

# D.E.W. DROP IN

## DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN DO DROP IN

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN'S CENTRE

NOVEMBER 1998

FREE



Despite the weather at our annual camping trip to Camp Capilano the trip was a great success. Of course some people thought it was too boring all that fresh air, beautiful nature, tranquil surroundings and craft happenings did not compare to the sirens and hassles in the city.

On Monday we got settled and segregated into snorers and non snorers, tho a snorer snuck into the non-snoring dormitory. After that we went for a short hike around the area and watched people fishing on the river. The river was beautiful, huge rocks and rushing water amidst our lush rain forest. The trail took us along one side of the river and we crossed a wooden foot bridge across the Capilano River, back across the Pipe Line Bridge. This is a bridge built on top of a huge pipe that

supplies water to the city from the Cleveland Dam.

Those of us that did not go on the walk spent our time exploring the camp and SWIMMING. The outdoor pool was heated and felt like a bathtub. The next day when it was really raining some of us went swimming again and it was wonderful to be swimming in the rain. As soon as it got dark we made a blazing fire in the Great Room. It was really cozy. All through out the three days women were making dreamcatchers, some women could barely tear themselves away to sleep. Only to get up at 6 am to get back to their dreamcatchers. By the end of the three days we had so many dreamcatchers that we wanted to go to the Fish Hatchery and set up a stall to sell dreamcatchers to the tourist.

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## NEWS FROM THE ADVOCATES

### Consumer Legislation

*An Act to Amend the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, The Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act, and The Income Tax Act (Bill C - 5).*

Most of the changes will come into force this autumn, according to the Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy. Highlights of the legislation include:

- Income support benefits, such as GST refunds and Child Tax Benefits, will be exempt from seizure.
- Maintenance under court order or agreement will have priority status for the amounts accrued in the year before bankruptcy.
- Civil judgments for damages for sexual or physical assault will be non-dischargeable.
- Surplus income payable to the Trustee under the Superintendent's

guidelines will depend on the cost of living in different areas.

- Student loans will be non-dischargeable if the person files within two years of finishing school, or while still in school. After two years, the court can review and discharge all or part of the debt.
- In an opposed discharge, the Court can award costs in favour of a creditor, to be paid out of the estate.

### *Courts Legislation*

*Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 1997 (Bill 22)*

Sections 32 and 33 of this act affect the conditions for the right of appeal under the Small Claims Act. Effective for all appeals filed on or after September 1, 1997, an appeal will be based on the record from the provincial court trial, on questions of fact and law. This replaces the

current appeal process which consists of a new trial in Supreme Court.

### Court Rules Act

Amendments to the Small Claims Rules were brought into force on June 15, 1997. Some of the changes are:

- Parties must now bring all relevant documents and reports to the settlement conference. Before, parties had to bring just the documents and reports they were going to rely on at trial.
- The judge may also now dismiss a claim, counterclaim, reply, or third party notice if it is frivolous or an abuse of the court's process.
- Rule 7.1 allows the transfer of claims to Supreme Court where the monetary outcome of a claim may exceed \$10,000. This rule also establishes the right to hold one trial with multiple causes of action, even though the total monetary outcome of all the claims is likely to exceed \$10,000.
- Rule 10.1 provides an incentive for parties to file and accept formal offers to settle. It will likely be helpful initially for a judge to raise this at the settlement conference, especially in cases where one party refuses a reasonable settlement offer.

### *MHR and damage deposits*

Tenants are now responsible for their own collection of damage deposit refunds. As of August 1, tenants no longer assign their damage deposit

refunds to the Ministry of Human Resources. Tenants may have to go to the Residential Tenancy Branch, and on to Small Claims Court for collection. There does not seem to be any special consideration given to tenants who have an RTB order for return of deposit but can't collect on it. This means that advocates will need to give more attention to requests for assistance with collection at both the RTB and small claims levels.

MHR will keep paying out new damage deposits, but will immediately sing repayment agreements with the tenant and arrange monthly deductions until past security deposits are repaid in full. Probably these deductions will be individually negotiated in the range of \$5 to \$15 a month.

All damage deposits issued before August 1, 1997, remain under the old rules. Previous damage deposits will not automatically be subject to repayment by the tenant to MHR.

### *Same-Sex Couples recognized as Spouses*

Gays, lesbians, and bisexuals may find the recent passage of Bill 31, amending the Family Relations Act, the changes mean that same-sex couples who have lived together for two years are classified as "spouses" and have the same rights and

**DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN'S CENTRE**  
 44 East Cordova St., Vancouver  
 681 - 8480  
 NOVEMBER 1997

**LUNCH SERVED  
 DAILY AT 12:30**

**REGULAR PROGRAMMING**

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

**Kathy the Nurse** - is in every Wednesday from 1:00 - 2:00.

**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.

**AIDS** - Margareth from AIDS Vancouver will be here every Thurs. at 2:00. To answer your questions or for support.

**Women Surviving Together** - Thurs. 5:00 - 8:00 Healing Circle and support group for women. Reta's back, YAH!

**Raffles** - Fridays at 1:30 or 2:00. Items which are not clothing items that have been donated to the Centre are raffled.

**Volunteer Nights** - Every Friday from 5:00 - 9:00 just for volunteers to hang out, do activities and workshops.

**CRAFTY WORKSHOPS** - Materials provided.

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

**Leather work with Barb** - Every Tuesday at 1:30. Learn to make baby moccasins out of leather.

**Ceramic and Tile Painting** - Every Thursday. Make something that you can use everyday or paint a tile that will be installed in the 'New' Centre when we get one.

**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 to events!

**Sat. Nov. 1 at 1:00** - Theatre outing - Sisters at the Firehall..

**Sun. Nov. 2 at 7:00** - Violin and piano recital at the Orpheum.

**Wed. Nov. 12 at 2:00** - There is a tropical Paradise in Vancouver, it is located at the Blodell Planetarium in Queen Elizabeth Park.

**Wed. Nov. 19 at 1:00** - The snow geese are migrating and they are just one species of bird that visit the Bird Scantuary.

**Mon. Nov. 24 at 7:00** - Off to the Arts Club Theatre on Granville Island to watch a production.

Sign up sheets are put up at the beginning of the month, even though there is a waiting list chances are there will be space available.

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.

SUN	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
	<b>CENTRE HOURS</b>					1 1:00 Theatre Outing
	Monday 10:30-5 Tues. 11:30-5 Weds. 10:30-5	Thurs. 10:30-5 Fri. 10:30-5 Sun. 12:00-5				
2 1:00 Video 7:00 Violin Recital	3 1:30 Beading 5:00 Learning Group	4 1:30 Baby moccasins 5:00 Battered Women's Support Group	5 1:00 Community Nurse 5:00 Alcohol and Drug Support Group	6 1:30 Women's Voice 1:30 Law Student 2:00 Making stuff out of clay 2:00 AIDS Van. 5:00 WST	7 10:30 Sewing and alterations 1:30 Raffle 2:30 Video	8
9 1:00 Video	10 1:30 Beading 5:00 Learning Group	11 Remembrance Day CENTRE OPEN 12:00 - 4:30 1:30 Baby moccasins	12 1:00 Kathy the Nurse 2:00 Planetarium at Queen E. Park 5:00 Alcohol and Drug Support Group	13 1:30 Women's Voice 1:30 Law Student 2:00 AIDS Van. 2:00 Ceramic Painting 5:00 WST	14 10:30 Sewing and alterations 1:30 Raffle	15 Internet for Vol. 10:00 - 2:00
16 1:00 Video	17 1:30 Beading 5:00 Learning Group	18 1:30 Baby moccasins 5:00 BWSS	19 1:00 Community Nurse 1:00 Rifel Bird Sacantuary 5:00 Alcohol and Drug	20 10:00 New Volunteer Orientation 10:30 Flu Shots 1:30 Women's Voice 1:30 Law Student 2:00 AIDS Van. 2:00 Picture Frame Painting 5:00 WST	21 10:30 Sewing and alterations 1:30 Raffle 2:30 Video	22 Volunt. Brunch meeting 11:00
23 2:00 Video  30 2:00 Video	24 1:30 Beading 2:00 AIDS Van. 5:00 Learning Group 7:00 Theatre Outing	25 1:30 Baby moccasins 5:00 BWSS	26 CHEQUE DAY 1:00 Community Nurse 2:00 Swimming at the Evelyn Daly Pool 5:00 Alcohol and Drug Support Group	27 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 AIDS Van. 2:00 Ceramic Painting 5:00 WST	28 10:30 Internet Workshop 10:30 Sewing and alterations 1:30 Raffle 2:30 Video	29

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The meals were wonderful, thanks to Charles who cooked and cleaned. We all want a man like him around. There was fresh baked croissants every morning, coffee anytime of the day, fresh fruit, salad and most importantly fresh baked cakes with ice-cream for dessert. Diets were forgotten.

On the second day, 6 day trippers joined our campers. It was a real Rain Forest experience. We visited the Cleveland Greater Vancouver. We also went to the

## **VOLUNTEER NEWS**

I would like to express my deepest thanks to Arlena C. Jones for all her work at the Women's Centre. I am filled with happiness for her, but yet sad for myself and the women of the Centre. Arlena left Vancouver for Port Renfrew, her hometown, last month. She will be dearly missed in the clothing room and on the front desk. Good luck to your Arlena and our hopes and thoughts go with you wherever you are.

The first month of the new volunteer incentive program seems to be a success. There is a list of the kinds of things available to volunteers and I would appreciate any suggestions.

Volunteers have taken on responsibility for many aspects of the Centre and I am very proud of the volunteers for their professional attitude. The Centre belongs to the women and it is about time that we all feel that way. If you are not part of the solution you are part of the problem. YAH! To the volunteers. From now on there will be no more Volunteer Nights, instead we will try out

Salmon Hatchery, it is a hard life being a salmon. They have to swim up stream, and then they die. What a life. They rear salmon up there and there were so many juvenile fish in one tank that we couldn't make out individual fish and we thought we were looking into dark water.

It was a wonderful trip and thank you to all the campers who helped out and made the trip enjoyable. We'll see you all again next year. Please give suggestions about how next years trip can be better.

the In Centre Incentive Program. If you would like more information about being a volunteer or about the Volunteer Program, see Cynthia.

We will continue to have workshops, outings and meetings, once each a month. This month there will be an Internet training session on Saturday, November 15th from 10:00 - 2:00 with lunch included. We will be having a Brunch meeting on Saturday, November 22nd from 12:00 - 2:00. It is really important volunteers attend the meetings to keep up to date with changes at the Centre. If you do not attend it is your responsibility to inform yourselves about the changes. Besides the food will be great and I promise not to talk for too long.

### **VOLUNTEER DATES**

#### **TO REMEMBER**

Sat. Nov. 15	10:00 - 2:00
Internet workshop for beginners	
Thurs. Nov. 20	10:00 - 12:00
New Volunteer Orientation	
Sat. Nov. 22	11:00 - 2:00
Brunch meeting	

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obligations as opposite-sex common-law couples. Upon separation, the parties may make claims for maintenance, child custody, and access. The property division and pension sharing regimes of the act will not apply unless the couple has specifically opted into it by making an agreement.

The changes also mean that transgendered people will not have to present evidence that they are one gender or another in order to determine whether or not they can make a claim for maintenance from an ex-partner. ( In an Ontario case, a female to male transsexual man was denied the right to claim maintenance from his ex-common-law wife after an 18-year relationship because he did not meet the judge's criteria for "male." Another change is that abused partners in same-sex couples may now apply for a restraining order under

the act. Previously, the only option for an abused partner was to get a peace bond under section 810 of the Criminal Code, which required the cooperation and assistance of the police and Crown prosecutors.

The act could now apply to same-sex couples who were separated within the past year (there is a one-year limitation period), after having lived together for at least two years. Practically speaking, relationship agreements between partners in same-sex couples are now very important for those who don't wish to have the Family Relations Act govern the structure of their relationships, and for those who do not wish Parts 5 and 6 to apply (property division and pension sharing).

Note: FRA amendments are not yet proclaimed in force.

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Excerpted from the Community Law Matters Periodical.

## **ARM YOURSELF IN THE WAR**

AGAINST THE FLU BUG OF COURSE

Cleo the Comunity Health Nurse will be at the  
Centre to give women flu shots.

**Thursday November 20 from 10:30 - 12:30**

You may feel tired and run down for a few days after but it beats being under the weather for weeks during the flu season.

The best defense is a good offense, be prepared

# THE WOMEN CENTRE IS ON LINE FINALLY

Are you interested in learning about the Internet?  
It isn't scary.  
It isn't difficult.  
It's the World Wide Web.

There will be a beginners workshop at the Centre on  
**Friday, November 28 10:30 - 12:30**

There is limited space, first come first surfs.  
For more information speak to Cynthia.

## GOOD NEWS

Up until this month we were only given funding for 18 hours a week for the Victim Service position this is only a half time position. This month we were upgraded in our funding to 35 hours a week which is a full time position. Marion was currently doing half time Victim Services and half time Counselling. She will now be doing full time Victim Services and we are working on who will be doing the counselling

What exactly a Victim Service does;

- court accompaniments
- criminal injury forms
- police reports
- victim impact statements
- public speaking
- monthly reports and stats
- 1-1 counselling with women who are victims of a crime and going through the court system.

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