

D.E.W. DROP IN

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN DO DROP IN

The Newsletter for the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre

SEPTEMBER 2002

FREE



centre volunteers help the world go round...

Inside:

letters and poems
updates of welfare
community info.

My Vision Quest

I just finished my fasting at Oppenheimer Park on the 17th of August. I fasted for five days without food, just water and sweet grass tea. It was tough, but I'm really proud to fast for the Downtown Eastside. I was healing my mind - body - spirit

I fasted for:

HIV/AIDS awareness

missing and murdered women

drug addicts and drug dealers

ending violence against women and children

alcoholics

bad housing

cut backs

etc. the list goes on.

The thing that keeps me alive was the medicines the smudge and the creator without them I would never have made it. More women should come and give support for the fasters and just to say 'hi', to keep us stronger.



From Betty, Women's Centre volunteer

Applying for Welfare - Updated Information:

The Ministry of Human Resources (MHR) looks after applications for welfare in BC. To find the MHR office nearest you, look in the blue pages of the phone book under "Province of British Columbia, Human Resources – Ministry of."

When you go to the MHR office, you will be asked to fill out an appointment and enquiry form. Make sure you ask for the earliest possible appointment. You will be then given a package of information, an appointment for the orientation session you must attend, and a time when you can come back and apply for welfare after your three-week work search.

Orientation session and three-week work search

As of April 1st 2002, most people are now required to attend an orientation session and look for work for three weeks before their application for welfare will be accepted. Even if you have already been on welfare within the past year, if you have been off welfare for more than one month, you will have to attend the orientation session and do the work search. People who have just come out of prison are also expected to go to an orientation session and look for work.

You do not have to go to an orientation session if you –

- have mental or physical condition serious enough to prevent you from attending this session,
- are a child in the home of a relative, or
- are re-applying for welfare after an interruption of only one month.

You do not have to do the three-week work search if you –

- are eligible for a "comforts allowance" (this includes people who were in drug and alcohol treatment),
- have a mental or physical condition serious enough to prevent you from doing the work search (this must be approved by the Associate Regional Executive Director of MHR),
- are applying for Child In the Home of a Relative (CIHR) benefits,
- are hospital, acute care, or continuing care facilities or
- were receiving welfare as part of a couple but have separated from your spouse and are now applying for welfare independently.

* Note: even if you do not have to do the work search, you still have to attend some type of an orientation session (unless you fall into one of the categories listed previously) and wait for three weeks to fill out a welfare application form.

You will not receive welfare payments during your three-week work search or waiting period. In some cases, you can apply for an emergency needs assessment to get an earlier application date if you need assistance urgently. After the three weeks are over, you need to do the following:

- Come back for your appointment.
- Fill out an application form.
- Show staff at the MHR office what you have done to look for work.
- Give staff at the MHR office all the documents they require (such as bank records and tax returns).

After ministry staff has reviewed all of your information, they will tell you if you are eligible for welfare. Ministry staff will look very closely at your job search. Keep detailed records of what you have done every day so that you can show this to the ministry worker. If the ministry does not believe you have done enough to look for work, your application for welfare may be denied. If this happens to you, you have the right to appeal the decision. You should try to get help from an advocate if you are going to do this.

Eligibility date:

The date when you fill out the application form with the intake worker is very important because it is usually the start date for your welfare benefits. This is why you should ask for the earliest possible appointment for filling out a welfare application when you first visit the MHR office.

Emergency needs assessment:

You can get an earlier appointment to fill out your welfare application if you have _

- an emergency need for food or shelter, or
- a medical need that must be dealt with immediately.

Ministry staff can do an emergency needs assessment to decide if you need welfare right away. Even if the staff person you are dealing with does not tell you about this option, ask for it if you need financial assistance right away. If you need help explaining to staff at the

MHR office why you cannot wait three weeks to apply for welfare, ask an advocate, immigrant settlement worker, or trusted friend to help you.

To be eligible for emergency assistance, you must be able to –

- tell the ministry about other resources you have tried to use, and
- show that there is nowhere else you can get help.

At some MHR offices, staff will ask you to contact all the shelters in your area if you have an emergency need for housing. Other offices will encourage you to go to soup kitchens if you need food. If you have children and need food, shelter or medical help urgently, you are more likely to be successful in getting an emergency application date.

If you are eligible for an emergency needs assessment, you will be given an early application, which means that you will not have to wait three weeks to get an appointment. Even if you are allowed to apply early, you must meet the same eligibility rules for welfare as other applicants. If you get an emergency needs assessment, you are still expected to do the three-week work search once you have dealt with your immediate problem of not having shelter or enough food.

Welfare fact sheet courtesy PovNet, see: <http://povnet.org>

*"The history of all times and of today especially, teaches that women will be forgotten if they forget to think about themselves."
- Louise Otto, (Louise Otto-Peters)
German feminist, 1849]*

Welcome Susan Anderson – Fund Development Coordinator!

Hello to everyone at the Centre! I'd like to introduce myself as the new Funding Development Coordinator. My name is Susan Anderson, and I started in the position on August 5th. My background is growing up in Vancouver, with strong roots to this community through my mother who worked for 23 years at the old Bank of Montreal on the corner of Main and Hastings.

For the last 30 years I have been living in Victoria, 28 of those with my husband/partner/and best friend Dennis. We have relocated back to Vancouver permanently and are quickly adjusting to the faster pace.

My non-profit background has been primarily in Victoria, however, as a social worker I am thrilled to be working at a women's centre. I know that I have big shoes to fill (with Karyn formally in this position), but I hope to bring some enthusiasm and ideas in assisting the centre to continue its ongoing need for a larger funding base.

Please do stop and introduce yourselves... I welcome the opportunity to chat and gather your ideas and suggestions as the centre continues to grow.

In friendship,
Susan

P.S. I'm the person that cruises electrically.

COLLAGE

A WORK CREATED BY AFFIXING VARIOUS MATERIALS (PAPER, WOOD, NEWSPAPER, CLOTH) TO A PICTURE SURFACE.

Overwhelmed by an intense desire to cut and paste? Join our Collage group with Marie K. Offered on Fridays from 1:30 – 4:30, this group provides a fun activity, a chance to make cards, bookmarks, keepsake boxes, pictures frames... on a drop in basis, all welcome, kids too!

Everyone is welcome to contribute to the Women's Centre monthly newsletter. Any written submissions (including, poems, stories, running monologues...) are accepted, as well, drawings, cartoons, pictures... are also appreciated. If you can, submissions should be handed in on disk (borrow a Women's Centre computer or disk if need be) or typed - including any preferred formatting. We're also happy with any hand written submissions as well. Drop off submissions with Cecily or put them in the folder on the outings board by the 28th of the month. Any community organizations that would like to include relevant programming announcements drop them off or forward your info in an attachment to nicholson@dewc.ca. See you in the funny pages.

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN'S CENTRE

302 Columbia Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6A 4J1

Front Desk: 681 - 8480 Women's Line: 681-7458

**LUNCH SERVED
DAILY AT 12:30- 1:45**

September 2002

REGULAR PROGRAMMING

Library Group – This group will now meet weekly during the day to prepare for fun craft and literacy activities.

Organizers Training (ELP) takes place on Monday nights at 5-8pm. Learn to facilitate and organize anti-poverty rallies and develop political strategies around various poverty issues. Begins May 6th with co-facilitators, June and Erin.

Battered Women Support Services (BWSS) takes place on Tuesday nights from 5 - 8:30pm. This group offers support for women affected by violence in their lives. (on hold until the fall)

Creative Writing Group – Change of time! Group will take place in the afternoons. Tuesdays from 2-4.

The **Street Nurse** is here every Wednesday from 1 – 4pm to give you information on all kinds of health issues.

The **Alcohol and Drug Harm Reduction Support Group** is back with Mary from DAMS! Takes place Wednesdays from 5-8pm. All are welcome.

The **Chinese Women's Group** – open to women whose first language is Chinese, cultural awareness, advocacy and social events. facilitated by Paulina (may commence again in September, stay tuned for more information)

Women's Voice – Every Thursday, 1:30. Let us know what you think about the Centre. Your opinions and ideas are needed!

Music Jam- Every third Friday of the month. Sing and play instruments with special guests!

*Note: Group Times are subject to change- keep an eye out for Centre updates



ARTS & CRAFTS WORKSHOPS: Materials provided.

Beading– Every Monday, 1:30 pm.

Yoga- Monday 10:45am with Roma. Blankets provided.

Wear comfy clothing! Will start again in the fall

Crochet with Anna- Every Wednesday, 2:00pm

Collage Arts with Marie (sun) and Marilyn (tues) – have fun with the supreme art of cut and past! Make book marks, cards, gift boxes, illustrate stories and poems....everyone is welcome, fun for the kids too.

Fabric Arts with Freeda - Every Friday morning, 10:00am.

Dreamcatchers every Saturday with Denny at 1:30pm.

expand your skills and share stories with other women.

SUNDAY 12-5pm	MONDAY 10-5pm	TUESDAY 10-5pm	WEDNESDAY 11-5pm	THURSDAY 10-5pm	FRIDAY 10-5pm	SATURDAY 12-5pm
1 2:00 Video	2 1:30 Beading 5:00 Organizer's Training	3 2pm- Joint Effort- Film 2-4:00 writing group 5-8:30 Wom.Health Clinic 569 Powell	4 1-4pm Street Nurse 1:30 Raffle 2:00 Crochet 5:00 Harm Reduct.	5 1:30 Women's Voice	6 10:00 Sewing etc. 1:30 Collage	7 1:30 Dreamcatchers 2:00 Video
8 1:30 library / literacy group 2:00 Video	9 1:30 Beading 5:00 Organizer's Training	10 2-4:00 writing group 5-8:30 Wom.Health Clinic 569 Powell	11 1-4pm Street Nurse 1:30 Raffle 2:00 Crochet	12 1:30 Women's Voice	13 10:00 Sewing etc. 1:30 Collage	14 1:30 Dreamcatchers 2:00 Video
15 1:30 library / literacy group 2:00 Video	16 1:30 Beading 5:00 Organizer's Training	17 2-4:00 writing group 5-8:30 Wom.Health Clinic 569 Powell	18 1-4pm Street Nurse 1:30 Raffle 2:00 Crochet 5:00 Harm Reduct	19 1:30 Women's Voice	20 10:00 Sewing etc. 1:30 Collage	21 1:30 Dreamcatchers 2:00 Video
22 1:30 library / literacy group 2:00 Video	23 1:30 Beading 5:00 Organizer's Training	24 2-4:00 writing group 5-8:30 Wom.Health Clinic 569 Powell	25 1-4pm Street Nurse 2:00 Crochet Place of Grace 501 E Hastings 8:30am-8pm	26 1:30 Women's Voice Place of Grace 501 E Hastings 8:30am-8pm	27 10:00 Sewing etc. 1:30 Collage	28 1:30 Dreamcatchers 2:00 Video
29 1:30 library / literacy group 2:00 Video	30 1:30 Beading 5:00 Organizer's Training					

Plants, Flowers & Trees *Word Search*

by Debi Koontz

H W S P E N I P U C R E T T U B U S H O
T O N A A L F A L F A T U N L A W W Y R
A L A E G N A R O A K A M L A P O E A C
E L P A M E S T R O S E B U R H S E C H
R I D H O N E Y S U C K L E C L P T I I
B W R I V Y L L N T A P E V H I A P N D
I G A R L B I F R U C O W E I D R E T W
R N G I I L L S E L T P E R M O S A H N
C I O S Y O A U F I U L E G Y F L R P O
H P N I W T C N E P S A D R R F E E S I
O E E E T A H E R B S R R E R A Y B T L
L E R A T A R V I N E E W E E D E O U E
L W A N C T N U F V H L E N B B S N O D
Y S I A D H C R O C U S L I S A B S R N
A P P L E E O L A I H C S U F R U A P A
M O O R B H C T O C S S A R G C G I S D

(Baby's) Breath	Crocus	Larch	Scotch Broom
(Crab) Grass	Daffodil	Lilac	Shrub
Alfalfa	Daisy	Lily	Snap Dragon
Aloe (Vera)	Dandelion	Maple	Sprouts
Apple (Tree)	Dill	Oak	Straw(berry)
Aspen	Evergreen	Orange (Tree)	Sunflower
Basil	Fern	Orchid	Sweet Pea
Birch	Fir	Palm	Tree
Blue Bell	Fuschia	Pansy	Tulip
Bonsai	Grass	Parsley	Tumbleweed
Bush	Herbs	Peach	Venus Fly Trap
Buttercup	Holly	Pear (Tree)	Vine
Cactus	Honeysuckle	Pine	Violet
Carnation	Hyacinth	Poplar	Walnut
Catnip	Iris	Rose	Weed
Cherry (Tree)	Ivy	Sage	Weeping Willow
Clover			

The Inner-City Women's Initiatives Society (WINS), the society that runs **DAMS**, is looking for new members! If you are interested in finding out what membership in WINS means please drop by the **DAMS** office at 167 W Pender St. or call **(604) 687-5454**.

*Remember that: you do **NOT** have to be a member of WINS to use the services at DAMS!*

...back to school?

**Profile: Employment and Education Access for Women at
Vancouver Community College – City Centre**

The Employment and Educational Access for Women program is designed to assist women in identifying and acting on realistic short-term and long-term educational and career goals. It provides information and hands-on experience in a number of occupations including trades, science and technical careers as well as self-employment options. By extensive career, educational and self-exploration, and by assessing opportunities in the labour market, graduates are able to make informed training and career choices and prepare for employment.

Program Length:

Four months

Program Start:

March, September

Program Certification:

Certificate

Status:

Accepting applications

Admission Requirements:

1) All applicants must attend an information session scheduled by the College

2) Proof of Grade 9 English*

Proof of the above prerequisites must be attached to your application

*Those who lack this specific program requirement may apply for Mature Student status. If English is not the first language, applicants may be required to take an English Language Assessment. A minimum of VCC Upper Advanced Level completion must be demonstrated, prior to admission in the program.

Recommended Characteristics:

- Self-motivated and reliable
- A genuine interest in learning about all occupations
- Enthusiasm for learning in general
- A willingness to try new and different things

Application Fee:

\$30.00

Tuition:

free

Student Society:

\$28.48

Graduation Fee:

\$10.00

Additional Costs:

Textbooks: \$50.00 (approximately)

What about Financial Aid? Students requiring financial assistance may be eligible for sponsorship through Human Resources Development Canada. Contact the EEAW instructor or your local HRDC Centre for further information. Students may also be eligible for ABESAP grants, scholarships, and bursaries. Contact the Financial Aid office for details.

For more information contact the instructor at 604-443-8301

That
To a special friend that I like to hug
That does not make me a squeezable bug
But...measures up to something good.
Like every friend with loving gestures should
Someone to touch at heart that means so much
..to hold with that feeling that drives
 away your moonlit blues from ruts.
 nothing like a kick in the nuts☺ !
Here, there, everywhere having that
perceptive courage to share.
Whatever...that is so penniless
it don't cost much to care!
so there!

~Teddy bear~

Marie K



Neighbourhood Women ... every Saturday 1-4pm

PACE Health Network (PHN)

Has a Drop-In for all women sex workers

at

Breaking the Silence (501 E. Hastings @ Jackson)

stop by for supplies, safety tips, snacks and connecting

Kara & Joyce

PACE (Prostitution Alternatives Counseling Education) was founded in 1994 by former sex workers who recognized the lack of services available to individuals engaged in the sex trade. PACE is dedicated to creating a caring and judgment free environment wherein individuals can make free choices regarding their lives. PACE's programs services and peer support all respect each individual's needs and decisions.

PACE tel: 1-866-872-8751

PHN tel: 604-255-5811 box 1

Breaking the Silence (BTS) is a safe and gentle space - works out of its neighbourhood Drop In Space for Women Mon-Fri from 1-4pm at 501 E. Hastings. Downtown eastside women use BTS to meet one another and organize any and all activities that help stop the violence in our lives. BTS tel: 604-255-5811

Literacy/ Library Group



- Do you want to make crafts, create art and literacy
- Do you want to be involved with the literacy/library group?
- Do you like to learn in a relaxed and enjoyable way?
- Do you enjoy food and talking? then...

What: Literacy/ Library Group

When: Every Sunday beginning September 8th, 2002

Where: Downtown Eastside Women's Centre – Library/ Resource Room
(downstairs)

Time: 1:30-4:30 – 09/08

This group is facilitated by Janice Kramer. Each week we will complete a craft and engage in written/art expression using creative literacy tools. There will be food and juice available. See Cecily for more info.

