

D.E.W. DROP IN

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN DO DROP IN

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN'S CENTRE
SEPTEMBER 1998 FREE

DEWC

ANNUAL GENERAL

MEETING

**Tues, Sept 22, 1998
2:00pm**

A GUIDE TO THE MUNICIPAL POLICE COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE FOR B.C.

The amended Police Act was proclaimed on July 1, 1998, creating new legislation affecting members of all municipal police forces in B.C.

The changes to the Police Act come about as a result of recommendations of the Oppal Commission report Closing the Gap, as well as consultations with Police Chiefs, BC Federation of Police Officers and community groups.

The focus of the Act is to create a new process for dealing with municipal police complaints and discipline. Public complaints provide police with important feedback and give them the opportunity to respond to concerns in their community.

Under the Act, the BC Police Commission has been dissolved and the Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner created. The office is responsible for ensuring that complaints against municipal police are handled fairly and impartially. The Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner is independent from all

municipal forces and government ministries, and reports directly to the BC Legislative Assembly.

The Act provides the Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner with a new framework for addressing complaints against municipal police including:

- better ways of resolving complaints informally, consistent with the goals of community-based policing.
- greater access to the complaint commissioner for people who are reluctant to complain directly to the police station.
- recording of all concerns raised by complaints
- better ways to address complaints about the quality of police services and policies
- reporting by police to both the complainants and to the police complaint commissioner concerning the investigation of complaints
- stronger mechanism to ensure that investigations are not conducted by those who are connected with the complaint
- review by the police complaint commissioner to ensure all of the complaint's concerns are addressed appropriately
- increased opportunity for the police complaint commissioner to investigate matters of public trust that do not come from a citizen complaint

- review by the police complaint commissioner of summary dismissal of complaint by police
- increased independence and accountability of the police complaint commissioner, who reports to the legislature.

Under the Act, police will continue to investigate public complaints concerning municipal police. The

Police Complaint Commissioner will provide independent civilian oversight and has the authority to oversee all aspects of an investigation.

This guide to the Act and complaints process has been developed for use by the public and support agencies.

For more info see Marion, Victim Services Worker.

annual general meeting ...

The DEWC Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 22nd.

A light lunch will be available at noon and the meeting will start at 2:00pm. Elections will be held at 5:00pm.

Supper will be served afterwards.

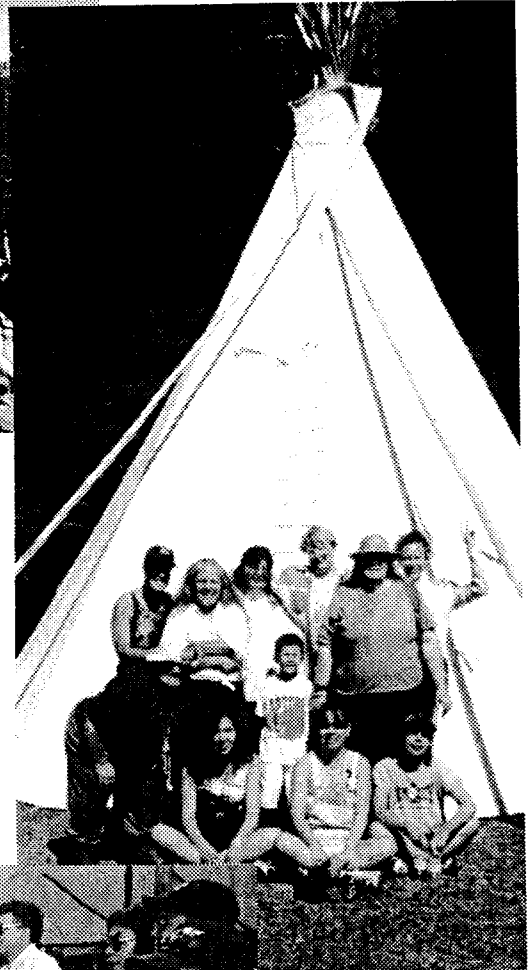
who can vote?

You must be a member to vote. If you are not a voting member (you don't have a card that says you are a "voting member"), watch for signs when Board/Steering Members will be accepting membership applications.



NLHA'7KAPMX NATION HEALING GATHERING IN LYTTON

Women camped for four days and participated in workshops and healing ceremonies. The DEWC received a Certificate of Appreciation for hosting a medicine bag workshop.



aids walk

'98 Sunday, Sept 27th

who wants to go?
call Christine Hutchinson
at 728-7353

Talk to me

lyrics by: Karen Chiu

Like a bird chirping, so freely in deep dark
night,
When the rain is pouring down by the
river's side,
and the meadows are so green.

Chorus;

When I'm sad and alone, all by myself
and tears flow down my cheeks.
You seem so near and yet so far,
Why do you keep telling all those lies to
me?

Breaking my heart to pieces.
Why don't you
talk to me?

Now it seems so clear that reconciliation
is not meant to be.
Maybe it's too late, maybe now you can
see
why I have been begging and pleading,
please...
Talk to me.



WANTED: WOMEN'S VOICES TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST STIGMA

Open Mind is currently seeking volunteers across British Columbia for its OPEN MIND MEDIA WATCH program.

Volunteer stigma-busters are asked to keep an eye out for media portrayals of people living with mental illnesses (both negative and positive) and write informative letters to the media in response.

Volunteer media watchers will receive an OPEN MIND training kit which includes lots of information and suggestions for letter-writing and raising awareness.

To volunteer as an Open Mind media watcher, or for more information, please contact Alison Jacques or Dena Ellery at the Canadian Mental Health Association, BC Division by phone at (604) 688-3234, by fax at (604) 688-3236, or by email at <dellery@cmha-bc.org>.

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN'S CENTRE

44 East Cordova St., Vancouver

681 - 8480

SEPTEMBER 1998

**LUNCH SERVED
DAILY AT 12:30**

SUN	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
		1 5:00 BWSS	2 1:30 Nurse - Planning meals on low or no budget 5:00 A + D Group	3 1:00 - 4:00 Law Student 1:30 Women's Voice 5:00 Women Surviving Together	4 10:30 Sewing and Alterations 1:30 Raffle 2:00 Video 2:30 Spanish Cl. 5:00 Stop the Violence	5 CENTRE OPEN 12:00 - 5:00
6 CENTRE OPEN 12:00 - 5:00 2:00 Video	7 LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY 12 - 5 (no lunch) 1:30 Beading	8 2:00 Volunteers Only Mtg	9 10:00 Street Nurse - Testing and info 1:30 Nurse - Menopause 1:30 Trip to see Masks of the Pacific Northwest 5:00 A + D Group	10 10:00 New Volunteer Orientation 1:00 Law Student 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Ceramics 5:00 WST	11 10:30 Sewing and Alterations 1:30 Raffle 2:00 Video 2:30 Spanish 5:00 Stop the Violence	12 CENTRE OPEN 12:00 - 5:00
13 CENTRE OPEN 12:00 - 5:00 2:00 Video 5:00 Volunteer Mtg & Dinner	14 1:30 Beading	15 10:00 LEAVE FOR CAMP CAPILANO!	16 10:00 Street Nurse - Testing and info 10:30 - 8:30 DAY TRIP TO CAMP CAPILANO 1:30 Nurse - Menopause 5:00 A + D Group	17 1:00 Law Student 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 RETURN FROM CAMP 2:00 Ceramics 5:00 WST	18 10:30 Sewing 1:30 Raffle 2:00 Video 2:30 Spanish Class 5:00 Stop the Violence	19 CENTRE OPEN 12:00 - 5:00
20 CENTRE OPEN 12 - 5 2:00 Video	21 1:30 Beading 2:00 Volunteers' Communications Workshop 5:00 Learning Group	22 DEWC AGM 2:00 - 6:00 Supper to follow	23 10:00 Street Nurse - Testing and info 1:30 Nurse - Smoking 5:00 A & D Group	24 1:00 Law Student 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Ceramics 5:00 WST	25 10:30 Sewing 1:30 Raffle 2:00 Video 2:30 Spanish Class 5:00 Stop the Viol	26 CENTRE OPEN 12:00 - 5:00
27 CENTRE OPEN 12:00 - 5:00	28 1:30 Beading 5:00 Learning Group	29	30 CHEQUE DAY CENTRE CLOSED FOR PLANNING MTG	<div>CENTRE HOURS</div> <div>Mon 10:00-5 Tues. 11:00-5 Wed. 10:00-5 Thrs. 10:00-5</div>		Fri. 10:00 - 5:00 Sat 12:00 - 5:00 Sun 12:00 - 5:00

REGULAR PROGRAMMING

Learning Group - Every Monday, doors close at 5:15. Exploring different ways of Learning. This group is closed until October.

Battered Women Support Services on Tuesday nights from 5 - 8:30, support for women affected by violence in their lives. This session ends the first week in September. A new session will be planned for the fall. A new **Wenlido class** will begin soon on Tuesdays. Watch for posters.

The Street Nurse will be in every Wed morning at 10:00 am to provide info on STD's, hepatitis and HIV/Aids and will do blood testing on site.

The Community Nurse - is in every Wednesday at 1:30. Watch out for health tips and information.

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

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.

Stopping the Violence Discussion - Every 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..

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

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

OUTINGS - Watch the Outing Board for RUSH tickets.

MASKS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST - Wed. Sept 9th, 1:30pm -We will be going to see this exhibit of 1st Nations' Masks at the Vancouver Art Gallery.

CAMP CAPILANO, Sept 15-17th- Three days and two nights in North Vancouver, crafts, outdoor activities and fun. There will also be a day trip going from the Centre on September 16th. Sign up!

SPECIAL

DEWC AGM - TUESDAY, SEPT. 22, starting at 2:00pm.

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.

WHO ARE THE "FUNDERS?"

If you go to any meetings at the D.E.W.C. you can hear women talk about the FUNDERS. And, if you wonder what that means, you are not alone.

The money to run our centre comes from many sources – big and small. When people talk about the funders they are usually talking about the government funders. These include the Ministry of the Attorney General, Ministry of Women's Equality, City of Vancouver and more. We have seven government contracts that require applications, contracts and/or regular reporting (i.e. a lot of work). About 60% of our money comes from government.

The other 40% comes from donations from members of the public, businesses, foundations, the United Way and Bingo. While we only have seven government contracts – we have literally hundreds of these other kinds of funders. Drew and I must keep in touch with each and every one of them in order to ensure their continued support.

One thing all of funders have in common – whether they give \$100 or \$100,000 - is a desire to know that the money they give is going to good use. You may hear people talking about accountability.

Being accountable means being able to show that we use our funds for the purposes that they are given. It also means that we can show that our services have a positive impact on the lives of our members. How many meals did we serve? How many women attended the A&D group? and so on.

The Law Foundation is one of our funders. They provide about 50% of the cost to run the Legal Advocate Program (Christine Wood's program). This year we have received extra funds from them to do some special projects.

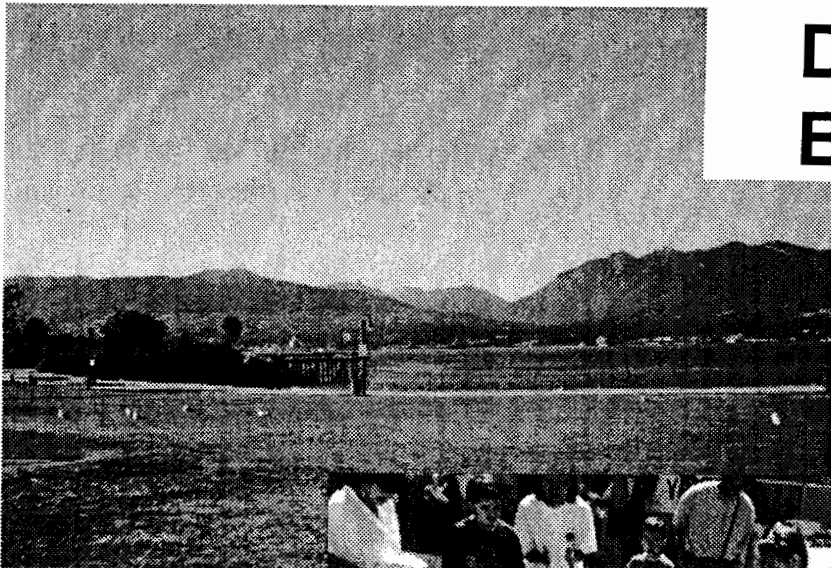
#1 The Management Improvement Project - with this project we will bring in an external facilitator to help us improve the working relationship between staff and Steering. We will be trying to more clearly understand the difference between our responsibilities.

#2 The Corporate Solicitation Project - we will be developing a package of material and a new logo for use in our corporate campaign.

Drew is in the beginning stages of working on this now. A professional designer will be putting together a promotional package that we can use when asking businesses for their \$\$\$\$ support \$\$\$\$\$. A couple of volunteers have been doing research over the summer to find out which corporations are

most likely to give to our organization. We are very grateful to the Law Foundation for their assistance with these very important projects.

Alix Mathias and Drew Dennis are the DEWC's Financial Managers.



DEWC BBQ!!

**Watermelon Eating
Contest!**



VOLUNTEER NEWS

VOLUNTEER MINUTES - Aug 17/ 98

Arts and Crafts Table

- we have a crafts table at the DERA Street Party on Saturday, August 29 - Leona is interested in having earrings at the table and will be there from 9 to 6:00pm, Freeda will also be interested
- Lucy will put up a sign up list for other women
- Megan and Lorna will staff the DEWC info table

BBQ

- thanks to everyone who put so much effort into making the BBQ a good time
- the kitchen staff and volunteers worked really hard from early morning and did not get a break until others had eaten, maybe next time, we should have two shifts for kitchen workers
- another thing we need is more bingo chips

St. Paul's Neighbourhood Advisory Committee

- they are looking for new reps and we need to tell them what women from here go through at the hospital - Doris and Juanita are interested in being reps

Bingo Volunteers

- we need to go over the new guidelines
- Doris and Louise would also like to be trained

Bridge Building Plans for the DEWC

- a final look at the plans will take place on Thursday, August 20 at 4:00pm
- Linda Baker the architect will also be there

Dirty Needles in the Bathroom

- more needles are being found, volunteers who empty the garbages need to be very careful
- volunteers would like Heather the Street Nurse to come and talk about these issues
- it would also be nice to have a spray bottle with bleach and paper towels to regularly wipe the red phone

Follow Up to the Communications Workshop

- Kathi Bentall will be back in September to continue our discussions around communications, working together as volunteers and other issues.
- we will use some concrete examples (like someone who won't leave the clothing room after 10 minutes) to

brainstorm effective strategies for dealing with women at the Centre

Special Thanks

Thanks to everyone who helped out at the August BBQ. There was lots of food and everyone enjoyed the games and the fun at Crab Park.

The volunteers worked really hard - cooking, setting up, cleaning up, and loading and unloading the van a zillion times.

Volunteers also made an impressive showing in the watermelon-eating and water balloon contests!



Upcoming Volunteer Dates

Tues, Sept. 8 - Volunteers Only Meeting, 2:00pm

Thur, Sept 10 - New Volunteer Orientation, 10:00am

Sun, Sept. 13 - Volunteer Meeting and Dinner, 5:00pm

Mon, Sept 21 - Communications Workshop for Volunteers

COMMUNICATIONS WORKSHOP II

**Monday, Sept 21st
2:00pm to 5:00pm**

Facilitator: Kathi Bentall

Next door at Central Res.

All volunteers are asked to attend. It does not matter if you missed the first workshop.



CAMP CAPILANO SEPT 15TH TO SEPT 17TH

We will be going to Camp Capilano in September for three days and two nights. The Camp has buildings with bunk beds and a dining room. There are lots of opportunities to enjoy the outdoors and we will be doing crafts and other activities the evenings.

You can sign up for the whole trip or you can come for the day on Wed. Sept 16th. Look for the sign up sheets on the Activity Board at the Centre.

If you are coming for the three days, you will need the following items. Let me (Lucy) know if you are having trouble getting these things together.

All food will be provided on the trip.



☺ bathing suit	☺ pillow	☺ sweater
☺ blankets	☺ rain gear	☺ toothbrush + paste
☺ cigarettes	☺ rolling paper	☺ towel
☺ flashlight	☺ shampoo	☺ warm socks
☺ glasses	☺ sleeping bag	☺ water bottle
☺ hats	☺ comfortable clothes	☺ good walking shoes
☺ medications	☺ soap	

We will leave the Centre on Tuesday, Sept 15 at 10:00am and be back in town after lunch on Thursday, Sept 17.

Come and try out camp life!

