

Nelson Women's Centre News

The Nelson Women's Centre has received a Secretary of State Grant which will enable us to operate for the next 6 months.

Please look for the women's films, books, and the Women's Centre books at Multifusion.

Check with us if you're interested in consciousness-raising groups--Thurs. & Sat. nights in Nelson.

Camille Bush is working with us now on health and childbirth education concerns. There are Saturday childbirth education classes here at the centre,

We now have a phone: 352-9916

Phone or step in !!



REPORT - TRAIL STATUS OF WOMEN

At the regular monthly meeting of the Trail Status of Women (now first Monday each month, visitors and newcomers welcome), three main topics were discussed:

1. BC Women's Studies Conference

Diane Edmondson reported on this conference, held in Vancouver in January - the following topics were studied:

- developing a core content for women's studies programs
- evaluating and establishing qualifications for instructors
- developing higher level courses at the undergraduate level
- extending women's studies programs to the graduate level
- possibility of doing feminist studies for advanced degrees in existing disciplines
- the possibility of a two-year diploma at community colleges
- problems of transfer credit
- credit versus credit free courses.

If you wish to obtain further information about this conference, Diane Edmondson and Virginia Clover attended from Trail and Margaret Ostrowsky attended from Castlegar (representing NDU).

2. Task Force on Police and Women

Arlene Burwash talked about her meeting in Vancouver with the BC Police Commission's Task Force on Police and Women. The main thrust of the Task Force at this time is in the area of women as police officers. There was a great deal of discussion regarding equalization of opportunity and changing ingrained chauvinistic attitudes. Apparently women who are training for police work now are doing especially well - for the most part graduating in the top 15% of their classes (includes those training for RCMP). Women who have now been released into policing areas traditionally handled solely by men are also doing excellent jobs and are certainly helping to turn about some prevailing attitudes. One of the members of the Task Force reported on a study of Vancouver Police Department records regarding rape (victims and offenders). Her report was extremely interesting but the study is still in its early stages. A woman in Toronto is doing a similar study and in February she will be in Vancouver with a view to coordinating the results of both studies in order to get a national perspective. Burwash pointed out to the Task Force that this may indeed give us a comprehensive picture of middle and western urban Canada, but not a truly 'national' picture. She asked if the RCMP files could not also be included in such a study, being representative of rural, northern and maritime Canada.

Joanne Prindiville, who is heading up the research for the Task Force, reported on the findings of the Elizabeth Fry Society (studying women as offenders - incarcerated) and it was agreed that there was not enough depth to this study and, though interesting, it was not plausible.

Dr. J. Hogarth, BC Police Commissioner, attended the meeting and was quite impressive. He certainly seems sympathetic to the problems of women in the areas under study and says the changes that the Task Force deems necessary will not be taken lightly. Dr. Hogarth appears to mean what he says.

The next meeting of the Task Force will be at the end of February and the women members have decided to meet in the morning before the full meeting in order to 'get their heads together' and present a united and vocal front. Too many things slipped past at the last meeting simply because there was no assurance that support would be forthcoming. It was it turned out and this pre-meeting meeting is a positive step.

In summary, in this area at least in the way of equal opportunity, things look a little brighter for women.

3. IWY PROJECT

The third item discussed by the group was their planned event for IWY. They are hoping - and it is tentative - to have a one-day conference for senior secondary students in District 11. The plan at the moment is to follow along the lines of the Conferences already held by the Status of Women at Selkirk, but it is our intention to approach the students with a monstrous questionnaire and determine their wishes first. What they want, we will attempt to deliver. This is really an exciting project and once the foundation is laid - school board in hand, students consulted, and so on, we hope to involve as many groups in the District 11 area as we possibly can. Can't say too much about the project right now but we'll keep you informed.

Workers, Artists, & Contributors for this issue: Cally, Bubbles, Marcia, Laura, Diane Luthmers, Camille, Diana Bissel, Margaret, & Diane Crawford.

Cover: Janette Jacobson
Centrefold: Jackie Nedelec

We would like to hear from our readers. If you feel good about the paper, or take exception to some things in it, drop us a note and let us know. Also, we would love to have articles on anything you think might be pertinent.