

D.E.W. DROP IN DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN DO DROP IN

The Newsletter for the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre
JUNE 1999 Free

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY *JUNE 21*



Celebrate at the Women's Centre
a week of Aboriginal Cultural Events
June 15 - 21

What to do when I have some free time

and signing up at the Women Centre! **VOLUNTEER! NOW**

Have a chat with the Volunteer Coordinator, Denise Tang.

Make her work!

She will convince you about the goodies of being a Volunteer
and get you signed up for a Volunteer Orientation.

Heck! She might even provide snacks and pop at Volunteer Meetings.

How?

So what are you waiting for?
.....

WHAT'S UP FOR VOLUNTEERS

June 3 Thursday at 5pm

Volunteer Outing to the Children's Festival

The Potato People Survive the Great Outdoors

Meal at the Centre with WST

Leave at 5:30 Sharp!

Talk to Denise if you are interested in coming.

June 8 Tuesday at 2pm

Volunteers-Only Meetin at Centreal Residence

(yes, the meeting without the Volunteer Coordinator)

June 8 Tuesday at 5pm

New Volunteer Orientation - meal at 5:00

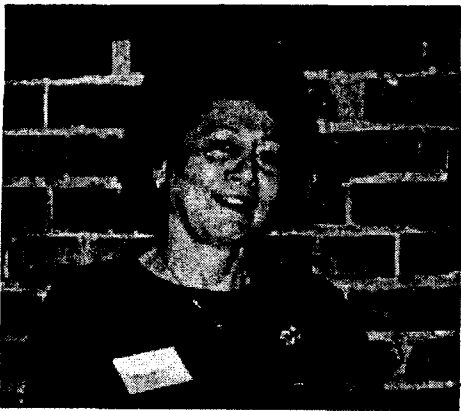
June 13 Sunday at 5 pm

Volunteer Meeting and Meal

Issues -Responsibilities of Volunteers, Volunteer Schedule

To all the Women, Volunteers, Staff and
Steering Committee of the Downtown
Eastside Women's Center.

Thank you all for making my 16 months
as a volunteer so enjoyable and easy for
me. You are all very wonderful people.
Love you . Meg May God Bless You



*Dear friends of mine, there is no way
In which I could address you
With more sincerity of heart
Than just to say God Bless You
My words could wish that all your cares
Would be a little lighter
And I could send you greeting cards
To make your hours brighter
My heart could wish good luck to you
And happiness in planning.
And I could promise you the depth
Of human understanding
But I am sure no other thought
Or message would impress you
As lovingly and lastingly
As asking God to bless you
And so I say God bless you, Friends
In every good endeavor
And may His guiding grace be yours
Forever and forever.*

All my relations, your friend, Megan 1999

The Power of Love

There is no thinking person
Who can stand untouched today?
And view the world around us
Drifting downward to decay
Without feeling deep within them
A silent unnamed dread.
Wondering how to stem the chaos
That lies frightfully ahead....
But the problems we are facing
Cannot humanly be solved
For our diplomatic strategy
Only gets us more involved
And our skillful ingenuity,
Our technology and science

Can never change a sinful heart
Filled with hatred and defiance.....
So our problems keep on growing
Every hour of every day
As man vainly tries to solve them
In his own self-willed way
But man is powerless alone
To clean up the world outside
Until his own pollute soul
Is clean and Free inside
For the amazing power of love
Is beyond all comprehension
And it alone can heal this World
Of it's hatred and dissension.
Helen Steiner Rice

POPULAR EDUCATION *is back*

Ema from Vancouver Status of Women will begin another Popular Education Group at the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre. This time the group will run for 10 weeks beginning Wednesday June 2, 1999 at 5:00pm

Popular education uses the experiences, knowledge, skills and contributions of those who participate to educate each other and to look at solutions. Popular education is based on the belief that we already have the knowledge and skills but we need to bring them together to learn from each other's past struggles and everyday situations. Popular education respects people as their own experts and acknowledges that everyone has the ability to work out solutions to problems.

The popular education group is a way for women who are interesting in working together and in sharing stories and experiences to collectively look at problems and find solutions. Popular education techniques can be used in many different situations. For example, making changes at the Women's Centre; dealing with Social Workers or FAW's or to make changes in the community. If you want to know more about this group talk with Alice (office C).

Wednesday Nights
all june
5pm

My self-made Ball and Chain

My eyes have lost their shine
My soul is dying down hard time
I can't escape from this hell
What'll become of me?
Only God will tell.
Be strong.
Go ahead and don't look back
But be prepared of an attack.
Round and round goes my brain
Cocaine will end up driving you insane.

L.F. /99 4

Parents Rights Information Session on **Child Supervision**

Presented by the Legal Services Society of Surrey

Mon. June 14 at 5pm

at the Centre - Meal included

For more info. speak to Alice

An opportunity for parents involved in child protection cases with the Ministry of Children and Families to gather some information and support.

There will be a meal served at 5:00 and the group will be leaving at 6:00 sharp.

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How you can appeal decisions made by the Ministry of Human Resources?:)

Common Reasons for making appeals

- Being turned down as ineligible for welfare
- Having your welfare check cancelled or reduced
- Having a crisis grant, or another additional allowance refused

Being denied health care

Being classified as "employable"

Having disabled status refused

Having homemakers services refused

There are three steps to making an appeal process:

1. B.C. Benefits Reconsideration Request (Minister's Decision)

- You have 20 business days to start the appeal. Make sure you start the appeal as soon as possible.
- Ask your financial aid worker (FAW) to explain why your request was turned down. Make sure to take notes.
- Ask your FAW for the form, " B.C. Benefits reconsideration form".
- Complete your part of the appeal explaining why you are appealing the decision.
- The MHR manager has 10 business days to make a decision on your case(20 days for disability)

2. Tribune

- If the Benefits Co-ordinator does not change the decision at the reconsideration stage, you have a right to appeal to a tribunal.
- You have 7 business days to request a tribunal from the time you get the decision.
- The tribunal panel is made up of three people. You get to pick one person, the ministry picks the second and the third

person chairs the panel.

- The tribunal makes a decision in writing. This package includes the Tribunal Decision form, a Statement of Fact form, and related documents.

3. The B.C Benefits Appeal Board

- If the tribunal does not change the ministry's decision, you have the right to take the appeal to the B.C. Benefits Appeal Board.
- You have 30 business days to file a notice of appeal and written submission
- You have to state in writing your " grounds of appeal.
- You send in this statement, plus the tribunal decision, and attached documents, along with the Notice of Appeal, Benefits Appeal Board.
- The ministry makes a written submission, too.
- You will get a copy of the ministry's submission. You have 10 business days to respond.
- The B.C Benefits Appeal Board makes a decision.

You have the right to appeal decisions made by the Ministry of Human Resource.

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN'S CENTRE
44 East Cordova St., Vancouver
681 - 8480
JUNE 1999

**LUNCH SERVED
DAILY AT 12:30**

SUN	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
		1 1:00 Jordon Cook and the Blues Boys – Music Outing	2 12:00 Shiatsu Massage 5:00 Pop. Ed. 5:00 Swan's Song – Theatre Outing	3 10:30 Street Nurse 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Ceramics 5:00 Women Surviving Together 5:00 Volunteer Outing	4 10:30 Sewing and Alterations 2:00 Video 5:00 Anti-violence discussion Group	5 1:30 Dream catchers
6 12:00 Leon Bib – Sandwich and Music Outing 1:00 Video	7 1:30 Beading	8 2:00 Volunteers Only meeting 5:00 New Volunteer Orientation	9 12:00 Shiatsu Massage 5:00 Popular Education	10 10:30 Street Nurse 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Ceramics 5:00 WST	11 10:30 S + A 1:30 Raffle 2:00 Video 5:00 A-V Group	12
13 1:00 Video 5:00 Volunteer Meeting and meal	14 1:30 Beading 5:00 Parents Rights Workshops	15 Centre Closed 12:00 – 3:00 BBQ at Crab Park 1:00 – Food	16 10:30 – 3:00 Native Speakers 12:00 Shiatsu Massage 5:00 Pop Ed.	17 10:30 Street Nurse 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Ceramic Painting 5:00 WST	18 10:30 S + A 2:00 Videos by Aboriginal Women 5:00 A-V Group	19 1:30 Dream catchers
20 12:00 Bannock Breaky 1:30 Aboriginal Celebration – Art Gallery 2:00 Video	21 National Aboriginal Day 10:30 Traditional Dance 12:00 Sweatlodge 1:30 Beading 5:00 Learning Group	22 5:00 Battered Women Support Services	23 24 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> Centre Closed for Strategic Planning Sorry for the inconvenience </div>		25 10:30 S + A 1:30 Raffle 2:00 Video 5:00 A-V Group	26 1:30 Dream catchers
27 1:00 Video	28 1:30 Beading 5:00 Learning Group	29 2:00 Swimming 5:00 BWSS	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> CENTRE HOURS </div>			
			Sun. 12 - 5 Mon. 10 - 5 Tues. 11 - 5	Weds. 10 - 5 Thurs. 10 - 5	Fri. 10 - 5 Sat. 12 - 5	

REGULAR PROGRAMMING

Learning Group - Every Monday, doors close at 5:15. Exploring different ways of Learning with elder, Bernice Hammersmith.
Battered Women Support Services on Tuesday nights from 5 - 8:30, support for women affected by violence in their lives. Marnie is here on Wednesdays to give women relaxing, healing **Shiatsu massages** on a first come first massaged basis.
Alcohol and Drug Support Group – Cancelled until further notice.
Popular Education - Wednesday nights at 5:00, join Ema of VSW, share skills to make positive changes in your life and community. The **Street Nurse** is here every Thursday from 10:30 – 12:00 to give you information on all kinds of health issues.
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 –Every other Fridays at 1:30 or 2:00 depending on availability, items that have been donated to the Centre are raffled.
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.
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, 10:30. Learn to do your own sewing and alterations and also to knit and crochet.
Dreamcatchers with Beverly or Mable, every Saturday at 1:30. Expand your skills and share stories with other women.
OUTINGS - Watch the Outing Board for RUSH tickets
Vancouver International Children's Festival – Tuesday, June 1 at 1:00, Wednesday June 2 at 5:00 and Sunday June 6 at 12:00.
Tuesday June 15, BBQ from 12 – 3 is the kick off to summer and the opening of Aboriginal Cultural week at the Centre there will be activities and entertainment for all. Food served at 1:30.
Saturday June 19 at 12:00 we will be serving a bannock breakfast then there will be an outing to the Aboriginal Arts and Culture Celebration at the Art Gallery.
Monday June 21 is National Aboriginal Day and there will be a group going to the Sweats in North Vancouver at 1:00
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 so come by and you will probably be able to join us.
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.

Selina K. Barton

Aboriginal poet from the Nisga'a Nation.
31 years old. Been writing for the past 15 years.

I come from a large but close family.
Recently lost my mom. She was and still is the reason I am still on this earth.
(Kincolith) Stomping grounds is Gingolx, BC where I was born and raised. Proud of my people's history.
My other passions are basketball, volleyball, softball and soccer. I enjoy listening to music and being outdoors. The beauty of nature and the love and support of her family and friends inspire my writing.

Native Images

While our heart bleeds for the
Dying breeds
We all have dreams to someday
Succeed
For we are all rare and unique
But we won't become extinct.
We have a lot of mystery because
Of our lifelong history.
We are judged by those most
Prejudice
We lived as a congregation in
Isolation
Where in legislation there was
Condemnation
And deprivation of our cultivation?

We are divided by the shame
Which prolongs the pain
Our lands are our providers
While our souls were our guides
We need to escape before it's
Too late



Friends

*Is the energy to our spirit?
Is the voice of inspiration?
Is the strength of integrity?
Is the courage behind our thoughts?
Is our hope when there is no will?
Are the youth to our wisdom?
Are the shoulders in which we lean on?
Is the invested interest of our well being?*

WINGS OF FREEDOM

**WHENEVER THE WIND BLOWS
HOWEVER THE THUNDER ROLLS
WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER
YOUR MAGNIFICENT SOUL
TIME SPENT WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS.
LONG LIVE THE MEMORIES TO
HELP OUR HEARTS MEND.
BELIEVE IN EACH OTHER FOR
TRUE STRENGTH
AS IT IS WITH UNDO LENGTH
REMEMBER THE ESSENCE OF
THEIR WINGS.**

In loving memory of the precious lives lost in the Aug. 4th,
1998 plane crash outside Kincolith, BC

In Loving Memory of My First Cousin Beverly Gioia

*She was the spirit to our soul.
Her smile was the light of each day.
She believed in everyone's strength.
The courage she had to live life to the fullest.
Her laugh was the beauty behind our well being.
The beauty she had shone in the wisdom of her words.
She will be missed so very much by all that knew her.
The many lives she touched with her ever giving and kind heart.
The brightness of her eyes gave you the warmth of caring.
Her energy was the one that could not be matched.
The love she had for her children was with the utmost respect.
Her family will miss her, everytime they expect her to call.
Of wait for her to come through the front door.
The passion she had to lift up other peoples spirit.
She shared her wealth of natural knowledge with
those whom were willing to learn.
Her concern was not only for herself, but for others in need.
The many teardrops that flow and fall are not
enough to take away the pain.*

*Your presence is so strong in all our hearts that
the next few days will be extra long.
Today is your memorial day and tomorrow is your
funeral day.
You shall be missed dearly and not one person will
ever forget you from day one.
The flowers are fresh and beautiful as you were,
the day you were born.
You will not be a lost soul for you are in
everyone's heart.
Time spent together was so very precious.
So why does it take something like this to know
exactly what we missed.
You are the wind beneath the wings,
You have the blue sky reins.
For you are as bright as a diamond ring.
Forever live on in our hearts, mind, body and soul.*

May 19, 1999



H U R M I G A H T S

Has this ever happened to you?

You are looking for an apartment and;
the landlord says he doesn't rent to people on welfare
the landlord says she doesn't allow children
you think you didn't get the apartment because you are Native

You have a job and:
the boss keeps asking you to go out with him; you keep saying no and he starts to give you a hard time at work

You apply for a job and;
they ask you if you have a criminal record
they tell you that you are too old
they tell you that they want a man for the job

You go to the dentist and:
he won't treat you because you're HIV positive

You go to a bar or a restaurant and:
they won't let you in because you are transsexual or transgendered
you can't get in, your wheelchair won't fit in

You might have a complaint under the BC Human Rights Code.
Drop in and talk to **Karen** or **Stephanie** from the BC Human Rights Commission at:

First United Church
320 East Hastings (at Gore)
Tuesdays from 1:30 to 4:00 PM

Or call the BC Human Rights Commission at 660-6811
or drop in and speak to someone at Hornby Street (at Robson Street)
Monday to Friday, 8:30 to 4:30 PM

The Women's Centre will be closed June 23 and June 24

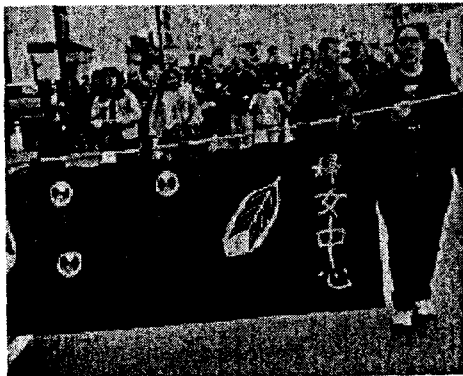
as all the staff and the steering committee will be doing strategic planning

As you all know the Women's Centre has become a lot busier and often stressful for a lot of women who come here. Staff, steering and volunteers are told that some women don't come here anymore because it is too busy or because there is nothing here for them to do. This type of statement is quite common when an organization doesn't make changes to itself to reflect the needs of the people that use it.

An organization usually develops out from an idea of a group of people or out of a need. Over 25 years ago a group of women wanted to create a safe space for women living in the downtown eastside as there was no women only space. They also knew that women



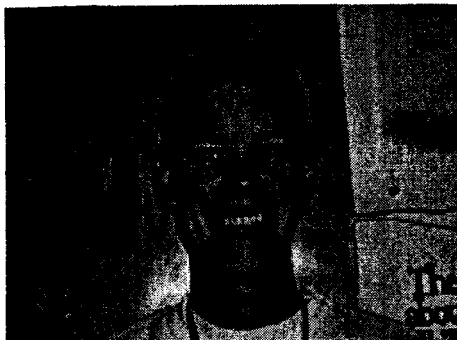
living here had a harder time because of lack of money, lack of decent housing, violence on the streets, homes, etc. The women centre opened as a place where women could be safe and get support and as a place that would push for changes in the system.



The women's centre still needs to be that safe, supportive place. In order to do that in the best possible way it needs to look at how it operates, what works and what doesn't work, etc. That is the purpose of strategic planning. To begin to find possible solutions for the types of problems the women's centre is experiencing and to plan how to carry out the solutions. To look at ways the Women's Centre can be safe and offer the type of support that is needed rather than carrying on doing what 11 has always been done.

Christine Hutchinson is back at the Centre on June 7th. Yeah! She will be working as the Mental Health Advocate in Office D. If you have any questions about Disability, Alcohol and Drug, Housing, Crisis Counselling, Hep. C, HIV/AIDS and other issues Christine is the woman to see or just Drop in and say hello. Welcome back Lean and Lanky. You have been missed.

Michelle will still be at the Centre as Relief Staff, she will also be working at the Portland.



Aboriginal Cultural Week at the Centre

Tues. June 15

BBQ at Crab Park 12 - 3, Food at 1:30

Dancing by the Traditional Mothers Dance Group, Japanese Drumming by Sawagi Taiko and Art and Craft Activities. Prayer and Circle at 12:00.

Weds. June 16

A day of Speakers and Storytellers

10:30 Storyteller Elder Margaret Harris
2:00 Corelie from the Aboriginal Law Centre
3:00 Eileen from the Aboriginal Justice Project

Fri. June 18

Videos by Aboriginal Women

All day we will be playing videos made by Aboriginal Women about diverse issues.

Sun. June 20

Aboriginal Arts and Culture Celebration

12:00 Bannock and Bacon Breakfast at the Centre
1:30 We will be attending the Celebration at the Robson Square Convention Centre.

Mon. June 21

National Aboriginal Day

10:30 Storyteller Elder Margaret Harris
11:00 Traditional Mother's dance Group
12:00 Sweat in North Vancouver