

D.E.W. DROP IN

Downtown Eastside Women Do Drop In

The Newsletter for the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre

MAY 2005

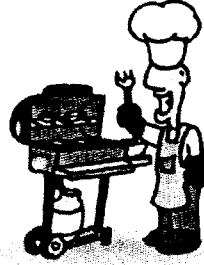
Free



INSIDE:

- Calendar of Events
- Mothers Day Celebration
- Poetry from DEWC
- Stuff Happening in May
- Who is who at DEWC
- Facts about Racism

DEWC Up-Coming Events



Sunday, May 8th

Mother's Day Barbeque

Trout Lake Park

Meet at the DEWC at 11:00 am

Or at Trout Lake at 12:30

(south end of the lake)

Friday, May 27, 05

6pm – 8pm

Donor Appreciation

DEWC is hosting a evening of appreciation for those that contribute to the Centre
Women of the Centre are invited to attend.

The Elder's Council invite all women to the

DEWC

Java-Jam

Join us for an evening of coffee/tea, snacks, and music

On Saturday May 21, 05

From 6 – 9pm

(sorry – no bus tickets or childcare)

Aboriginal Women's Legal Advocacy Workshops

Battered Women's Support Services in partnership with the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre are hosting a series of workshops for aboriginal women.

Beginning Friday, May 13, 05 at 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm
at the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre

Issues addressed in these workshops include: The Indian Act, Bill C-31 & Family Reunification, Taxes & Wills – on and off Reserve, Criminal Law, Ministry of Human Resources, Child Protection & Family Law, Legal Resources for Aboriginal Women.

See the Front Desk for the Subjects, dates and times and to register.

Filming in the Centre
Profiling the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre for the

**National Film Board's
Missing Women's
Documentary**
Saturday May 21, 05
Between 11 – 12 am

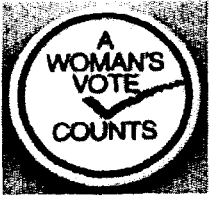
Any Women who are interested in being part of the filming
can attend the Centre between 11 – 12 – before we open - lunch will be served early.

Monday, May 16, 05

MUSIC for a New World

9am-

At the International Children's Festival
See the Front Desk for more details and to Register.
For Women with Children only.



ELECTION DAY IS MAY 17, 2005 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM
Every Vote Counts! Value Your Vote!

The BC Coalition of Women's Centres has relaunched our website with a brand new Provincial Election theme!

Far from being a "special interest group," women represent nearly 52% of the population. Therefore, with 52% of the votes in our hands, women have the power to determine the outcome of the Provincial Election. The BC Coalition of Women's Centres wants to make sure women can make informed decisions on May 17, 2005.

What's already up:

- * REGISTER TO VOTE RIGHT NOW ONLINE!
- * Voting Basics 101: How it All Works
- * THE FEMINIST DOZEN: Thirteen Essential Provincial Election Issues for Women Voters
- * New Report! Losing Ground: the Effects of Government Cutbacks on Women in British Columbia, 2001 - 2005
- * Stay Informed: a website listing for finding more info on provincial election issues

And more zany fun is yet to come, including questions for candidates that you can print off and take to forums and other events in your community.

ELECTION DAY IS MAY 17, 2005 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM
Every Vote Counts! Value Your Vote!

www.bcwomen.cjb.net

[alt: <http://www3.telus.net/bcwomen>]

bcwomen@telus.net

Who is Who DEWC Staff

Drop-In: Floor Support Worker

Marlene Sampson



Alice McMillan



Tomorrow Guy



Marlene and Alice provide assistance and support to women in the drop-in area. They help women in accessing showers and supplies, provide referrals to in-centre services, assist group facilitators in accessing supplies, clean and maintain the drop-in space and intervene in crises or conflict. Angie, Tomorrow, Tannia, Sylvia, and Tracy are on-call relief and will fill in when Marlene or Alice are off.

Angie Avery

Tracey Morrison

Tannia Granados



Kitchen: Cook
Eva Kovacs

Debbie Williams

Debbie and Eva prepare and cook the meals for women. They work with the kitchen volunteers, receive and process donations of food, and ensure the kitchen area is clean and maintained. Karen, Sylvia, and Lenora are on-call casual and will fill in when Debbie or Eva are off.

Sylvia Stone

Karen Matticks

Lenora Wright



Advocacy/Counseling

Reta Blind

Elder/Support Worker



Phone ext: 222

elder@dewc.ca

works Wednesday to Saturday

Reta is the longest serving staff member at the DEWC. Reta provides counseling and support, accompaniment, conflict resolution and crises intervention. Reta is the primary liaison with the Elder's Council.

Carol Martin

Ph ext: 233

Victims Services

victimservice@dewc.ca

works Wednesday to Saturday

Carol will help you if you have been a victim of a crime. She will provide emotional support, referral to long-term counseling, support and accompaniment to the police and court, assistance in completing Victim Impact statements or Criminal Compensation applications.



Liza McDowell

Mental Health Advocate



Ph ext: 230

advocate1@dewc.ca

works Tuesday to Friday

Liza will help you with Welfare problems such as with the application process, disability applications, crises grants. Also see Liza for help with MCFD or problems with your landlord.

Krista James

Mental Health Advocate



Ph ext: 229

advocate2@dewc.ca

works Monday to Thursday

Krista also will help you with Welfare problems such as with the application process, disability applications, crises grants. Also see Krista for help with MCFD or problems with your landlord.

Myrna Cranmer

HIV/AIDs Outreach Worker



**Ph ext: 231
Cell: 728-7353**

outreach@dewc.ca

works Monday to Thursday

Myrna provides outreach services to women who are HIV/Aids or who are at risk. She provides support and accompaniment to women who are attending medical appointments or accessing support services. Myrna does street outreach and hospital visits on Mondays and Thursdays.



**Sara Nunez
Ph ext. 224**

Skills Development Coordinator

skills@dewc.ca

works Sunday to Wednesday

Sara coordinates the volunteer program. She works with the volunteers to develop learning plans, resolve conflicts and oversees the incentive program. See Sara if you are interested in volunteering at the Centre.

Management Team

Min Jiang

Financial Coordinator



Ph ext: 227

**finance@dewc.ca
works Tues & Thurs**

Min oversees the financial administration of the Centre. She ensures that all payments are accounted for and that all financial reporting is completed. She reports directly to the Board of Directors.

Alice Kendall

Centre Coordinator:



Ph ext: 223

**centre@dewc.ca
works Mon to Thurs**

Alice oversees the day-to-day operations of the Centre. This includes staff scheduling, evaluations, and training. Completing reports to funders, arranging for necessary maintenance and repairs, addressing conflict that arise. Alice reports directly to the Board of Directors

Cynthia Low

Administrative Coordinator



Ph ext: 226

administration@dewc.ca

works Saturday to Monday

Cynthia oversees the administrative operations of the Centre. This includes human resources, grant and proposal writing, managing funder contracts. Overseeing the Centre budget. Oversees the Kitchen operations.

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN'S CENTRE
302 Columbia Street, Vancouver
604.681.8480 Hours: Mon, Tue, Thru, Fri-10-5
Wed: 11-5, Sat, Sun-12-5

LUNCH SERVED
DAILY AT 12:30-1:45

REGULAR PROGRAMMING

Chinese Women's Group (CWS) -Open to women whose first language is Chinese. The group will focus on cultural awareness, advocacy, and social events.

Carnegie Crafts—Arts and crafts each week with new themes all the time, all women welcome, everything supplied.

Literacy Workshop – Working with books, themes and word puzzles. Learn while having fun!

Massage—Pamper yourself courtesy of Anita and Rosemary!

Resume Workshop – Create your own Resume with the help of Eemina.

The **Street Nurse, Christina**, comes by every Tuesday between 12noon-2pm to give you information on all kinds of health issues.

BWSS Legal Advocate, Olatz comes by every Wednesday from 11-3, if you need help with legal issues, child protection, custody &access or general legal information.

Yoga— with Janet Al women welcome, wear comfortable clothing, practice breathing and stretching exercises, good for the body and mind.

Sweat Lodge – Reta will be taking women every Wednesday meet at the Centre at 11:30

ARTS & CRAFTS WORKSHOPS with materials supplied

Beading with Denny - Every Monday, 1:30 pm.

Crochet with Anna & Freeda-Every Wednesday, 2:00pm.

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

Dreamcatchers with Denny -Every Sunday at 1:30pm.

EVENING PROGRAMMING

Battered Women Support Services-Support for women experiencing violence. Tuesday on rotating schedule from 5-8:30

Music Jam- Sing and play instruments with special guests.

Taiko Night-Drum with Cynthia and the Taiko Group.

Women's Health Clinic-on going 59 West Pender

Just a reminder- there is no bus tickets or child care provided for groups

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 1:30 Dreamcatchers 2:00 Video 1:30-Resumes	2 10-12 Arts & Crafts 10:00 CWS 10:30 YOGA 1:30 Beading 3-4:30 Carnegie Crafts	3 10:00 Massage & Sewing 1:30 deyas Alcohol and Drug Counseling 5:00 BWSS 2:00 Bingo	4 11:30 Sweat Lodge 11-3:00 BWSS LEGAL ADVOCACY 2:00 Crochet	5 10:30-4:00 IIG Math & English-University Access Program 11: 12 Book Club	6	7 Video
8 Mothers Day At Trout Lake Meet at the Centre at 11:am Or at the Park 12:30	9 10:12 Arts & Crafts 10:00 CWS 10:30 YOGA 1:30 Beading 3-4:30 Carnegie Crafts	10 10:00 Massage & Sewing 12-2 Street Nurse 1:30 deyas Alcohol and Drug Counseling 2:00 Bingo	11 11:30 Sweat Lodge 11-3:00 BWSS LEGAL ADVOCACY 2:00 Crochet	12 10:30-4:00 IIG Math & English-University 11-12 Book Club Healing Circle 5-8 Dinner Served Everybody Wealcome	13	14 2:00 Video
15 1:30 Dreamcatchers 2:00 Video 1:30 -Resumes	16 10:12 Arts& Crafts 10:00 CWS 10:30 YOGA 1:30 Beading 3-4:30 Carnegie Crafts	17 10:00 Massage & Sewing 12-2 Street Nurse 1:30 deyas Alcohol and Drug Counseling 2:00 Bingo	18 11:30 Sweat Lodge 11-3:00 BWSS LEGAL ADVOCACY 2:00 Crochet	19 10:30-4:00 IIG Math & English-University Access Program 11-12 Book Club	20 3:00- Donations Meeting 6:00 -Taiko	21 Centre opens from 11:00 – 12:00 For National Film Board (filming) 2:00 Video 6:00- 9:00 Java Jam
22 1:30 Dreamcatchers 2:00 Video 1:30Resumes	23 Stat Holidays Open from 12:00- 5:00	24 10 Massage & Sewing 12-2 Street Nurse 1:30 deyas Alcohol and Drug Counseling 2:00 Bingo	25 11:30 Sweat Lodge 11-3:00 BWSS LEGAL ADVOCACY 2:00 Crochet	26 CENTRE CLOSED	27 Donors' appreciation 6-8 pm	28 2:00 Video
29 1:30 Dreamcatchers 2:00 Video 1:30 Resumes	30 10:12 Arts & Crafts 10:00 CWS 10:30 YOGA 1:30 Beading 3-4:30 Carnegie Crafts	31 10 Massage & Sewing 12-2 Street Nurse 1:30 deyas Alcohol and Drug Counseling 2:00 Bingo				

Victim Education Group

An education group for Aboriginal
Women who have been victims of crime

On- Going Sessions

At Rm#211-524 Powell Street (above
The Living Room Drop-In)

When: Thursdays

Time: 2pm- 4 pm- light snacks provided

Call to register: (604) 875-6601

Contact: Margaret Deneault

Or Joleen Price, Victim support Workers,
Aboriginal Wellness Program

*Thank You,
Thank You,*



For the Staff of DEWC

Thank you to the Awesome Staff for the Appreciation Dinner you all so graciously put together for the volunteers.

From the bottom of our (stomachs) hearts to yours.

It was very delicious and filling. It was nice to relax and have fun among each other.

Thank you for your thoughtful ness.

The volunteers

**DEWC WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING
NEW VOLUNTEERS THIS MONTH**

Audrey

Gao

Gem

Shara

Shery

Mable



Chau Hang

Do you know?????.....

Where do women sign up for intake?

Please check with the front desk if advocates are taking appointments. If so, women can sign up at the front desk to see them.

Where do women get complaint forms?

Complaint forms are located in the filing cabinet at the front desk. Please ask a staff member to photocopy extra copies if we are getting low.

Where do women sign up for showers?

Women need to ask floor workers about shower line ups and availability.

When can women use the clothing room?

Women can use the clothing room between 10:00-12:00 in the morning and between 2:00- 4: 00 pm except for Saturdays when it is closed all day. Using the clothing room is dependent upon have a volunteer present. Some times the clothing room is closed to enable volunteers to set up and clean up.

How can women get photocopies or faxes?

Women can ask floor workers or any available staff person to make photocopies or send faxes. Please note photocopies and faxes will be done as time permits, so no photocopies or faxes will be done during our busy lunch time.

How do women check their mail?

Women can ask floor workers for mail as there is a list indicating who has mail waiting to be picked up.

Response

First of all I would like to thank you for taking the time to respond to the new Centre donation policy, even though I resent being compared to Gordo – I think I have better hair and nicer skin. Seriously, I think that it is important to have a dialogue around this matter. The decision to stop accepting donations other than clothing and items directly used by the Centre such as cutlery, fresh foods and dishes emerged from discussions with staff and volunteers.

In some circumstances raffled items won by women were being left in the Centre for days, sometimes weeks... they were coming right back. When the Centre is packed these items it can become a hazard. Sometimes they were just being left in the Centre. Staff and volunteers were spending a lot of time moving items from the front door to an office, from that office to the basement, from the basement to upstairs, cleaning up, etc. On raffle days staff and volunteers spend the WHOLE day responding to request for 'special needs', sorting through the many unusable items that are left on our door step, moving items, putting items together so it is 'fair'. This is NOT the role of the volunteers or staff as set out by our contract with funders. In addition staff and volunteers were accused of stealing. Not to mention the conflicts that surrounds the receiving and distribution of donations.

Your recommendations have merit however I do not really see how it eliminates the need for staff and volunteer involvement and/or avoid conflicts that arise. I will also refer to the purpose of the DEWC:

- To provide a comfortable, safe drop-in centre.
- To provide recreation and self-help programs
- To act as a resource of information by assisting women with referrals concerning their needs.
- To provide a social space and facilitate the opportunity for women of diverse backgrounds to interact and build community.

These are the priorities of the Centre and until we are able to meet our basic purpose **well**, in addition to managing crisis situations rather than introducing crisis we should not be taking on other activities.

Regards,
Cynthia Low
Administrative Coordinator

CENTRE DONATIONS POLICY

We received this letter regarding the New Centre Donation Policy:

To Cynthia Low

I think it is unfair, biased, and unethical that the women in the DEWC are not going to receive full donations anymore. I think that you had absolutely no right to cancel our donations without asking the women of the DEWC first (this reminds me of fascist Gordon Campbell taking away peoples right without asking the people first). A solution could have been thought out about the donations. What gives you the right to take away our donations? Is it because you would never need a donation yourself because the Centre is paying your high wages? Or is it because you don't really care about poor vulnerable people? These donations at the raffle are a blessing because the women probably couldn't afford these items themselves as the money given to people on welfare is so low it is hard for them to survive. The kind people who donate to us want the donations to go specifically to us the DEWC. To reverse this decision I recommend the following:

- 1) There is a lot of space downstairs in locker rooms or a small room available for our donations.
- 2) At the beginning of the raffle five volunteers from the audience who are there for the raffle take the donations to the main floor.
- 3) Pick a name out of a hat out of the five volunteers to find a woman who could call out the numbers.
- 4) Left over items could be placed on tables at the back of the room or items in bad repair could be thrown out.
- 5) The way different women from the Centre could do the raffle every week and no one could complain.

DISCUSSION NIGHT TO TALK ABOUT THE DONATION SITUATION

DATE: Friday May 20, 2005

TIME: 3:00 – Snacks and refreshments provided

Art From The Downtown Eastside

Untitled

*We are not just another
Soul for the taking.
It is the lies that you are
Making.
You look around with a
Narrow mind.
For your heart is so unkind .
We become a number in the
Crowd
As that is all we are
Allowed.
Our bodies may be gone
But our souls will
Forever live on .*



Selina k. Barton

RACISM and human rights

What is Racial Discrimination or Racism?

Racial discrimination (racism) is when someone is bothering, threatening or treating a person unfairly because of their skin, ethnic or cultural background, religion or country that they come from.

What are Some Forms of Racism?

- Verbal abuse or threats
- Unwelcome remarks, insulting jokes, name-calling
- Insulting pictures, drawings, signs or newspaper articles
- Leering, constant staring or other gestures
- Physical assault
- Denial of services
- Not hiring or promoting someone

What are some Examples of Racism?

A Black man goes to see an apartment after calling the landlord to make sure that it was still available. After seeing the man in person, the landlord becomes uncomfortable and says that the apartment is rented.

A large employer hired many people of color to work in lower paid jobs. While white employees are trained and promoted, employees of colour are never promoted although they are qualified and experienced.

A Sikh man is teased by his co-workers because of his accent and his turban. His co-workers also tell jokes that make fun of immigrants.

An aboriginal woman is told that she can't buy rubbing alcohol at a grocery store because she'll just go outside and drink it.

What does the BC Human Rights Code Say About Racial Discrimination or Racism?

Racism cont...

The BC Human Rights Code says that a person cannot be denied opportunities or treated differently because of the color of their skin, ethnic or cultural background, religion or country that they come from. The Code protects you from racial discrimination in:

- employment (includes hiring, firing, wages or other terms of employment)
- tenancy (renting a place)
- buying a house, condominium, mobile home or other property
- public services and facilities (such as restaurants, government offices, hospitals or schools)
- publications (such as newspaper, posters or signs)

Why Do We Need To Stop Racism?

Racism causes damage by isolating and hurting people and dividing communities. Victims of racism often feel powerless to do anything about it, but there are a lot of things that can be done. No one has the right to discriminate against a person because of the colour of their skin, ethnic or cultural background, religion or country that they come from.

If you are a victim of racism or see it happening, it's important you take action, either on your own or with help. It's important that people who racially attack or harass others are made aware of their actions and held responsible for their actions.

What Can You Do To Stop Racism?

- Recognize and take action against racism in yourself, your community, school, workplace or home.
- If you feel safe and comfortable, talk to the person whose actions are racist and tell them to stop.
- If you do not feel safe, talk to or get assistance from someone you trust about the discrimination you may be experiencing.
- Offer your support to people who are being discriminated against.
- Check to see if your workplace has human rights policies and programs that deal with racism. If they don't, ask your employer to develop a policy and programs.

Racism cont....

What Should You Do If You Are Experiencing Racial Discrimination?

Actions don't always have to be done on purpose for them to be racial discrimination. "It was just a joke " or "you took it the wrong way" are not excuses. What matters is how the action affects you.

Write down what happened, including:

- The date, place, time and description of the incident;
- The name and address of person discriminating against you; and
- The names of any witnesses of the incident;
- If discrimination happens at work, tell the manager or the employer what happened and ask them to do something about it. You should file a complaint at your workplace or with your union if there is a policy.
- File a human rights complaint with BC Human Rights Tribunal/ Ministry of Human Rights Protections in B.C

Human Rights Tribunal
Suite 1170 Robson St.
Vancouver, B.C V6B 5J3
Ph: 604 775 – 2000
Toll Free (in B.C) 1 - 888 - 440 – 8844
TTY (604) 775 – 2021
Fax: 604 775 – 2020
www.bchrt.bc.ca B.C Human Rights Clinic
Suite 1202 - 510 W.Hastings St.
Vancouver. B. C. V6B 1L8
Ph: 604 - 689 - 8474
Fax: 604 - 689 – 7511
Toll free: 1 - 877 - 689 - 8474
bchuman@istar.ca
info@bcrcoalition.org
www.human-rights-coalition.bc.ca

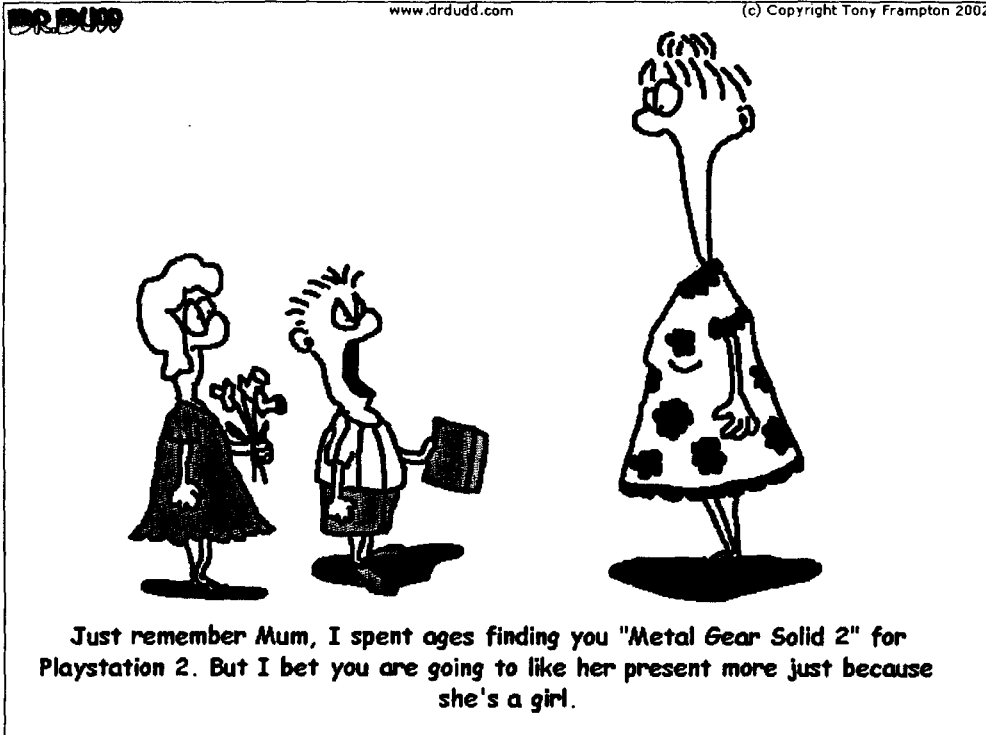
Sources of Help

UBC Law Students Legal Advice
Faculty of Law
UBC
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1
ph: 604-822-5291
Fax: 604-822-1661
ubc_islap@hotmail.com

Ministry of Attorney General

10th Fl 101 Douglas Street
P.O.Box 9286 STN Prov. Govt Victoria
V8W 9J7
ph: 250- 356 -9596
Fax: 250- 356-7136
TTY: Please call Enquiry BC 1-800-661-8773
www.ag.gov.bc.ca/programs/hrc/index

Humour in Mother's Day



Happy Mothers Day every one!!!!

