

MARCH 1995
DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN'S CENTRE
44 East Cordova Street, Vancouver

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Hours: Monday 10:30 - 5 Tues. 10:30 - 5 Weds. 11:30 - 5	Thurs. 10:30 - 5 Fri. 10:30 - 5 Sun. 12:00 - 5		1 1:00 Beading	2 1-3:00 law students	3x 1:30 Tea leaves with Rita 1:30 Raffle 2:00 Income tax	4
5 2:00 Bingo	6 11:00 Spanish 1:00 Margaret AIDS Vancouver 1:00 Dawn Atkins DEMH Network 5:00 learning group	7 11-1 Health Nurse 1:30 Women's Voice Program Budget Mtg 5:00 Women Surviving Together	8 "INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY" LUNCH 1:00 Beading	9 10:30 learning grp 1-3:00 law student 2:00 Video "Canada's Social Programs"	10 1:30 Tea Leaves with Rita 1:30 Raffle 2:30 Fun Video 2:00 Income tax	11. 9:30 IWD Pancake Breakfast 10:30 Leave Centre 11:30 March & Rally
12 1:00 Haircuts 1:30 Karoke 5:00 Circle	13 1:00 Law student 1-1:45 DEMH "Mothers in Transition" 2:30 Video 5:00 learning grp	14 11:-1:- Health Nurse 1:30 Women's Voice 5:00 Women Surviving Together	15 1:00 Beading 2:00 Video "Locked in Locked out"	16 10:30 learning grp 1-3:00 law students 2:00 Outing Bowling 2:00 Muriel- Seniors Benefits 5:00 Vol Dinner	17 1:30 Tea Leaves with Rita 1:30 Raffle 2:00 Income tax 2:30 Fun Video	18
19 2:00 Bingo 5:00 Circle	20 1:00 Law student 1:30 Legal Rights for HIV positive women 2:30 Video 5:00 learning grp	21 11:1 Health Nurse 1:30 Women's Voice 2:30 Legal Video Happy Birthday! 5:00 Women Surviving Together	22 1:00 Beading 1:30 Jean Sam Aboriginal Justice Centre	23 1-3:00 Law students 5:15 Steering Mtg	24 2:00 Income tax 1:30 Tea Leaves with Rita 1:30 Raffle 2:30 Fun Video	25
26 1:30 Haircuts	27 1-3:00 Workshop Fetal Alcohol Syndrome 1:00 Law Student 2:30 Video 5:00 learning grp	28 11:-1 Health Nurse 1:30 Women's Voice 2:30 Health Video 5:00 Women Surviving Together	29 CHEQUE DAY	30 1-3:00 law students	31	

note*** - sometimes things get cancelled or set up on another date - make sure to check "Update sheet" on the front chalk board***

MARCH 1995

"HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY"

Staff News

Good news! It looks like we're finally getting settled here at the Women's Centre. We now have more permanent staff then relief and contract workers. Below is the rundown.

Angela	Administrator
Patti	Coordinator
Toni	Volunteer Coordinator
Karen	Legal Advocate
Marion	Counsellor/Victims Assistance Worker
Carol	Counsellor (On Leave at the moment)
Ann	Kitchen Coordinator

So things are looking up

The idea the women had about floor rotation will start with Patti doing Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, Ann will be the floor worker on Wednesdays and Toni will work the floor Thursdays and Fridays. In the event of a change it will be posted at the front of the centre. What are the responsibilities of the floor worker you ask. Well here goes.

The floor worker will be the one you go to for

bus tickets
pads
shampoo /soap
laundry soap
paper , pens, stamps
mail
donations
clothing room unlock and lock

as well as appropriate referrals to staff.

UPCOMING IN MARCH

The outing this month will be bowling. However the big event is **International Women's Day** on the 8th. That day we will have a hot lunch. On Saturday the 11th of March we will be having a pancake breakfast at 9:30 we will leave the centre at 10:30 to go to the march and rally at 11:30. The rally will be at Grandview Park at Commercial and Charles.

The volunteer dinner will be on the 16th. This will be a good chance for the volunteers to get together with Toni the new volunteer coordinator.

Kelly will be coming in of Fridays during March at 2:00 to help with income tax. On the 12th which is a Sunday Cynthia will be in with her kareoke machine so come and sing along.

There are a number of workshops this month so check your calendar.

LEGAL ADVOCACY NEWS - by Karen

Welfare News...

The Federal Budget... What does it have to do with welfare?

I went to a meeting at the Public Interest Advocacy Centre. There were people there from ELP (End Legislated Poverty) and B.C.C.P.D. (the B.C. Coalition for people with disabilities). We talked about some important things that are happening that could effect welfare...

By the time you read this, the new federal government budget will probably have come down. It sets out the plans for the next year.

Right now, we have CAP (the Canada Assistance Plan). This means the federal government pays the provinces for about half of their costs for welfare. The federal government gives the money as long as the provinces make sure that these things happen...

- the right to income when in need
- no residency requirements (for example... they can't say: you have to live in B.C. one year before you can get welfare...)
- the right to appeal
- the right to refuse work activity projects

The federal government is giving less and less to the provinces for welfare. They may keep giving less and less, and take away the "conditions" that they have set out. This means the provinces could decide to take away the rights that the federal government have said there has to be.

Stay tuned.

Welfare Advocacy here at the Centre...

Thanks to Sonia for her excellent work while I was away on leave. One of her big wins was a big crisis grant for a woman to get her old phone bill paid off. Remember - you can do this too! It works best if you have a doctor's note saying you need a phone for medical reasons. You also have to show how the bill got so high, and how this will never happen again.

We have a volunteer advocate helping out on Tuesday mornings. **Welcome to Sharon!** Sharon has a long history of helping out with welfare stuff in Vancouver.

And there's always the law students! As I write, Rachel must be having her baby...
Congrats!

The Annual bus pass...

If you are **60** years or older, and on GAIN, you can get a bus pass for only \$45 that's good for the rest of the year. You can also get this bus pass if you are on GAIN for Handicapped. We've got the forms here, so ask if you'd like one.

Income tax time...

Did you get your T5007 form from welfare? This is the form you need to do your income tax return so you can get your GST refund. You need to do your income tax return **every year**, or you won't get your GST. **If you didn't get your T5007, phone 660-1313.**

Kelly, one our S.C. members and volunteers, will be helping your with your income tax forms every Friday after lunch in March (except March 31). You can also go to...

- D.E.R.A., 9 E. Hastings, 682-0931
- Carnegie Learning Centre, 665-3013 (see schedule in my office window)
- First United Church, 681-8365 (Tues. afts. - CALL for appointment)

Senior's news...

March is the month you have to fill out your **G.I.S. (GUARANTEED INCOME SUPPLEMENT)**. This is for people who are getting Old Age Security, but are still below a certain income. You can phone Income Security (666-3040) with your Social Insurance #, and they'll send you the form (the phone line is very busy, its best to try and call between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m.) You can also get help from the 411 Seniors Centre (684-8171). **This form must be sent in by March 31.**

Muriel from 411 Seniors Centre will be coming in to talk about **Seniors Benefits** on Thursday, March 16 at 2:00. **All senior women are encouraged to come; and since we all will be senior some day, we should all come!**

Legal Aid News...

There is a new Aboriginal Justice Centre just around the corner at 73 Water St. This is a Legal Aid office. They have a lawyer and a Legal Information Counsellor there. They can do intake for legal issues. Call them at 684-2177. One of their staff, Jean Sam, will be coming on March 22nd to tell us more about their services.

Discrimination against Lesbians and Gays...

We got a petition in the mail. It is for the House of Commons saying that we ask to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act should protect individuals from discrimination based on sexual orientation. If you'd like to sign it, its on my office door.

Tenants Rights...

Last month, I went to the opening of a new Residential Tenancy Branch. Before, if you wanted to go to arbitration against your landlord, you would have to go all the way to 5021 Kingsway in Burnaby.

The new office downtown here in Vancouver is at 1190 Melville st., 3rd floor (near Burrard and Dunsmuir). The phone #is 660-3456. There's been lots of changes lately to the Residential Tenancy Act. Thanks to Linda and Sadia from TRAC (tenants rights action coalition) for coming in to the Centre to talk to us about those changes. Some of the important changes are...

- you can do emergency repairs (major leaks in pipes or roof, blocked sewer or plumbing, heat, broken locks that mean someone can get in) after trying 2 times to get the landlord to do it; and take the cost of your next months rent
- landlords can't discriminate against you because you're on welfare
- you can ask for a hearing so that you can have your lock changed, and the landlord can be denied a key - this is if the landlord keeps illegally entering

Talk to Karen, or someone at DERA, or call TRAC at 255-0546 to get details on these, and other changes

Legal programming for March...

Besides Jean from the Aboriginal Justice Centre, and Muriel from 411, we're also having...

What are your legal rights if you are HIV positive?

Come and join Susan Gray, a lawyer, on Monday, March 20th to learn the answer to this, and other questions

Videos: Forum on the future of Canada's Social Programs - a panel of people talk, including the National Council on Welfare and the National Anti-Poverty Organization
Locked In, Locked Out - a film about women in prison

Also*** I taped the Fifth Estate show on the assault on the women at P4W by the riot squad. Let me know if you want to see it and we'll set up a time ***

Child Apprehension

We just got the manual from the Ministry of Social Services which the Social Workers use in their day to day work. As you may know, Social Services is divided into Income Assistance (welfare) and Family and Child Services. The manual covers:

- Native Child Welfare
- Out of province services
- Family support services
- Adoption
- Protective family services
- Children in care
- Child Care Resources
- the Family and Child Services Act

This all will be changing soon when the new Act is proclaimed, but in the mean time, you can look at this one.

Court Accompaniment Volunteer Training

Sonia has been working at a pilot project to train Centre volunteers on going with women to court if they have been assaulted or sexually assaulted. Two law students from UBC Legal Clinic, Holly and Joy, will be giving two training sessions for women in the Centre who are interested in this. They will be coming to a Women's Voice Meeting in March to talk about the program, and hear from you about what you need to learn, and what you need if you are going to court yourself. The training will be in mid-April. Since there will be limited space for this training, you need to write me (Karen) a short note about why you'd like to do it by Thursday, March 30.