

WEST KOOTENAY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION LAUNCHES IMAGES
HISTORICAL DVD ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

For Immediate Release

February 18, 2009

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The West Kootenay Women's Association and the Nelson Women's Centre will host 2nd Wave Feminism Meets the Future – Launching *IMAGES*, A DVD of Perspectives from Rural BC Women on International Women's Day, Sunday, March 8, at Touchstones Museum of Art and History, 502 Vernon Street in Nelson at 4:30 p.m.

IMAGES - Kootenay Women's Newspaper, published in Castlegar and Nelson from 1973 to 1991 and distributed across Canada, offered the voice of rural feminism on issues ranging from birth control, machinery and politics to aging, work, the media, women's music and entertainment.

In *IMAGES* pages violence against women, the economics of being female, mental health, sexuality, rural living and the arts were all fodder for feminist thinkers and activists in the West Kootenay and beyond. Over 170 women worked on the newspaper as collective members and contributors to produce a thoughtful, sometimes funny, sometimes tragic, always activist and often artistic feminist newspaper. Some men also contributed.

Dr. Marcia Braundy, founder and editor of *IMAGES* and a subsequent Collective member, is the recipient of a BC 150 Heritage Legacy Fund grant, with the support of WKWA, to scan the yellowing copies of *IMAGES* and produce a DVD which will hold

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all 19 years of the newspaper, readable and searchable with graphics intact.

“A look through past issues of *IMAGES* illustrates that many of the feminist concerns of today have been given a lot of thought in the past,” Braundy says. “The articles in *IMAGES* are written by women who continue to live by their feminist principles, and show the breadth and depth of the early years of 2nd Wave Feminism in Canada right up to the present.”

1st Wave Feminism, she explains, refers to the time of struggle for suffrage and women's right to vote in the late 19th and early 20th century. 2nd Wave Feminism in Canada dates from 1967, and the women who struggled to get government to institute the 1970 Royal Commission on the Status of Women.

Braundy likes to send her emails with a quote Mable D. Nipshank, a Metis woman and Counselling Coordinator for Battered Women's Support Services in Vancouver: “Feminism is to strive towards eliminating all forms of oppressions and inequalities. Feminism means I am neither above you nor below you, but that I struggle and triumph along side you.”

During the March 8th DVD launch, some of the *IMAGES* stories will be interwoven with reflections on their relevance today. After Braundy's presentation,

representatives of local groups will speak on issues that affect women's lives in the Kootenays and around the world. The groups include the Advocacy Centre, Grans to Grans, , and the Pura Vida Foundation..

Music and laughter will be provided by the Raging Grannies and members of the Images Ad Hoc Singers. Refreshments will be available, and the event is free to the public.

Orders for the final *IMAGES* DVD will be taken at the event, due out at the end of March. We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through BC 150, a Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts initiative and the Heritage Legacy Fund of B.C.