

# Tamarack

The Newsletter of the Terrace Women's Centre

June 1997

## A Reason to Celebrate...

WHEREAS the Constitution of Canada recognizes the existing rights of the Aboriginal people of Canada:

WHEREAS in the Constitution of Canada "aboriginal peoples of Canada" include the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada;

WHEREAS the Aboriginal peoples of Canada have made and continue to make valuable contributions to Canadian society and it is considered appropriate that there be, in each year, a day to mark and celebrate these contributions and to recognize the different cultures of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada;

AND WHEREAS many Aboriginal peoples celebrate the summer solstice, which has an important symbolism within their cultures;

THEREFORE, His Excellency the Governor General in Council, on the recommendation of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, hereby directs that a proclamation do issue declaring June 21 of each year as "National Aboriginal Day".

OF ALL OF WHICH Our Loving Subjects and all others whom these Presents may concern are hereby required to take notice and to govern themselves accordingly.

IN TESTIMONY  
WHEREOF, We have  
caused these Our Letters to  
be Patent and the Great Seal  
of Canada to be hereunto  
affixed.



This day of celebration is an opportunity for all Canadians to learn more about the Aboriginal cultural heritages of Canada. By sharing knowledge and experience, there will be greater understanding and harmony among all Canadians.

**June 21  
The  
First Day  
of  
Summer**



Summer Solstice, or Midsummer's Day occurs on June 21. It is a celebration of the longest day of the year and the beginning of Summer. It has been a grand tribal gathering time since ancient times. The Goddess manifests as Mother Earth and the God as the Sun King. Colors attributed to this day are Yellow, Green, and Blue. It is a festival of community sharing and planetary service. Make a pledge to Mother Earth of something that you will do to improve the environment.



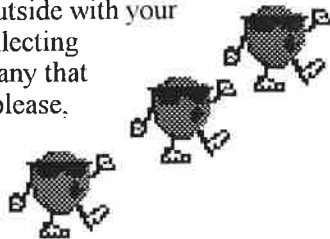
## Election Results Are In

*And the right prevails*

To 'celebrate' the result the Terrace Women's Centre is planning to issue a challenge to other Women's Centres around the province. The challenge: Who has the 'best' MP? We're certain that Reform isn't competitive or petty in just who is the best, but we are.

Talk has us figured we have a pretty good one although sadly, by his omission, he's not a feminist (and fortunately for us he was kind enough to put it in writing - the first item on our list) and we're ready to back that statement up, in a back alley the good old fashioned way if necessary (my MP can beat your MP with one hand tied behind his back!). Local feminist artist Janet Harris has generously donated one of her hand crafted Empowerment Doll to the winning centre (guess she thinks they may need it).

All the rules haven't been laid out yet, but I think Vernon may need a handicap so they don't win hands down (the step outside with your gonads guy). So - we're collecting facts and data. If you have any that could help ensure us a win please, give us a call - we're making a list.



*At the far end of an insignificant little galaxy in an unremarkable corner of our universe, an extremely ordinary little planet revolves around a modest little sun. On this planet, tiny little specks of matter have evolved by either chance or design into self-replicating patterns, multiplied, and become more complex. Somewhere along the line, these tiny collections of atoms picked up the ultimate Gift. The gift is "choice". And once for each revolution of their planet about its sun, some of these patterns remind themselves that they have choice, by making resolutions. They can choose to love or to hate, to work or to play, to eat or to exercise. They can choose. Perhaps today would be a good day to choose wisely. Tomorrow might be good too. In fact, every day is a good day, to use the greatest gift of all.*

## What's Up

June 17 Empowerment Dolls Workshop with Janet Harris.

### June 21/21 First Nations Council of Women 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Summit

Kitsumkalum Community Hall  
Keynote Address by Wendy Grant  
Summary Speaker Shirley Morven

Workshops range in topics from The Matriarchal Kinship System to First Nations History & Identity to Starting a Small Business to Women and Treaties Negotiation.

Thursdays at noon is the Centre operating Collective meetings. Bring your lunch and come and participate in the day to day operations of the Centre.

July and August mean business as usual at the Centre and the Family Place. Staff are staggering holidays so both buildings will have regular hours. Sumer is normally a slower time, so if you've had some idea simmering on the back burner that you'd like to see - come on in, we'll see what we can do.



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 to:  
Terrace Women's Centre  
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