


# Tamarack

The Newsletter of the Terrace Women's Centre

February, 1997

## Work, employment et al

how to be a fabulous feminist



fight sexism do it now say yes to female to justice  
to freedom love yourself love other women say  
no! get angry get active don't agonize-organize  
fight racism classism ageism homophobia sizism  
and ableism lower pain and isolation raise  
consciousness raise self-esteem think globally act  
locally avoid burnout be woman identified create  
safety take risks take your power back do it now  
live equality thank yourself celebrate women  
survivors invent new herstory shatter myths  
pioneer trailblaze discover she her we I woman  
honor lesbians say yes to power love your body  
decorate yourself anyway you like have happy sex  
visualize perfect birth control keep abortion safe  
legal and accessible help a mother today make  
every child a funded child praise rebel spinsters  
do it now be a women's movement vote march  
girlcott lobby write letters elect progressive  
women stop the violence against women demand  
economic justice for all say yes to more money  
fun-raise raise hell do it now cherish your mother  
earth be anti-war liberate the oppression thing  
humanarchy make peace with men be a mover and  
a shaker support bad girls join a feminist political  
organization volunteer give love give money get  
powerful get respect heal yourself heal the world  
collect fabulous memories do it to win!!

### Tamarack

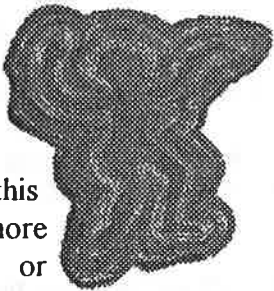
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of the Terrace Women's Resource Centre Society*

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## Conference Alert!

Speaking of fabulous feminists - it's beginning to look a lot like a Conference. A good one! Some terrific women are making it so. March 8 - International Women's Day will see a one day conference happening. And a happening it will be. From the onset with the opening address by Joan Grant-Cummings, the President of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women through the workshops and the food to the Women's Dance at the end it's shaping up to be one great IWD! There is a conference registration form included with each mailout of this Tamarack - if you need more please drop in to the Centre or phone and give us your registration info.

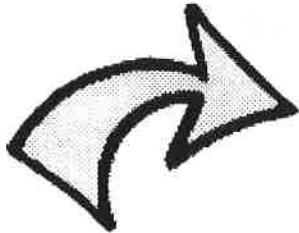


Joan's address will mark the beginning of a ten week awareness project aimed at tackling the institutional racism that exists in our community. An ad-hoc committee of local groups has applied for, and should receive project funds to do not only some awareness on the issue but produce a document employers can use to educate themselves and their employees. The 'Colouring the Lines' Project is an effort in solidarity by the First Nation's Council of Women, Multicultural Association, North West Development Education and the Women's Centre. "Racism. Stop It" is the slogan for this March 21 - the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination -- these fabulous feminists are trying to help people do just that.

### *Quote for the Day:*

Focus on your own damn family!

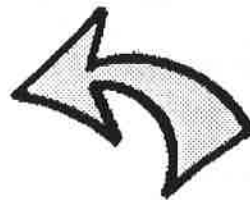
# Carol's Stat Page



## Employment by Occupation in Terrace

OCCUPATION	WOMEN		MEN	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Sales & Service (Skill Level D)	600	20.9%	215	5.8%
Clerical Workers	450	15.7%	125	3.4%
Professionals	440	15.3%	320	8.6%
Administrative and Senior Clerical	365	12.7%	55	1.5%
Sales & Service (Skill Level C)	335	11.7%	355	9.6%
Semi-professionals & Technicians	170	5.9%	215	5.8%
Middle & Other Managers	165	5.7%	370	10.0%
Sales & Service (Skill Level B)	120	4.2%	110	3.0%
Semi-Skilled Manual Workers	115	4.0%	795	21.5%
Other Manual Workers	60	2.1%	415	11.2%
Supervisors-Clerical, Sales & Service	25	0.9%	40	1.1%
Skilled Crafts & Trades	20	0.7%	525	14.2%
Senior Managers	10	0.4%	10	0.3%
Supervisors-Manufacturing, Processing, Trades & Primary Industries	0	0%	155	4.2%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2875</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3705</b>	<b>100%</b>

EMPLOYMENT INCOME	WOMEN		MEN	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
No income	1,210	33.6%	520	14.0%
< \$10,000	680	18.9%	350	9.4%
\$10,000-\$19,999	635	17.6%	465	12.5%
\$20,000-\$29,999	525	14.6%	455	12.2%
\$30,000-\$39,999	330	9.2%	580	15.6%
\$40,000-\$49,999	130	3.6%	600	16.2%
\$50,000 or more	90	2.5%	745	20.1%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3715</b>	<b>100%</b>



## Employment Income in Terrace

Don't just be a number, be a member



Yes, I would like to become/continue as a member. Enclosed is my \$10 membership fee for the Terrace Women's Resource Centre Society.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail or drop off (and stay for a coffee) to  
Terrace Women's Centre

4542 Park Avenue (near the pool) Terrace, B.C. V8G 1V4



# Women in Forestry??

In November's Tamarack I mentioned Zena; she was visiting selected communities, doing some research on why more women weren't employed in the forest industry. Her findings have been published, and I received a copy - very interesting read. The following is a comic book version of that document - stop in if you'd like to see the whole thing.

The labour force in BC grew by about one-third from 1981 to 1991, from about 1.3 million to nearly 1.75 million people, increasing the number of women in the labour force that period increased by about 5%.

In 1986 454,410 of workers in British Columbia were union members - 33.1% of those were women and only 156 of those women worked in forestry related occupations.

In 1995 545,219 of workers in B.C. were union members - the number of women increased to 41.4% of those but in forestry only 2,088 were women.

In 1986, about 17.5 % of all female forestry workers were labour union members, in 1991 about 15% of all female forestry workers were labour union members.

6.6% of all employment in British Columbia is in forestry related occupations - less than one percent are held by women.

2,580 women are in the labour force in Terrace - about 4% of the total labour force. Forest industry employment accounts for about 22% for the total labour force. Less than one percent of women work in the logging and forest industry in Terrace.

## Why aren't there more women?

Attitudes. Lack of knowledge of what opportunities are available. Lack of training. Lack of opportunities. Lack of supports. Lack of experience.

## What opportunities are there?

Wildlife biologists, geoscientists, soil scientists, environmental scientists, management, administrative, contractors, marketing, communications, accounting, bookkeeping, integrated resource management, consultants, trainers, computer operations, drafting, mapping, geological information systems, forest management measurement, landscape management, silviculture, first aid, recreation, tourism, planning and analysis, timber cruising, road and bridge construction, falling, bucking, skidding, grading, scaling, hauling, etc., etc.



As part of the research in October of 1996 a telephone survey of adult women in the Terrace area was conducted. Interviews were completed with 100 women and included questions on: their relationship to the forest industry, their perception of the economic role of the local forest industry, women's economic role in the community and potential in forestry and some profile questions. The only proviso for being interviewed was that the interviewee must be an adult woman willing to be interviewed.

Pretty grim perceptions for women in forestry.

When asked for their assessment of the economic strength of the local forest industry over the next 5 years, 41% of the respondents felt it would become less strong, 45% said it would remain the same and 14% thought it would strengthen.

When asked to rate the overall employment opportunities for women in their community, 17% rated them very or somewhat poor, 57% felt they were neither good nor poor and 26% thought them to be moderately or very good.

When asked to rate the employment opportunities for women in the *forest industry* in their community, 50% rate them very or somewhat poor, 33% felt they were neither good nor poor and 17% thought them to be moderately or very good.

## What can we do?

Change some attitudes, let women know of the opportunities, make training available and come up with some real jobs!

Maybe it's time we did it ourselves.

That was the consensus of a follow up meeting I went to last week - let's do it. I came away with a very good feeling from that meeting - a very good one!

A few ideas floating around my head right now, from that meeting: Watershed restoration - who better than women to rebuild the valleys that the past years of forest practices have been unkind to? Women like to grow things, nurture things, and if they can earn some money while they're at it, well - sounds good to me. Botanical products - herbal remedies, potpourri, wild flowers, wreaths, pine cones for crafts - that's "women's work", isn't it? If Richter's Herbs of Canada can sell chickweed seeds you'd think we be able to come up with something that people *really* want.

Next step: a training project that leads to real jobs!!! It's worth a shot.

Well worth a shot I think. Needs some fine tuning, and some partners. Seems the partners may be there - another meeting coming up, possibly a letter of intent going out. If you have any ideas, or comments please give me a call - your input would be very much appreciated.

Carol

# Women in Forestry!!!

## Got a little time for some letter writing?

*Some lobbying suggestions:*

### **BILL C 46**

Bill C 46 is the proposed federal legislation that was drafted to protect women's private and personal records from being fully disclosed in sexual assault trials. As you know, women's private and confidential records of health, healing, counseling, education, welfare, rape crisis centres, shelters, women's centres, prison, etc... have been routinely subpoenaed, accessed, disclosed and used against women in these criminal proceedings. In June 1996, after more than 3 years of struggle, resistance and consultation by women in Canada, Minister of Justice Allan Rock tabled the Bill, to much fanfare and good press. And then nothing happened! If it is not passed in this session, it will have to start all over again with the next government. It is quite likely that this Bill - which is fundamentally about women's equality rights - will be sacrificed to the coming federal election campaign. The Minister of Justice and his staff are still committed to the Bill, but pressure needs to be put on other Cabinet Ministers and MP's. Women's rights, as always, have gotten lost somewhere between gun control and air buses.

A renegade Liberal senator who says the government's child support bill is unfair to men could delay or even kill this proposed legislation that women's groups have spent years fighting to obtain.

Senator Anne Cools has developed a reputation as an anti-feminist maverick and has formed an alliance with Progressive Conservative Senators. Even if the committee co-operates with the government and reports the bill to the Senate, federal officials say it is "touch and go" whether it will pass. Ms. Cools is key because the Liberals have a majority of only one in the Senate, and a tie vote means that a motion is defeated. Even if she abstains, it could mean trouble for the government.

"I hope I don't have to do it," Ms. Cools said about the possibility she could vote against the government. She said she opposes the bill because "it has a bias against men. It degrades fatherhood." She said it has been "open season" on men for too long.

It is important to register your support for this Bill. Fax the Chairperson of the Senate Social Affairs Committee, Mabel Deware or Senator Joyce Fairbairn. Another avenue, and quite possibly the only one that will work - urge Tory leader Jean Charest to call off his Tory Senators. His phone number is 613-943-1106; fax 613-995-0364.

### **In Support of Medical Abortions**

The BC Coalition of Abortion Clinics is asking friends and supporters to write letters to Federal Health Minister David Dingwall and Provincial Health Minister Joy McPhail, asking them to speed the approval of RU-486 in Canada and BC.

The Honourable David Dingwall  
Federal Minister of Health  
#325 E Block, House of Commons  
Ottawa, ONT K1A 0A6

Joy McPhail, Minister of Health  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, B.C.  
V8V 1X4

### **Just Maybe**

There's a rumour that the Liberals, in their wisdom, are planning on replacing operational funding for women's centres (that'll be us) with specific individual project funding. We already spend a good portion of time justifying our existence, project funding will mean yet more administrative attention. We'll know for sure next week when the 97/8 budget is presented and are asking you now to keep your ears open. If it should be true, perhaps we should pay heed to Dr. Hedy Fry's words when she met with us — "best course is to keep lobbying".

### **And then there's us...**

Write *us* a letter, an article, a poem — we'll be happy not only to read it but to publish it right here in Tamarack.



Valentines Day is for friends...

Happy Valentines Day