEACHERS AND LEARNING WAS VALUED IN OUR FAMILY.

OFF TO UNIVERSITY AT AGE 16 - I ENROLLED IN HONOURS SCIENCE . (2 WOMEN GRADUATED - ONE WAS ME) HOW WAS I ACCEPTED - NOT AT ALL. I WAS CONSIDERED AN INTRUDER FOR AWHILE / THEN AS SOMEONE WHO COULD

HELP WITH LABS AND REPORTS, A "VALUED ADDED PERSON"! PRESENTLY THERE IS A STRONG PROGRAM TO RECRUIT WOMEN FOR THE STUDY OF SCIENCE. PROGRESS!!! THIS UNIVERSITY HAD VARSITY SPORTS - I PLAYED BASKETBALL. IN THOSE DAYS THERE WAS VERY LITTLE MONEY FOR WOMEN'S TEAMS - SO WHO JOINED THE STUDENT COUNCIL TO SECURE FUNDING - YOU GUESSED IT. THEN I DECIDED TO MANAGE THE TEAM AS WELL AS PLAY IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THE FUNDING CONTINUED. - AN ACTIVIST FROM THE CRADLE!

UPON COMPLETING UNIVERSITY I WAS HIRED BY THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL - OCEANOGRAPHIC DIVISION TO WORK AT ST. ANDREW BIOLOGICAL STATION.

WHAT DID I DO?

I WAS RESEARCH OFFICER (AGE 20) ON A BOAT WITH AN ALL MALE CREW. WE SAMPLED WATER IN THE BAY OF FUNDY FOR TEMPERATURE AND SALINITY. MANAGED WELL - GAINED RESPECT OF CAPTAIN AND CREW.

EARLY THAT SAME YEAR, I WAS APPROACHED BY SOME HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS AND ASKED IF I WOULD TEACH THEM TO PLAY BASKETBALL - ONE LARGE PROBLEM, THEIR GYM "THE LADY DUNN MEMORIAL BLDG." HAD A LEAKY ROOF - THE FLOOR WAS BUCKLED - WHAT TO DO? WROTE LADY DUNN - THE ROOF WAS REPAIRED AND WE WENT THAT FIRST YEAR TO THE PROVINCIAL TOURNAMENT AND WON THE SECOND SECTION OF THE TOURNAMENT. LATER ONE OF THOSE YOUNG WOMEN PLAYED BASKETBALL ON A TEAM REPRESENTING CANADA.

LESSON 9 OR 10

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE - PROBLEMS ARE CHALLENGES
OR BETTER OPPORTUNITIES.



AS I SAID EARLIER - OUR FAMILY MOVED TO CASTLEGAR
IN 1970 - WHEN ^{re}~~HE~~ DID I FIND THE COURAGE TO STAND FOR
THE LOCAL COUNCIL. IN THE SPRING OF 1971 I WAS HIRED
AS CASTLEGAR LIBRARIAN. THE COUNCIL OF THE DAY
WOULD NOT ADEQUATELY FUND THE LIBRARY - AN
IMPORTANT AND VITAL SERVICE TO MANY PEOPLE.

SO! GO WHERE THE DECISIONS ARE MADE! AND I WENT
WITHOUT AN ORGANIZATION OF ANY KIND; WITHOUT A
NETWORK OR A SUPPORT SYSTEM, WITHOUT A MENTOR
OF ANY KIND; AND I REFUSED TO JOIN A SLATE AND RAN
INDEPENDENTLY! SPENT ABOUT \$100 ON ADVERTISING;
ESPOUSED AND SUPPORTED THE TWO CONTENTIOUS
ISSUES OF THE DAY - AMALGAMATION AND A SEWER
SYSTEM AND LO! I WAS ELECTED IN 1973 TO AN ALL MALE
COUNCIL.

YES I WAS SHUNNED; PATRONIZED; GIVEN IMPOSSIBLE
TASKS; MY IDEAS WERE NO GOOD UNTIL RECYCLED A
WEEK LATER BY ONE OF MY MALE PEERS. NEVER-THE-

LESS I WAS NOT DAUNTED - MANAGED THE IMPOSSIBLE -
GAINED THE RESPECT OF MY FELLOW COUNCILLORS -
FOUND A MENTOR IN THE MAYOR - *- Alder thing -* MAYOR MOSBY. IN
1977 RAN AGAINST 4 MEN FOR POSITION OF MAYOR -
SUCCEEDED, AND AS MANY OF YOU KNOW FOR 17 YEARS
HELPED THE PEOPLE OF THIS CITY GOVERN THEIR
MUNICIPALITY AND REGIONAL DISTRICT. IN TOTAL I
SERVED 20 YEARS IN ELECTED OFFICE. THERE WAS ONE
WOMAN (ME) ON COUNCIL IN 1973 AND AS MANY AS 4 OUT
OF 7 DURING THOSE YEARS - NOW 25 YEARS LATER
THERE IS BUT ONE WOMAN ON COUNCIL. WHY??! THAT 20
YEARS IN ELECTED OFFICE GAVE ME MANY, MANY
OPPORTUNITIES TO FILL INTERESTING POSITIONS IN BOTH
BC AND CANADA.

PRESIDENT OF UNION OF BC MUNICIPALITIES IN 1984 -85
- ONLY THE SECOND WOMAN IN THE 75 YEAR HISTORY OF
THE ORGANIZATION TO HOLD THIS PRESIDENCY - I
REMEMBER, WHEN I WAS TO MOVE UP TO TABLE OFFICER
- BEING ASKED TO MOVE ASIDE. I REPLIED NO THAT I HAD

EARNED THE POSITION. I BELIEVE THAT I HELPED MOLD THE UBCM TO ITS PRESENT POSITION OF PROMINENCE IN BC.

IN 1993, HAVING SERVED FOR 10 YEARS ON THE FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES, I WAS FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT - IN COMING PRESIDENT, ACTUALLY - DURING THAT 10 YEARS I DEVELOPED A WIDE NETWORK OF FRIENDS ACROSS CANADA, THIS NETWORK IS IMPORTANT TO ME TODAY IN MY WORK AT SELKIRK COLLEGE AND ELSE WHERE.

MY YEARS ON COUNCIL PRESENTED SOME INTERESTING CHALLENGES AND MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH AND INVOLVEMENT.

1. VICE-CHAIR OF PROVINCIAL LIBRARY TASK FORCE
2. MEMBER OF BC POLICE COMMISSION
3. CHAIRED A TASK FORCE ON AGRICULTURAL LAND INTERFACE WITH RESIDENTIAL AREAS
4. MEMBER OF UBCM - WORKING COMMITTEE ON

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION - WHEN THAT
LEGISLATION WAS INTRODUCED IN BC.

IN 1991, 92, 93, I WAS PART OF THE WORKING GROUP, THE
FOUNDING GROUP OF THE COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST AND
POWER CORPORATION. INDEED IN 1993 AT THE FIRST
SYMPOSIUM, WHICH I HELPED ORGANIZE IN CASTLEGAR,
I MADE THE OPENING SPEECH, THAT CHALLENGED THE
GOVERNMENT OF DAY TO COME UP WITH JUST SUCH AN
ORGANIZATION TO BEGIN RIGHTING THE WRONGS AND
INJUSTICES OF THE PAST.

LESSON LEARNED FROM ELECTED OFFICE:

- TAKE YOUR COURAGE
- TAKE YOUR TALENTS
- TAKE YOUR COMPETENCE
- TAKE YOUR CONFIDENCE AND YOUR WILL TO
MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND JOIN BOARDS IN
YOUR COMMUNITY; STAND FOR COUNCIL OR
MLA OR MP AND I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT:

1. YOU WILL HAVE A WIDE RANGE OF EXPERIENCE.
2. YOU WILL ESTABLISH A VAST NETWORK OF CONTACTS.
3. YOU WILL ACQUIRE THE ABILITY TO MANAGE YOURSELF AND HELP OTHERS.
4. YOU WILL BE IN A POSITION TO MENTOR OTHER WOMEN EFFECTIVELY.
5. YOU WILL IMPROVE THE DECISIONS OF THE GROUPS THAT YOU JOIN.

FOR I BELIEVE TO FACILITATE CHANGE YOU MUST PARTICIPATE IN THE MAJOR DECISION MAKING BODIES OF SOCIETY, IN ORDER TO HELP RESTRUCTURE OUR INSTITUTIONS ON THE BASIS OF REAL EQUALITY - HELP RESOLVE CONCRETE, PRACTICAL EVERYDAY PROBLEMS OF LIVING, WORKING AND LOVING AS EQUAL PERSON'S. THIS IS THE PERSONAL AND POLITICAL BUSINESS OF THE DAY FOR ALL OF US. THIS WILL CERTAINLY HELP REDUCE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN - ONLY THE

POWERLESS ARE VIOLATED?

TO DO THIS YOU WILL NEED HELP:

1. MENTORSHIP IS VERY IMPORTANT
2. WOMEN WHO ARE PART OF ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD ACTIVELY HELP AND ENCOURAGE OTHER WOMEN TO JOIN.
3. CONVENE A ROUND TABLE OF ADVISORS AND TOUCH BASE FREQUENTLY.
4. WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION SHOULD ESTABLISH A FILE OF WOMEN ABLE AND WILLING TO SERVE ON COMMUNITY PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL BOARDS/COMMISSIONS.
5. COMPILE A LIST OF THESE LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS THAT CAN BE SHARED WITH INTERESTED WOMEN.
6. SUPPORT WOMEN WITH THE COURAGE TO SEEK ELECTED OFFICE.

IF WE DO ALL OF THIS I AM FULL OF OPTIMISM FOR AN EXPANDED ROLE FOR WOMEN IN OUR WORLD. LET ME SHARE SOME EXCERPTS FROM "TREND LETTER OF MARCH 5, 1998 - THE FEMININE INSTINCT FOR LEADERSHIP GENDER BARRIERS CRUMBLE, AS ECONOMY AND ATTITUDES SHIFT.

READ

WHAT AN OPPORTUNITY LIES BEFORE US ALL.
AS YOU CAN GATHER FROM MY ENTHUSIASM, I TRULY ENJOYED DOING SOME RESEARCH FOR THIS PRESENTATION - FOR IF WE ARE TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES FACING WOMEN TODAY - IMPORTANT ONES SUCH AS POVERTY AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN. IT PLEASES ME TO SAY THAT WOMEN HAVE SLIPPED INTO THE MAINSTREAM OF SOCIETY - OUR CONCERNS ARE NO LONGER COMPLETELY OURS BUT PART OF THE VAST FLOWING RIVER OF PUBLIC ISSUES OPEN FOR DEBATE BY MEN AND WOMEN.

The sky is the limit Van Sen.
My mother told me "you could anything" ¹⁷
FUTURE if you set your mind
to the task

AS FOR THE CHALLENGE - NELLIE MCCLUNG ISSUED THE
CHALLENGE TO US ALL IN 1917.

"THE COUNTRY IS YOURS LADIES, POLITICS IS
SIMPLY PUBLIC AFFAIRS, YOURS AND MINE. THE
GOVERNMENT HAS ENFRANCHISED YOU, BUT IT
CANNOT EMANCIPATE YOU. THAT IS DONE BY YOUR
OWN PROCESS OF THOUGHT".

REFERENCES

*I have some copies
of the article from
the Trend letter
a list of articles
many available at s/c library
- a check list for practical
action!*

1. TREND LETTER MARCH 5/98
- ✓ 2. SKY IS THE LIMIT - VANCOUVER PROVINCE
APRIL 16/98
3. CASTLEGAR SUN APRIL 22/98
BC IS DANGEROUS FOR WOMEN
4. SEXUAL HARASSMENT AT WORK PREVALENT IN BC
VANCOUVER SUN MAY 4
5. GLOBE & MAIL MAY 13/98
"CANADIANS" GOT POORER IN THE 90'S