

# A WOMAN'S PLACE

429-4063

NEWSLETTER



Oct. 1980

# Rita MacNeil

## In Concert

Saturday, 18 October,  
8:30 p.m.

Seton Auditorium  
Mount Saint Vincent  
University  
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Tickets: \$4

This concert is presented in conjunction with The Education Connection, a conference sponsored by the Canadian Congress for Learning Opportunities for Women and Mount Saint Vincent University.

# Bill will force firms

# to hire more women

By Nelle Oosterom

Employment Minister Lloyd Axworthy says he will introduce a bill to compel firms with federal contracts to hire more women in trades.

"I believe that it is the responsibility of the government to take a major leadership role in putting an end to discrimination in the workplace," Axworthy said Saturday, noting that attempts to make private firms comply voluntarily have failed.

The legislation will require firms to hire more female tradesmen in order to continue doing business with the federal government.

This came as good news to the 200 delegates present at the First National Conference of Women in Trades, where the announcement was made. The conference was held to discuss ways of increasing employment opportunities for women in traditionally male occupations.

## Program began in 1978

Axworthy's proposal comes two years after the federal government began an affirmative action program aimed at eliminating discriminatory practices against women in its own departments.

The minister told the conference that certain policies, such as height and weight restrictions, screen out women despite the fact that the standards sometimes have no relevance to job performance.

"This is systemic discrimination," said Axworthy. "It is pervasive and must be eradicated from employment practices."

He also said women's aims to end discrimination in the workplace could be thwarted if the provinces get the upper hand in the constitutional debate.

## Ottawa must have tools

"You (Manitoba) have a number of ministers who go into convulsions when you mention affirmative action," he warned. "It is essential for the federal government to have the tools to do what must be done."

He also criticized the news media in English Canada for not taking women's issues seriously enough and said his department is looking into a program to "raise the consciousness of the editors and media moguls across Canada."

The information program would involve meetings with newspaper and broadcasting directors to convince them of the gravity of the issue, he said.

## Subsidies increased

Other steps the federal government is taking include increased federal subsidies for employers of women taking on-the-job training.

"In October, employers across Canada will receive a letter from me offering to pay 75 per cent of the wages of women taking on-the-job training in occupations traditionally reserved for men."

The government currently contributes 40 to 60 per cent.

However, such incentives may have little effect, said Don Pollock, chairman of the Ontario Manpower Commission.

Pollock conducted a conference workshop in which he expressed "embarrassment and disgust with the attitudes of my fellow employers."

"The problem is you can't pay employers enough money," said Pollock, former president of Canada Wire and Cable. "If you give them \$30,000 to train one employee, they'll ask for \$100,000."

"What has to change is the employ-

ers' willingness to train. The government can't do much more."

### Immigrants harder to get

Traditionally, Canadian employers have been reluctant to train both men and women, because it was easier to "steal" skilled immigrants away from Europe, he said. However, it is becoming more difficult to lure these workers to Canada because of increased opportunities in their home countries, he said.

As a result, Canada will face a shortage of up to 50,000 skilled workers by 1986 if women are not soon integrated into the male-dominated work force.

"Canadian companies never look five years down the road and that's the primary reason they don't get into training," Pollock said.

More disturbing is the prospect of a huge loss of jobs in the female-dominated service sector due to the impact of microelectronic technology. This may force women to look for employment in the skilled trades, Pollock said.

from The Winnipeg Free Press

A NATIONAL NEWSLETTER will be the first project of the National Planning Committee for Festival '82: A Celebration of the Arts by, for, and about Women. If you have information about, or are involved in research, events, exhibits, or other activity concerning women in the arts, you can submit the details for inclusion in our first issue which should be off the press by the new year. Areas which will be covered include visual arts, film, video, dance, theatre, performance, literature and music.

Deadline is October 25. Please send information and/or your name and address if you wish to be on our mailing list: c/o Lorraine Chisholm, Mt. St. Vincent University Art Gallery, Bedford Highway, Halifax N.S. B3M 2J6.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Women's groups planning events that they would like to have included in the WOMEN'S EVENTS CALENDAR, please call or write A Woman's Place 1225 Barrington Street, Halifax at 429-4063.

The Calendar Collective plans provincial distribution, so correspondence from areas outside Metro will be welcomed.

FIRST DEADLINE: Oct. 24.

422-8023

### Women's Employment Counselling Service

*Linda Roberts*

*Diann Graham*

AN OUTREACH PROJECT OF CEIC  
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1225 BARRINGTON ST.  
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# from waitressing to welding

A Workshop for Women on how to get into the Trades

BRICKLAYER PLUMBER MECHANIC

CARPENTER ELECTRICIAN

INCLUDING

- \*\* information on non-traditional jobs, apprenticeship training, & trades occupations
- \*\* a panel discussion by women working in trades
- \*\* films
- \*\* pros and cons of working in the trades



For more information call: 423-8023

Free Child Care available: pre-registration requested for child care

Friday, November 7 from 7:30 - 10 pm

Saturday, November 8 from 9 am - 1 pm

at the Unitarian Church, 5500 Inglis St., Halifax

Sponsored by: Women's Employment Counselling Service  
Employment & Immigration Canada

ON STRIKE FOR PAID  
MATERNITY LEAVE  
Canadian Union of Professional  
and Technical Employees

As a member group of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women we are appealing to you for support. Our Union is fighting for paid maternity leave. The Translation Group comprised of Translators, Interpreters and Terminologists working for the Federal Government has a majority of women members.

Two years ago, representations were made to our Bargaining Committee asking that paid maternity leave be a priority demand in the next round of negotiations. As a result, in our current round of negotiations the demand for paid maternity leave is a key issue.

Canada is far behind other countries in providing paid maternity leave. A 1978 study summarized the following facts:

- Sweden has 9 months parental leave at 90% salary; the father and mother can share this.
- Great Britain has 6 weeks maternity leave at 90% salary and 29 weeks without pay.
- France has 14 weeks at 90% salary and parental leave of 2 years without pay.
- Polish strikers recently obtained 1 year at 100% the second year at 50% and the third year at 50%.
- QUEBEC, 200,000 Public Service Workers are covered

by a 20 week paid maternity leave at 93% plus a 7% pension supplement.

We are asking for 17 weeks pay at 100% salary.

After negotiations broke down we appeared before a Conciliation Board which recommended 17 weeks at 100%. The Treasury Board refused and stated at the bargaining table: "The leaders of our Government are not willing to accept paid maternity leave under any conditions. Despite pressure by women's groups all over the country, the Government feels there is no justification for it."

They have adopted this position in spite of the fact that Canada, after consultation with the provinces, signed the Copenhagen Convention on July 17, 1980 agreeing in article II:

"to introduce maternity leave with pay or with comparable benefits without loss of former employment, seniority or social allowances."

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO WIN

1. Your organization could make public statements of support;
2. Your organization could send a letter to Cabinet Ministers and local MPs;
3. Individual members could send letters of support to Cabinet ministers or MPs;
4. You could form a strike support committee in your prov. to encourage letters and public statements of support by other

organizations and you could name a contact person to communicate with us to keep up to date on the developments of the strike;

5, Financial contributions to the strike.

We appreciate any support and we hope to hear from you soon. Our success will be a victory for the entire women's movement.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
CONTACT: Henri Frickx or  
Lynn Kaye at (613) 238-  
7667

#### LETS RECYCLE BABY EQUIPMENT

The SOS Project needs cribs, dressers, and baby equipment for young single parent women living on social assistance in Halifax and Dartmouth. Donations would be greatly appreciated. Small payments may be available for cribs.

Cheerful pickup and delivery.

Call Sandra Hardy or leave a message at - The SOS Project -423-4380.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to give out information on A Woman's Place and sell buttons at Sunnyside Mall, Fri. Oct. 24th  
Contact 443-2819, 429-4063.

Women's events are happening every day and women are finding out about them two days later. The Women's Calendar Collective will be putting out a list of all those meetings, exhibits, lectures, discussions, demonstrations and the Sea Horse Planning Parties

monthly, starting in November. So far, there are four of us; we have room for 20 more. Nobel Prizes in literature are within your grasp if you join now. Free workshops on all aspects of newsletter and calendar production will be given courtesy of our occasional friends at the Secretary of State. Even child care is within our reach. JOIN NOW. A Woman's Place (429-4063) Meetings are Tuesday nights at 7:30 beginning Oct. 14.

THERE WILL BE A YARD SALE SATURDAY NOVEMBER 8, TO RAISE MONEY FOR A NEW TYPEWRITER FOR A WOMAN'S PLACE. ALL CONTRIBUTIONS OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS, CLOTHES, JEWELLERY, BOOKS, PLANTS ETC. WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATED.

GET RID OF THAT UNWANTED WEDDING PRESENT...OR ALMOST  
MOST ANYTHING ELSE. DROP YOUR UNWANTEDS OFF AT A WOMAN'S PLACE...

## WOMEN AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

One hundred women from across the province attending a conference on Women and Occupational Health have called on Nova Scotia's Minister of Health to issue a public statement about the current health hazards at St Rita's Hospital in Cape Breton, and have urged him to undertake an immediate public investigation into the causes of the situation. They have asked the Hon. Gerald Sheehy to issue the report to the legislature and the public, and take the necessary steps to improve the situation there.

The women were attending a conference on Women and Occupational Health, the first of its kind in Nova Scotia. Women fish plant workers, teachers, clerks, librarians and others discussed health issues relating to their work in the day-long conference.

Internationally renowned occupational health expert, Dr. Jeanne Stellman, addressed the conference. Occupational health is one of the most neglected fields of medicine, she said. She noted that women workers have little or no protection, as almost no scientific research has been done on the hazards of many women's jobs. Dr. Stellman is author of Women's Work, Women's Health,

co-author of Work is Dangerous to Your Health, and Executive Director of the Women's Occupational Health Centre at Columbia University.

Others addressing the conference were people working in N.S. in clerical, industrial, professional and food-processing jobs, and a representative from a Newfoundland community committee in support of better health standards.

Mrs. Pat Downey, of the Baie Verte, Nfld. "Women Behind the Miners Committee", was the other guest from outside the province. She described how a group of women in the asbestos-mining town organised and helped force the company, Advocate Mines, to agree to the miners' union's minimum safety standards for the mines. The company had been stalling on health and safety clauses for well over ten months, she said. Organising bake sales, rummage sales, and later a demonstration of 1,000 men, women and children, the "Women Behind the Miners Committee" supported the miners even to the point of getting on the picket line so that the men could attend bargaining sessions with the company. After this, the company settled the contract quickly. "They must have got the idea," she said.

Conference participants received information kits on occupational health hazards that relate to industrial, clerical, hospital, retail,



professional and other jobs.

Organising the conference was an ad-hoc Committee on Women and Work. The Conference was endorsed by the Nova Scotia Women's Action Committee, the Women's Committee of the Nova Scotia Federation of Labour and the Law Union of Nova Scotia. Future conferences are planned as well.

WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE  
AGAINST WOMEN

All women who are interested in continuing the work on the issue of violence against women are asked to meet at A Woman's Place, Thursday, October 16th at 7:30 p.m.



It's a sad thing that we don't walk into offices and see a whole row of men typing. I once said to my son, "Why don't you take typing? There's lots of jobs in offices." "Oh, no," he said. "There's no money in it."

# SERVICE NUMBERS

## ASSAULT:

S.O.S. Project- preventive child abuse 423-4380

BYRONY HOUSE - shelter for abused women and children 422-7659

HELP LINE - 422-7444

## HEALTH:

WELL WOMAN CLINIC - 428-2784

PLANNED PARENTHOOD - counselling and information 455-9656

TEEN PHONE - 426-8743  
- 455-9656 after 5 p.m

## SENIOR CITIZENS:

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL CENTRE  
422-4290 or 422-5852

## LEGAL AID:

PORT CITY COUNSELLING - 425-6731

DALEOUSIE LEGAL AID - 423-7197

NOVA SCOTIA LEGAL AID - 423-1291

## EMPLOYMENT:

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT COUNSELLING  
SERVICE - 422-8023

FAMILY BUDGET - 422-5897

## Reclaim the night

from PICARO, Mt. St. Vincent

by Kathrin Thomsen  
Staff Reporter

Protesting violence, sexual assault, battering, work harassment and other issues of concern to all women, 150 women marched the streets of Halifax on Saturday evening, chanting and singing.

The march, under the slogan **Reclaim The Night** started at A Woman's Place at 1225 Barrington Street, where it was organized. Its major goals were to protest against violence against women and for public notice but also to give concerned women a feeling of support and psychological security for walking the streets at night.

The organizers purposely did not get a police permit or ask for police protection as the goal of the march was to give those marching a feeling of security at walking the streets at night, by themselves. No woman walking alone at night has a policeman trailing along beside her. Also for this reason, males were not allowed to march. Nevertheless, the police were naturally there in the form of a shadow.

The march itself was so successful that the original planned route was expanded, and apart from the usual verbal abuse and whistling, there were no major incidents.

After the march, a party was held at "A Woman's Place" for all who wished to attend.

"It was terrific! A wonderful feeling to be out in the streets with other women,



walking in areas we are otherwise not happy to be in alone," Pat Dingle, one of the organizers of the march and a volunteer worker at A Woman's Place said.

She said that this feeling was shared by all and people were reluctant to leave the party when it ended.

The Reclaim The Night march is traditionally held on August 2nd, starting approximately five years ago in Europe. There have been many all over the world.

A Woman's Place, a drop in centre for women has been open for two years. It is, as the name suggests, a place where women can go to talk about their problems, or where they can get information concern-

ing women's issues.

It gives out pamphlets concerning issues of interest and a pamphlet was made especially for Reclaim The Night.

The information is shocking.

"One woman in three is sexually assaulted in her lifetime."

"More than 90 percent of working women are harassed on the job." These are just a few of the examples listed in the pamphlet.

Dingle said A Woman's Place encourages women to drop in, have a cup of coffee and talk to the women involved there. Even if they don't have a specific problem but are concerned or if they just need someone to talk to,

Mount Saint Vincent University and  
The Canadian Congress for Learning  
Opportunities for Women  
in conjunction with  
The Education Connection  
a national conference for and about women  
present a public lecture

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# **Beyond Promises: A Global Perspective of Adult Education for Women**

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by  
**Dr. Berit Ås**

Member of the Norwegian Parliament; Social Psychologist;  
Assistant Professor, University of Oslo

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**8:30 pm**  
**Friday, 17 October, 1980**

**Seton Auditorium**  
**Mount Saint Vincent University**  
**Halifax, Nova Scotia**

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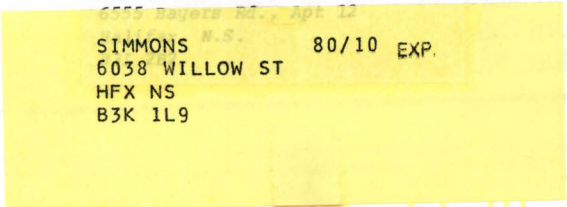
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**1225 BARRINGTON ST.**  
**HALIFAX, N.S.**  
**B3J 1Y2**



Ms. C. Simmons

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