

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

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 10: 30 Writing class 1:30 Woodwards and housing 5:00 Volunteer picnic	2 1:30 raffle 2:00 Video	3
4	5 1:00 Margareth Aids Van. 1:30 Criminal comp. 5:00 learn. group	6 1:30 Women's Voice 2:30 Camping meeting 5:00 Women Surviving Together	7 1:00 Beading 1:00 Cleo the nurse	8 10:30 Writing class 2:00 Video	9 1:30 raffle 2:00 Video	10
11 1:00 Bingo	12 1:00 Margareth Aids Vancouver 1:30 Bonnie: Welfare & Daycare info 5:00 Learning Group	13 1:30 Women's Voice 5:00 Women Surviving Together	14 1:00 Cleo 1:30 Beading 2:00 video 5:15 Steering mtg.	15 10:30 Writing class 1:30 Bar-b-q and picnic	16 11:00 Massage with Pam 1:30 raffle 2:00 video	17
18	19 1:30 Aids workshop 2:30 Video 5:00 Learning Group	20 1:30 Women's Voice 2:30 happy birthday! 5:00 Women Surviving Together	21 1:00 Cleo 1:30 Video	22 10:30 Writing class 5:30 Anual General Meeting	23 1:30 raffle 2:00 Video	24
25 1:00 Bingo	26 1:00 Margareth Aids Vancouver 5:00 learning group	27 1:30 Women's Voice 2:30 safe needle use 5:00 Women Surviving Together	28 Cheque-Day Centre is Open	29	30 CENTER'S CLOSED	

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

Legal Advocacy News - by Karen

WELFARE NEWS

Changes to Welfare Appeals...

There are going to be some changes to the welfare appeal system.

Why? The Ministry says its because some tribunal decisions are "inconsistent" and some are made "in error of law".

In almost all cases, people who appeal to tribunal win. This is now costing the Ministry too much money. They say that "as many as one third of these tribunal decisions may have been made in error of law".

The new law will enable the Minister to appoint an **Income Assistance Appeal Board** which will review tribunal decisions that may be in error of law, and make sure benefits are "fair and consistent" across the province.

I'm afraid this may be bad news for people on welfare. If the Ministry feels you got too much money from your tribunal, they may send it to the new Appeal Board. If they don't agree with the tribunal's interpretation of the law, then they may overturn it.

Since this is brand new and has just been announced, we'll have to see how it turns out. But I can guarantee that in these times of backlash against people on welfare, the goal is to save money.

Camp Fees...

Do you or your kids want to go to camp this year? You need to apply as soon as you can. And you need to know that you may be turned down. Camp fees are a "discretionary" thing - they can decide to give them to you, or not to give them to you. You can also appeal.

Daycare \$...

We have a special visitor this month - Bonnie, an F.A.W. from Sunrise Office. She can answer your questions about welfare. She is also the daycare person in their office, so she can let you know how to get daycare money, and how much you can get. Bonnie has been here before, and really likes the Centre, so lets be good to her!

Crisis Grants...

Did you miss the workshop last month? That's okay - you can still come and get the information from Karen, Shannon (our Tuesday morning volunteer), or Rachel, our law student.

Some crisis grant hints -

- get estimates
- if its for a medical related thing, ask your doctor for a note
- there is no legal limit to the amount you can ask for
- there is no legal limit to the # of crisis grants you can get

Administration of \$...

Last month, at our FLAW (front line advocacy workers) meeting we met with John Van Luven, the Executive Director at **St. James Social Services Society**. As you may know, they administer money to people who are on welfare. He told us...

- * they are not a welfare office; welfare gives them the money and they dish it to their clients
- * they get paid a fee by welfare (not you), but you still get your whole cheque
- * they cannot approve crisis grants; they can suggest to welfare that you get one, or not get one
- * they say that they try to work out a "mutually agreed upon budget" to help the client to manage their money... (When I asked if the person could have all their money at once if they wanted it, he said no)
- * people are administered to St. James if...
 - they are violent, or abusive in the welfare office, OR
 - they have their cheque divided up more than 2x per month

H.I.V. POSITIVE WOMEN!!

The Positive Women's Network is planning its next retreat in mid June. Its a weekend over at Bowen Island, and its supposed to be a great time. If you are interested in going, or you'd like more information, you can ask Karen, or contact P.W.N. right away. Their phone number is 681-2122 ext. 225.

Protecting our health, reducing our risk

Margareth Tolson from AIDS Vancouver is here every Monday afternoon to give women information about how to protect ourselves from getting HIV/AIDS:

- * ways to protect your family from getting HIV
- * where to get information if someone you care about has HIV
- * ways to support friends and family if they get HIV

Margareth is giving a workshop about HIV and AIDS on Monday, June 19 at 1:30 p.m. The workshop will look at how women get HIV, and how you DON'T get the virus, and lots of ways to protect yourself.

If you want more information, call Margareth at 681-2122 (ext. 229).

health alert!

Do you take Tylenol?

Do you drink?

Well, we've heard lately about how the two should not go together.

We have Tylenol here at the Centre to give out to women, but please don't ask us if you've been drinking

another health alert!

Do you know the signs and symptoms of **DIABETES?**

- increased thirst
- irritability
- frequent urination
- tiredness
- itchy skin
- numbness or tingling in hands or feet
- blurred vision
- nausea and vomiting
- poor healing
- weight change
- changes in appetite

Downtown Eastside Women's Centre
Annual General Meeting

thursday, june 22, 1995

5:30 p.m.

All women welcome!!
