

# D.E.W. DROP IN

**DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN DO DROP IN**

**THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN'S CENTRE**

**JUNE 2000**

**FREE**

**DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN'S CENTRE**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**THURSDAY JUNE 29, 2000**

## **AGENDA**

5:00 PM Dinner

6:00 PM Welcome & Introductions

6:05 PM Chairperson's Report; Lauren Howes

6:20 PM Treasurers Report; Norma

- Appointment of auditor for next year

6:35 PM Policy Committee Report;

6:45 PM Personnel Committee Report;

7:00 PM Staff Reports; Marlene

7:15 PM Questions

7:30 PM Nominations & Introducing of nominees

7:45 PM Election of up to 12 new Board of Directors

8:00 PM Adjournment

# Mother's Day picnic



SINGLE MOM'S DAY was a wonderful day that was attended by many mom's and their children.



Their picnic not only included a barbarque but as well as a cake that was cut by Betty who is a mother and grandmother to 60 wonderful children and grandchildren.

Thank you to everyone who participated in making this a spectacular event.



Once again pictures have been submitted for sharing a special event held specifically for our volunteers. Here you can see they are given the opportunity to relax and and enjoy their activities.

*VOLUNTEERS*



*Hey Women!!*

Katrina here. As some of you know, I've been working in the centre during the month of May as a Mental Health Advocate, filling in for Christine Huchinson while she was away. I've enjoyed meeting and connecting with women at the centre and want to thank you for the kindness I have experienced while working here.

Perhaps our paths will cross again in future.

Blessings, Katrina.

"Voyager there are no bridges, one builds them as one walks"

-Gloria Anzaldua

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**Announcing Free Legal Advice at the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre. Tuesdays**  
from 1pm to 4pm

My name is Kristiina and I work for the Law Student's Legal Advice Program at UBC. This summer I will be running a free drop-in clinic to help women at the Centre with their legal issues. My program can help with all types of issues including criminal charges, landlord/tenant, employment, social assistance, employment insurance, debts, writing wills, human rights, WCB, and small claims. Unfortunately because of funding cuts, we won't be able to handle any family law concerns. As well, we can only handle criminal charges if they are first-time offenses.

Otherwise, if you're not sure what I can help with just drop-in and hopefully I can be of some help. Also, if you can't make it to the Centre on Tuesdays from 1pm to 4pm I have a list of other clinics around town that have different hours.

My first clinic will be May 30 so feel free to drop in and see me!

# FOUR DAY WORK WEEK FULL TIME EMPLOYEES

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNES	THURS	FRIDAY	SATUR
Denise 8:30-5:00	Denise 9:00-6:00	Denise 8:00-5:00	Denise 8:00-5:00	Marlies 8:00-5:00		
	Marlies 8:30-5:00	Marlies 8:00-5:00	Marlies 8:00-5:00	Alice 8:00-5:00		
	Alice 8:30-5:00	Alice 8:00-5:00	Alice 9:00-6:00	Marlene 8:00-5:00		
	Marlene 8:30-5:00	Marlene 8:00-5:00	Marlene 8:00-5:00	Marg 8:00-5:00		
	Marg 8:30-5:00	Marg 8:00-5:00	Marg 8:00-5:00	Marcella 8:00-5:00	Marcella 8:30-5:00	
		Marcella 8:00-5:00	Marcella 8:00-5:00	Hutch 8:00-5:00	Hutch 8:30-5:00	
		Hutch 8:00-5:00	Hutch 8:00-5:00	Michelle 8:00-5:00	Michelle 8:00-5:00	
		Michelle outreach	Michelle .8-11/outreach	Michelle outreach	Michelle 8:00-5:00	
			Reta 8:00-5:00	Reta 1:00-9:00	Reta 8:00-5:00	Reta 8:30-5:00
				STV 9:30-4:30	STV 2:00-8:00	STV 12:00-5:00
		Julia activity			Julia 9:00-5:00	Julia 9:00-5:00
Vera 2:00-5:00		Vera 8:00-5:00				
Relief (5) 12:00-5:00	Relief (7) 9:30-5:00					Relief (4) 12:00-4:00

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNES	THURS	FRIDAY	SATUR
	Julie 7:00-4:00	Julie 7:30-4:00	Julie 7:00-4:00	Julie 7:00-4:00		
		Kathy 9:00-5:00	Kathy 9:00-5:00	Kathy 9:00-5:00	Kathy 7:30-3:30	
Vera 8:00-1:30	Vera 8:00-5:00					Vera 8:30-5:00
					Relief (4) 10:00-2:00	

## **REGULAR PROGRAMMING**

### **LEARNING GROUP**

-MONDAY, 5PM

EXPLORING DIFFERENT WAYS OF LEARNING WITH FIRST NATIONS ELDER.

### **BATTERED WOMEN SUPPORT SERVICES**

-TUESDAY, 5PM

SUPPORT FOR WOMEN AFFECTED BY VIOLENCE.

**BWSS resumes AUG 25**

### **SHIATSU MASSAGES AND REFLEXOLOGY**

-TUESDAY, 11AM

FIRST COME FIRST MASSAGED. GET PAMPERED AND FEEL ENERGIZED.

### **POPULAR EDUCATION GROUP – WEDNESDAY, 5PM**

#### **WOMEN'S VOICE**

-THURSDAY, 1:30 PM

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT THE CENTRE. YOUR OPINIONS AND IDEAS ARE NEEDED.

### **WOMEN SURVIVING TOGETHER**

-THURSDAY, 5PM

HEALING CIRCLE AND SUPPORT GROUP FOR WOMEN. LED BY ELDER.

### **ANTI-VIOLENCE DISCUSSION GROUP**

-FRIDAY, 5PM

GATHERING TO SHARE STORIES AND STRATEGIES TO KEEP OURSELVES SAFE:

### **CRAFTY WORKSHOPS**

#### **BEADING WITH LEONA**

-MONDAY, 1:30 PM.

LEARN HOW TO BEAD, EXPAND YOUR SKILLS OR JUST SHARE IDEAS.

### **FABRIC ARTS WITH FREEDA**

-FRIDAY, 10:30 AM.

LEARN TO DO YOUR OWN SEWING AND ALTERATIONS.

### **DREAMCATCHERS THURSDAY week of cheque day - Wednesday**

LEARN DIFFERENT STYLES OR WORK ON YOUR OWN PROJECTS.

### **OUTINGS**

-TUES, LEAVE AT DIFFERENT TIMES DEPENDING ON THE OUTING. SIGN UP SHEETS ARE POSTED ON 1<sup>ST</sup> OF EACH MONTH. EVEN THOUGH THERE IS A WAITING LIST CHANCES ARE THERE WILL BE SPACE AVAILABLE.

**THURSDAY 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM - DREAMCATCHERS**

# DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN'S CENTRE

44 East Cordova Street, Vancouver, BC

V6A 1K2

681-8480

**JUNE  
2000**

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
CENTRE HOURS ==>	12 am - 5 pm	9 am - 5pm	11 am - 5 pm	9 am - 5pm	9 am - 5pm	9 am - 5pm	12 am - 5 pm
AFTERNOON PROGRAMS==>					1 1:30 pm WOMEN'S VOICE; DREAM CATCHERS	2 10:30 am SEWING & ALTERATIONS	3 1:30 pm VIDEO
EVENING PROGRAMS ==>					5:00 pm WST GROUP	5:00 pm A-V GROUP	
AFTERNOON PROGRAMS==>	4 1:00 pm VIDEO	5 1:30 pm BEADING	6 11:00 am SHIATSU; 2:00 pm OUTING	7	8 1:30 pm WOMEN'S VOICE; DREAM CATCHERS	9 10:30 am SEWING & ALTERATIONS	10 1:30 pm VIDEO
EVENING PROGRAMS ==>		5:00 pm LEARNING GROUP	5:00 pm BWSS GROUP (resumes AUG 25)	5:00 pm GROUP	5:00 pm WST GROUP	5:00 pm A-V GROUP	
AFTERNOON PROGRAMS==>	11 1:00 pm VIDEO	12 1:30 pm BEADING	13 11:00 am SHIATSU; 2:00 pm OUTING	14	15 1:30 pm WOMEN'S VOICE; DREAM CATCHERS	16 10:30 am SEWING & ALTERATIONS	17 1:30 pm VIDEO
EVENING PROGRAMS ==>		5:00 pm LEARNING GROUP	5:00 pm BWSS GROUP (resumes AUG 25)	5:00 pm GROUP	5:00 pm WST GROUP	5:00 pm A-V GROUP	
AFTERNOON PROGRAMS==>	18 1:00 pm VIDEO	19 1:30 pm BEADING	20 11:00 am SHIATSU; 2:00 pm OUTING	21 NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY CELEBRATIONS	22 1:30 pm WOMEN'S VOICE; DREAM CATCHERS	23 10:30 am SEWING & ALTERATIONS	24 1:30 pm VIDEO
EVENING PROGRAMS ==>		5:00 pm LEARNING GROUP	5:00 pm BWSS GROUP (resumes AUG 25)	5:00 pm GROUP	5:00 pm WST GROUP	5:00 pm A-V GROUP	
AFTERNOON PROGRAMS==>	25 1:00 pm VIDEO	26 1:30 pm BEADING	27 CHEQUE DAY 11:00 am SHIATSU; 2:00 pm OUTING	28 1:30 pm WOMEN'S VOICE; DREAM CATCHERS	29 5 - 8 pm Annual General Meeting	30 -HOT MEAL- - 10:30 am SEWING & ALTERATIONS	
EVENING PROGRAMS ==>		5:00 pm LEARNING GROUP	5:00 pm BWSS GROUP (resumes AUG 25)	5:00 pm GROUP		5:00 pm A-V GROUP	



# NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

The deadline dates for newsletter submissions are:

newsletter month	cheque day	cheque date
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July 2000	Wednesday	July 26, 2000
August 2000	Wednesday	August 23, 2000
September 2000	Wednesday	September 27, 2000
October 2000	Wednesday	October 25, 2000
November 2000	Wednesday	November 22, 2000
December 2000	Wednesday	December 13, 2000

## A Friendly Reminder!

Submissions will only be accepted if provided on disk.

Thank you!

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### WHAT'S IN STORE FOR JUNE 2000

Notices will be posted with details for:

- **BARBEQUE** for National Aboriginal Day celebrations.
- **OUTINGS** (requested by members) to  
Waterslides -picnic;  
Crescent Beach -picnic;  
Lighthouse Park -picnic;  
Witness -camping

## **Transsexuals Protected by Human Rights Legislation**

**Submitted By: Marlies Wester**

It has been over a year since the BC Human Rights Tribunal awarded in favour of a transsexual woman who claimed grounds of discrimination on the basis of sex. This decision, as well as one similar decision, affects many organizations and services that are provided to the public, including the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre, therefore, it is important to inform everyone about some of the key issues.

"Transgendered" is an umbrella term that applies to transsexual people, transvestites, drag queens, cross-dressers, and gender-benders. Because our culture assumes that everyone is either male or female, there are not any places that transgendered people fit. Transgendered people are regularly hospitalized or imprisoned with people whose gender identity they do not share, kicked out of washrooms, or in regards to transgendered women, denied access to women-only spaces.

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**Transsexual:**

Anyone who wants to have or has had a sex change operation, or non-surgical transsexuals

**Post-Op:**

A transsexual who has had his or her sex-change operation and now has the physical anatomy desired

**Pre-Op:**

A transsexual who has not yet had their sex-change operation, but who is working towards it

**Non-Surgical Transsexual:**

Transsexuals who seek a sex change through hormones and who cross-live, but do not intend to have surgery.

- 5) Some have concerns about major surgery, which is not always successful.
- 6) Others have been unable to obtain the money necessary and have essentially given up on this final step.
- 7) Others feel they are complete without surgery.
- 8) Others still cannot have surgery due to special health problems, such as AIDS.

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### **History of a BC Human Rights Case:**

Tawni Sheridan, a transsexual woman, was denied her right to be free of discrimination based on sex when a bouncer at a nightclub in Victoria told her that she would be asked to leave if she continued to use the women's washroom. The club had a policy that only anatomical women were to use the women's washroom.

The Chief Commissioner of the Tribunal said that the ground of "sex" can be reasonably interpreted to include transsexualism. The Tribunal agreed with this position and ruled that as transsexuals are protected on the grounds of sex and physical or mental disability, the respondent's washroom policy discriminated against Tawni Sheridan on both of these grounds.

Although the Tribunal's decision answers some of the concerns that led the commission to make that recommendation, it does not guarantee an appropriate degree of protection to the highly vulnerable members of the transgendered community in British Columbia. Society in general assumes that every individual is either a male or a

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female, when in fact the issue of gender is more complex and fluid. What is needed is a clear statement that discrimination on the basis of gender identity is prohibited. This will help people in BC understand that discrimination against all transgendered people is prohibited by law.

### **Right To Define Gender Identity:**

All Human beings have the right to define their own gender identities regardless of chromosomal sex or genitalia.

### **The Right to Access Gendered Space and Participation in Gendered Activity:**

If an individual identifies as a particular gender (eg. woman), they must not be denied access to a space or denied participation in an activity (eg. washrooms, the Women's Centre).

### **The Downtown Eastside Women's Centre Policy:**

Historically, the Women's Centre has held a discriminatory policy regarding transsexual women wishing to access the Centre. Current decisions by the Human Rights ruling, as well as educating ourselves in recognizing the discriminatory nature of refusing access to women who were either pre-op or

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non-surgical transsexuals, the Women's Centre's current policy is intended to welcome and provide services to transsexual women. The policy currently states:

**Transsexual women are people who are born with male body parts, but who identify themselves as women. They may be either "post-op", or because the formal change can be long and expensive, they may be "pre-op", or because of health reasons or individual choices, they may be "non-surgical". There is a lot of discrimination against transgendered or transsexual people. The Centre welcomes transsexual people who have made a commitment to live as women and who identify to themselves and others as women.**

**We are committed to educating ourselves about transgendered issues and to offer education to the women who use the Centre about these issues.**

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# **JUNE 2000**