

# D.E.W. DROP IN

## DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN DO DROP IN

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN'S CENTRE

APRIL 1998

FREE

*TSUU T'INA RESERVE, Alta. (CP) - March 23th 1998*

*The blood of a woman and her nine-year-old son is on the hands of the police, child welfare officials and band leaders, says a relative grieving the loss of the two in a police shoot-out. Connie Jacobs and her son Ty died Sunday night as the RCMP, tribal police and a band social worker tried to seize six children from their isolated home on the sprawling Tsuu T'ina reserve at the southwestern edge of Calgary.*

I heard about the killing on TV; it took about 10 seconds. Since then I have heard nothing - no news, no information. We are all stunned with disbelief. Did it really happen? YES it did. This is not the first time, and it will not be the last time that a woman is killed trying to protect her family.

All over the country public statements from the band, RCMP, Assembly of First Nations, Federal and Provincial Governments are asking for CALM.

Everyone seems to be looking for answers - who is to blame. All around and around and around - the tribal police constable called for help; her husband was injured in a domestic incident; her family blame the RCMP; there was a snowstorm; etc. etc.

There will be some inquest by some judge in some office somewhere.

What about Connie, Ty and her other children? She was a woman pushed by a system set up to assure her failure. Single moms know about that dance. You need help to raise your kids by yourself; you should ask for help. BUT, if you ask for help to raise your kids we WILL take your kids away from you. If you need help or money you are an unfit mother. Oh, Connie my heart goes out to you. How scared you must have been. How desperate and hopeless you must have felt, surrounded by vultures waiting for you to show weakness - waiting to feed off your bones. My sister, I will stand with you, I will remember you, Ty and your other children.

Peace and honor.

by Cynthia Low

### **A VIGIL FOR CONNIE AND TY JACOBS**

Saturday April 4th, Meet at DEWC at 1:00. Walk to Thornton Park (Main Skytrain)

## **VOLUNTEER NEWS**



### **Greetings from Cynthia**

I will be going on a non-paid medical leave of absence for 3 - 6 months starting in April. I have been working at the Centre for three and a half years and I am experiencing the beginnings of burn out. I do not think I am working as well as I can and it is time to take a break to charge up the batteries. I am getting very tired of all the criticisms directed at me despite my best attempts to do my job. The criticisms are probably valid but I cannot really hear the complaints anymore. That is no good for the Centre. In the next six months I will be seeking medical and emotional support to develop a personal wellness program so that when I come back to work I will be prepared to work well for the women in the Centre. At printing time the Centre has made plans to

hire a replacement for my position. All programming will continue and I will be training the new staff member. I will miss the Centre very much. I started as a volunteer at the Centre over five years ago and the Centre is like a family to me. I will miss everyone.

### **Highlights from March Volunteer Meetings:**

#### **Cynthia's Leave of Absence**

Her leave of absence has been approved, she will be going on medical leave in April. Her job has been posted; Mable and Candace will be participating in the hiring process. Cynthia will inform them of the meetings. Cynthia and two Steering Committee members will also be involved. Some volunteers asked Cynthia if she really would be back. At this time she has no intentions of leaving the Centre permanently. This leave of absence is an opportunity to reevaluate her ability to continue working at the Centre. She will be seeking professional help in Stress Management and other related issues. She will continue as a volunteer, 4 hours a week after an initial 2 month absence.

The Centre was open for the Wellness meeting on Feb 25th. All staff were at the meeting so the Centre was staffed by VOLUNTEERS. A great big heart felt thanks went out to the volunteers who showed up on that day and did an excellent job. They were; Bunsy, Gloria, Beverly, Terri, Michelle and Meshell. The women (over 80) really appreciated having the centre open. The staff and steering are very indebted to the volunteers.

It was mentioned that there have been some concerns around substance abuse among volunteers. There are no judgments being placed on the use of alcohol or drugs. There is an expectation that if you are volunteering or at a meeting you should not be under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

This is a policy passed by the volunteer group.

**VOLUNTEERS SHOULD NOT  
BE VOLUNTEERING OR  
ATTENDING MEETINGS UNDER  
THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS  
AND/OR ALCOHOL.**

Volunteers on shift are role models for women in the Centre. This does reflect on the volunteer and the whole volunteer program.

**Another** unrelated concern are the effects of some medications on a volunteer's ability to perform her tasks. We discussed the effects some medications have on individuals. There have been instances of impairment while on the job. We should watch out for each other and in a spirit of cooperation offer to take over her position or suggest that the volunteer in question reschedule her shift. If you take a medication that affects your professional abilities please be aware of your limitations. You may be asked not to volunteer if you appear unable to do so. **Volunteers** who work in the kitchen and then work on the floor, desk or clothing room should fill in separate time sheets and get them signed by Anne or Julie. The hours spent volunteering outside the kitchen should be recorded on a separate sheet. This also applies to volunteer jobs outside of the Centre, like Bingo. You will need to fill in a separate form.

This is not necessary if you work at different positions outside the kitchen during the day. For example; If you work on the desk from 10:30 - 2:00, then you work on the floor from 2:00 - 5:00, you need to fill in only one sheet, but indicate where you were working on the "Tasks Performed" column.

**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT  
VOLUNTEERS ARE SHOULD NOT BE  
SUBMITTING TIME SHEETS FOR LESS  
THAN 2 HOURS.**

**There** have been many complaints from volunteers and centre members regarding some kitchen staff being verbally abusive. Please support staff and women by completing a complaint form so that some action can be taken. Staff should not be subjected to constant nattering and complaint. If women are serious they should complete a complaint form. Verbal complaints are very difficult to deal with and result in nothing being done. Complaint forms are available at the front desk or from Marion.

**Kitchen** laundry needs to be completed by 10:30 in the morning to accommodate members and volunteer's laundry. It has come to our attention that stuff is going missing on group nights after the Centre is closed. When the Centre is closed at 5:00, the desk/receptionist area should be out of bounds. Facilitators should be informed of this.

Volunteers have 2 laundry days: Monday and Thursday. There are 10 times more Centre members and they only get 4 days, Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Unfortunately we only have one washer. Maybe in the future.....

It is really awful when there are no bus tickets in the whole Centre for volunteers who have just worked. When there is a shortage and most staff members do not have the keys to the stock of bus tickets. Please see if this can be changed.

**Some** volunteers are requesting volunteer hours for times spent at meetings and other situations: helping out at group nights, hospital visits and meetings do not qualify for volunteer hours.

**This** is a constant problem. Volunteers are taking too many donations or giving them to their friends and family. This has to stop.

**Be kind** to men that call at the door for women. You do not like it when your men are treated badly. Respect everyone who comes to the centre. Some people are rude and abusive - if this happens please contact a staff member.

**Couches** and chairs should be wiped down weekly.

**Staff** are not available to help the women. There is very high absenteeism and women really are hurting because of this. We don't know how to help the women when staff are not here. We feel helpless like the women. This is especially so regarding Advocacy, Legal Advocacy and Victim Services. There have been situations in the past few weeks when women have been assaulted and raped and the appropriate staff was not here to help. This happens very often regarding the Legal Advocate position as well. Please advise us on how to deal with this. There are women getting angry at volunteers, and even worse, women get depressed and sad.

**Staff** are not signing out and in. We cannot advise women on staff availability if we do not know their schedules. Staff are not informing the front desk when they are changing their lunch hours. Please keep us informed. It is very frustrating for us when the Centre members do not know where staff are.

**All** the mistakes in the newsletter are not acceptable. Please make sure it gets proof-read before putting it into print. Bev has volunteered to do it monthly. YAH

**The** cancellation of Centre events, especially groups, is not acceptable, especially with no notice to the women or the facilitators.

**We** need time off. We are being picked on, hollered at and we are getting complaints from centre members, other volunteers and especially staff members. Volunteers are advised to take time off when needed.

**We** decided what we wanted to do for the day. A group of us went to visit Lorenda in the hospital and some of us stayed back to clean up, surf the internet and generally cause trouble! We all gathered at the Centre at 4:30 and went for dinner at a Chinese Buffet on Nanaimo and 1st Ave. It was a very nice evening, and after a super dinner we all went home and slept soundly.

**Reviewed** the meeting, of March 10. Cynthia apologized for reacting emotionally to some reports from the meeting.

**The** Steering Committee has decided to open the Centre on Saturdays. There will be some extended hours: the Centre will be open daily from 10:00 - 5:00 except Tuesdays from 11:00 - 5:00. All staff except kitchen and Legal Advocate have to work one weekend day and everyone works from 9:00 - 5:00. We will try to have a full meal or soup and sandwiches for Saturday.

**First Nations** culture has been stolen from us and there is no respect for traditional beliefs. Caring and sharing should be done voluntarily and no payment should be received - either in the form of money or "points." Goodness comes from the heart.

**Volunteers** feel that we should have memorials here at the Centre and volunteers are willing to help in any way.

In Native cultures the community comes together to make a meal that is to be given and eaten; no one is rejected. This is about caring and sharing. Is it possible to coordinate a team of volunteers to do hospital visits so women in the hospital do not feel so alone. It might also encourage women to seek medical attention if they know they are not going to be alone. Cynthia will start the process but it may take a few months.

Leona has agreed to coordinate the Open Stage and Candace will coordinate the Fashion Show, on Sunday April, 19th from 11:00 or 12:00. Women are encouraged to make suggestions for song sheets. This is a fashion show of the "The Best of the DEWC Boutique." All women are encouraged to participate by selecting and showing off the best clothes they have gotten from the Centre. Cynthia will make posters advertising the event.

There was a discussion about job duties. Some volunteers are upset about others (who are not working at the time) making comments about how they are doing their jobs. Remember we all do things a little differently here. Do not

tell anyone how to do their job - especially if you are not volunteering. If there are concerns about a volunteer's job performance bring it to the attention of the Coordinator and she will monitor the volunteer's performance.

## VOLUNTEER DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday April 6	10:00
New Volunteer Orientation	
Tuesday April 7	2:30
Meeting of volunteers - We will meet at the Centre at 2:30	
Sunday April 12	5:00
Volunteer meeting and meal with Coordinator	
Sun. April 19	1:00
Fashion Show and Open Stage	
Sunday April 26	5:00
Volunteer meeting and meal with Coordinator	

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The Centre received a complaint from High Risk regarding an incident during the Women's Memorial March. One of their transgendered members was turned away from the March by persons unknown who were attending the march. None of the organizers were involved in this incident. This is a response that was sent to Sandra Laframboise, the Executive Director.

March 25, 1998

Dear Sandra,

The organizing committee for the February 14, 1998 march has received your letter regarding the unfortunate experience Barbara Hall had at our rally point.

We have investigated this event and can report that no one who had any authority from the committee is responsible for turning Barbara away. In fact, you will recall that we sent a letter of invitation to the people associated with the High Risk Society Project Society.

We regret that Barbara and those with her suffered this experience. Everyone was welcome to join and remember the women we were commemorating.

Marlene Trick

Administrator

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN'S CENTRE  
44 East Cordova St., Vancouver  
681 - 8480  
APRIL 1998

LUNCH SERVED  
DAILY AT 12:30

SUN	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
	<div>CENTRE HOURS</div> <div>Mon. 10:00-5 Tues. 11:00-5 Weds. 10:00-5</div> <div>Thrs. 10:00-5 Fri. 10:00-5 Sat.-10:00 - 5 Sun. 10:00 - 5</div>		1 10:30 Stretch and walk 1:00 Nurse 5:00 Alcohol and Drug Support Group	2 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Tile painting 5:00 Women Surviving Together	3 10:30 Sewing and Alterations 1:30 Raffle 2:00 Video 3:30 Stretch and walk	4 CENTRE OPEN 10:00  6:30 Theatre Outing
5 10:00 Computer Basics 1:00 Video	6 10:00 Volunteer Orientation 1:00 Internet 1:30 Beading 5:00 Learning Group	7 1:30 Walls of Change 2:30 Volunteers only meeting 5:00 Battered Women Support Services	8 10:30 Stretch and walk 1:00 Nurse - Diabetes 2:00 Omnimax - Mount Everest 5:00 A + D Group	9 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Make stuff out of clay 5:00 WST	10 Good Friday Centre Open 12 - 5  12:00 Sewing and Alterations	11 CENTRE OPEN 10:00  1:30 Raffle 5:00 Anti violence discussion group
12 1:00 Video 5:00 Volunteer Meeting	13 1:00 Internet 1:30 Beading 5:00 Learning Group	14 1:30 Walls of Change 5:00 BWSS	15 10:30 Stretch and walk 1:00 Community Nurse - TB Information 1:00 Britannia Beach 5:00 A + D Group	16 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Ceramic Painting 5:00 WST	17 SPRING DINNER 12 - 4	18 CENTRE OPEN 10:00  1:30 Raffle
19 10:00 Computer Basics 1:00 Fashion Show and Open Stage	20 1:00 Internet 1:30 Beading 5:00 Learning Group	21 1:30 Walls of Change 5:00 BWSS	22 CHEQUE DAY 10:30 Stretch and walk 1:00 Nurse 2:00 Swimming 5:00 A + D Group	23 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Ceramic Painting 5:00 WST	24 10:30 S + A 1:30 Raffle 2:00 Video 3:30 Stretch and walk 5:00 Anti-violence discussion Grp.	25 CENTRE OPEN 10:00
26 1:00 Video 5:00 Volunteer Meeting	27 1:00 Internet 1:30 Beading 5:00 Learning Group	28 1:30 Walls of Change 5:00 BWSS	29 10:30 Stretch and walk 1:00 Nurse 1:00 Museum of Anthropology 5:00 A + D Group	30 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Ceramic Painting 5:00 WST		

REGULAR PROGRAMMING

**Internet** - Every Monday from 1:00 - 3:00 for women to learn to surf the net or access to the net for experienced surfers.

**Learning Group** - Every Monday, doors close at 5:15. Exploring different ways of Learning.

**Battered Women Support Services** on Tuesday nights from 5 - 8:30, support for women affected by violence in their lives.

**The Nurse Community Nurse** - is in every Wednesday from 1:00. Watch out for health tips and information.

**Alcohol and Drug Support Group** - Wednesday from 5:00 - 8:00, do you have or had a drug and/or alcohol problem. This may be the place to get some support, no preaching or guilt trips.

**Law Student** - PLEASE CHECK THE SCHEDULE.

**Women's Voice** - Thurs. 1:30. Let us know what you think about the Centre. Your opinions and ideas are needed.

**Women Surviving Together** - Thurs. 5:00 - 8:00 Healing Circle and support group for women.

**Raffles** - Usually on Fridays at 1:30 or 2:00. Items which are not clothing items that have been donated to the Centre are raffled. Please note changes this month.

**Anti-Violence Discussion Group** - Every other Friday night. Gathering to share stories and strategies to keep ourselves safe.

**CRAFTY WORKSHOPS** - Materials provided.

**Beading with Leona** - Every Monday, 1:30 pm. Learn how to bead, expand your skills or just share ideas.

**Walls of Change** - Tuesday from 1:030 - 4:30. A community project to design and paint murals to represent our neighborhood.

**Ceramic and Tile Painting** - Every Thursday, 2:00. Make something that you can use everyday or give to a friend.

**Fabric Arts with Freeda** - Usually on Friday morning. Learn to do your own sewing and alterations and also to knit and crochet.

**OUTINGS** - Watch the Outing Board for RUSH tickets.

**Sat. April 4 at 6:30** - We're going to the Fredrick Wood Theatre at UBC for a presentation of 'The Good Person of Szechuan'.

**Wed. April 8 at 2:00** - Omnimax for a way out excellent movie of Mount Everest, the highest mountain in the World.

**Wed. April 15 at 1:00** - Drive to Britannia Beach, just for the heck of it. Let's get out of town for a few hours for some fresh air.

**Wed. April 22 at 2:00** - Swimming at the Eileen Daly pool, there is a slide and whirl pool. There is also a fitness area.

**Wed. April 29 at 1:00** - Museum of Anthropology at UBC to see stolen Tribal Art. Also there is a tribute to Bill Reid.

Sign up sheets are put up at the beginning of the month, chances are there will be space available on the day of the outing.

NOTE: Sometimes things get canceled or set up on another day make sure to check "Update sheet" on the front chalk board.

The Activities Board will also have information on other events.

## **LORENDIA MOSES**

September 6th, 1961 - March 11th, 1998.

With the funny, high pitched chuckle, young, gaunt; sometimes showing up with this funky outfit she would say she scored from the **D,E,W, 'closet'**.

That was Lorenda! I remember her most when she would pull out of a sequinned covered bag, all the wonderful beadwork she was creating at the time, or at the craft workshops she attended---

all of a sudden, this strange wailing sound would emit from deep down somewhere in a way that could bring memories and shivers at the same time...someone would say "What's that sound, what is she doing?"

...It was Lorenda, recalling something she had known from a long time ago; something I will never forget, something I will always hear.....

It will haunt me in a good way to remember Lorenda singing her song.

An Ojibway song B.K.G.

There is so much that can be said about this young woman we all knew. Each of us has our own thoughts and memories. These were shared with family and friends at the memorial gathering held at the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre on Friday, March 20th, '98. Sacred medicine was lit, prayers

were offered, songs were sung with drums resounding through the Centre. We shared a feast with our sister Lorenda; a feast in honour of the life she shared with us; and as we did this we let her go, in a good way, to pass to the "other side" - the **Spirit World**.

Lorenda was not alone in the days before her passing. Smudging and prayers were done by Rita Blind and Sheila Nyman. The sisters from the Centre took turns visiting her at the hospital. For those of us that could not be there in those last few hours, we thank those who would be there in our place; Ethel, Bernice, Sheila, Christine, Marion(Dean), Marlene, Diane, Cynthia, Gwen, Louise, Terry, Freeda, Denise and Carol.

Much appreciation goes to those responsible for all the hard work that went into the preparation of the feast that took place. Funds were made available from the Centre. Shopping was done, and all the cooking was done in one of our sisters' homes. The food and space was blessed, and from eleven at night 'til six in the morning these wonderful women cooked 60 lbs. of chicken, 150 lbs. of salads, & 18 bannock. We also shared fruit, juice and Lorenda's favourite candy. Thanks go to Mabel, Carol, Louise, Ilona, Bunsy, Megan.

Also to Rita Blind and the Medicine Woman for the Blessings. Megwich: Can't you just hear Lorenda saying "That was some feast!"

Thanks must also be given to the kitchen staff for their efforts and to staff and others too numerous to mention here. It made it so much easier to say farewell to a sister, a friend.

Barbara Gray

To All The Children of Our Land

To all the children of our land,  
the ones who were abused and hurt.

The ones who have gone and also the ones left behind.

Just remember.

You are not alone.

God loves you one and all,  
and just remember,  
it's not your fault.

Just a target so young and small,  
with no knowledge of the wrongs that were being inflicted upon your very soul.  
The loss of innocence and pride was such a big price to pay.

To all our children of the land.

It hurts to see you cry,  
and not being able to tell a soul.

Such a price to pay for all the pain and loss of innocence.  
The ones who inflicted all this pain,  
I'm sure they too had a price to pay.  
But there is no excuse for what they have done.

To all our children of the land.

I feel the pain and all the hurt,  
and just remember,  
You are not alone.  
Remember, God loves you one and all.

To all the children of our land.

It's time to stop these wrongs  
and time to make it right.  
For all the children of our land.  
For they are our future pillars to keep this land of ours strong.

To all the children of the land.  
Remember, God loves you one and all.  
So be strong, do not cry anymore.  
To all the children of our land.





## ***NEWS FROM THE ADVOCATES***

### Legal Programming

*Good news, Women of the Centre! Carol Romanow and I have completed our initial planning for implementing legal programming through the Centre.*

*Due to the issue of space at the Centre we will not be providing the actual programming here but at another location (possibly Solheim Place). Also, we will have a set number of participants who will be required to sign up for the programming in advance. We have to do this due to budget constraints. We will be exploring the notion of providing nourishment (food), transportation and childcare. I will be meeting with Alix, Financial Manager on April 8, 1998 to look at this subject matter. At this time we will also determine*

*the number of participants we can open this up to.*

*The programming will be based upon a theme per month. For example, one month will focus on Welfare and Poverty issues; the next month will focus on Ministry of Children and Families issues such as child apprehensions, access, support services, etc. Other topics include: Criminal Court, Housing, Conflict/Resolution and some miscellaneous topics such as Human Rights & the Complaints Process; WCB Criminal Injuries; C.P.P. applications and Appeals process; and Small Claims Court to name just a few.*

*Another aspect of the legal programming is to provide Certificates of Completion based upon the number of hours of attendance towards any subject*

*matter. While we may not be able to implement this aspect initially it will be considered at some point later on as we further develop the subject matter.*

#### Other Information

*I will be away from the Centre from March 30 - April 3, 1998. I will return to my duties on April 6, 1998.*

*The Centre Advocates will commence a new structure of providing advocacy services effective March 30, 1998. From this date onward we will be doing intake information in the afternoons with the follow-up the next morning. We will provide same day service for emergency shelter only. Our present advocacy service is inadequate in that many times we are unable to contact the financial aid workers on the same day unless we are making a number of calls to make this contact. This is time-consuming - so we are attempting to implement a structure which is conducive to providing a quality service while effectively managing our time and in the long run managing stress.*



#### TIME FOR FRIENDS

Time to  
smell a flower  
or feel a passing breeze  
Time to wonder shady paths  
and learn the names of trees  
Time to watch a bird in flight  
and dream that we can soar  
If only we had time enough  
We'd do all this and more  
But mostly we'd take much  
more time  
As much as we could spend  
For sharing Happy moments

With a very special friend

## NEW TO THE CENTRE

Updates on workshops, policy and procedures

## WE ARE NOW OPEN SATURDAYS FROM 10 AM TO 5PM

There will be full services, which include meals, laundry and shower facilities.  
Thank you to all the Centre Volunteers, Steering Committee Members,  
Staff and Centre Members who work very hard, and will give up their  
weekends to see this dream become a reality.

Starting in April the  
Centre hours are:

Monday	10 - 5
Tuesday	11 - 5
(staff meeting)	
Wednesday	10 - 5
Thursday	10 - 5
Friday	10 - 5
Saturday	10 - 5
Sunday	10 - 5

We will be open with full services.  
Please be patient with us as we adjust to  
the new schedule. We are trying to  
increase the hours of the Centre without  
compromising the services we offer.  
Thank you.

## ***VERY VERY BASIC COMPUTERS***

**SUNDAY APRIL 5**

**10 - 12**

**SUNDAY APRIL 19**

**10 - 12**

Learn about computers. Especially  
for those with very little or no  
knowledge about computers.  
This is a very safe, low-pressure,  
learn-at-your-own-pace program  
with one-on-one training.

Cynthia, the Volunteer Coordinator  
and Programmer will be on Medical  
Leave for the next six months. There  
will be someone hired to replace her.  
***All programming and workshops  
will proceed as usual.***