

*read at the
dedication of the
Women's Centre House in
Nelson B.C.*

March 8, 1995

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to have this opportunity today to be part of the dedication of the new Women's Centre home. Although it was not possible for me to attend, I am here in spirit and in celebration of the work, dedication and commitment of many women. For me, the idea of a women's centre began in 1972, while working on a government-sponsored grant, a Local Initiatives Project, to explore the needs of women in the area. Out of that project, there developed weekly women's meetings focusing on various issues and in particular on women's health issues. In 1973 I applied for funding from the Secretary of State and was given a small grant to open a women's drop-in centre. The first Center was in the building at Baker and Ward Street above what was then, Mann's Drugstore. It was a small sunny room overlooking Baker Street and many women and children passed through those doors seeking information or help. I have many vivid and fond memories of working there as the first coordinator. It's hard to believe that 22 years have passed by. My memories are full of the friendships kindled there, of the personal and political struggles engaged in, and of all the creative and dedicated women who worked there. I am proud to have been a founding mother and, like any mother would be, I am proud that after 22 years of growth and steadfast commitment on behalf of the women's community that the Nelson Women's Centre has found its home. I congratulate all the women who have worked so hard to achieve this and I am honoured to have played my part in this, our herstory.

In celebration and sisterhood,

Nita Storey