

The Nelson & District Women's Centre has operated in Nelson since 1972. Our purpose is to improve the status of women through education, skills sharing and lobbying on a local and national level.

The Women's Centre is a project of the West Kootenay Women's Association, a non-profit society. All women are welcome to use our services.

*Drop-in*  
*Resource files and library*  
*Information & referral*  
*Educational events*  
*Support groups*  
*Volunteer training*  
*Special events*

**Nelson & District Women's Centre**  
507 Hall Street  
Nelson, B.C. V1L 1Z1  
352-9916

**Hours:** Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday • noon - 4pm  
Thursday • noon - 8pm

*Funding for the Women's Centre is provided by the Secretary of State, Women's Programs; B.C. Ministry of Women's Equality; and donations.*

*May 1992*

Wishing  
you a ...



**Happy  
Mother's  
Day!**

*from the*  
**Nelson & District Women's Centre**  
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## ***Every mother is a working mother!***

**O**ne day a year we are urged to honour mothers by purchasing a card or a gift, or by taking Mom out to dinner to say thanks. The Women's Centre would like to encourage a different type of recognition, one that appreciates and supports the work, skills and talents required to raise a family, as well as the delights of the work.

Mothering, raising children and taking care of a household is demanding, skilled work which often doesn't get the recognition it deserves. Let's be supportive of this work all year, whether by holding doors open for strollers or taking the kids to the park for a couple of hours.

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**I** am commonly classified as a woman who doesn't work. I am the mother of two young children. My experience as the full-time care giver of my children is that my work never ends, is multi-faceted, and, more often than not, overwhelming. I live every day with a degree of exhaustion I would not have previously believed possible to survive. Absolutely nothing is straightforward or easy when it is done in and around the demands and work created by small children. And I know the needs of children only change with time: they don't decrease.

Every so often I am roused out of the stupor imposed on mothers by children and society. Panic runs through me as I realize I have no opportunity for sick leave, much less maternity leave, and no pension whatsoever. It is small consolation that my job security lies in the fact that few people want to take my job and that my children will no doubt reside with me for eighteen years or so.

I love my children profoundly and I am lucky enough to be able to choose to stay with them. I put a great deal of thought and effort into my parenting, hoping to guide my children to become responsible, caring, informed adults. I'm trying to help create a better world by teaching my children to care for it. My job as a parent is important and I take it very seriously. So please do more than pay lip service to mothers. Talk to us, help us, learn from and about us.

And have a good Mother's Day!! — Abra Brynne

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**M**any women carry a double load: they also work outside the home. A 1988 study found that well over half of mothers of young children in Canada are in the paid labour force.

Women do the lowest-paid jobs and have fewer opportunities for advancement. Job "ghettos" like secretarial, sales and service occupations contribute to women in Canada making only 62¢ for every dollar a man makes.

Things are changing. Women are organizing for pay equity in contract negotiations and labour legislation, to increase women's salaries to equal those of men in similar occupations. More women are entering training for trades and technology. Employment equity programmes help to open jobs and fields previously available only to men, creating opportunities for women's advancement. Educators are becoming more aware of the need to encourage young women to consider courses and careers in a wide range of occupations and to remove barriers that presently exist.

But whether or not women are mothers, whether their work is the unpaid work of labour in the home and/or the work and struggles in the paid labour force, all of it contributes to the economy and well-being of our society. If you are interested in more information about women and work, drop by the Women's Centre to check out our library and resource files.