



Vancouver Women's Health Collective
Le Collectif de la Santé des Femmes de Vancouver

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MEDIA RELEASE

On July 23, 1992 the Vancouver Women's Health Collective planned a demonstration at the Ministers Forum on Health Reform called "Meeting the Challenge: Action for a Healthy Society" at the Delta Pacific Resort in Richmond. This action was to protest the government's refusal to provide core funding to the health collective. Shortly before the planned action, Marianne Alto, ministerial assistant to Elizabeth Cull, agreed to meet with the collective members and supporters to discuss the situation.

The meeting took place at the collective that evening and discussion centered on the importance of educational services and information provided by the collective and how funds could be accessed to help keep our doors open for women and the community. Further meetings are planned to evaluate the present programs and services and means to target funds for community based women's health education programs.

This is only a beginning step and it is our hope that the health ministry will enter into a dialogue on issues other than birth control and reproductive technologies. While these issues are important they are not the sum of women's health concerns. Women continue to suffer poverty, violence and discrimination which impact our health and well being.

A healthy society is not possible until governmental decisions and policies hazardous to the needs of women change to reflect the demands for accessibility to health information, education and prevention programs and alternatives in treatment services.

The Vancouver Women's Health Collective hopes the media will draw attention to these concerns and become active in promoting women's health as a priority.