

International Women's Day celebrated this Saturday in Vancouver

VANCOUVER - International Women's Day (IWD) events in Vancouver include a march and rally, information fair and a celebration dance this Saturday, March 6, 2004.

International Women's Day grew out of women's struggles against inhumane working conditions in the late 1800's. The first IWD was celebrated in many countries on March 8, 1911. Women in Canada have had a long history of organizing for women's rights.

The Vancouver International Women's Day committee explains that its theme this year *Stop Attacks on Women at Home & Abroad* speaks to the "ever-increasing negative effects of globalization, capitalism and patriarchy. The devastating cuts to social programs and jobs in BC mirror the continued erosion of living conditions for women and their families all over the world."

Women and allies are invited to gather Saturday, March 6 at the Burrard Skytrain Station at 11 a.m. The march to the Vancouver Public Library (Robson & Homer) begins at 11:30 a.m. and the rally at the south plaza of the library starts at noon.

Speakers at this year's rally include Kanahus and Mayuk Pelkey, who will be speaking out about the BC government's cuts to welfare. Sharmeen Khan from the Coalition of BC Women's Centres will speak about funding cuts to women's centres. Shahla Ashrafi will give the International Women's Day address on behalf of the IWD Committee.

An information fair will also be held at the Vancouver Public Library in the Alice Mackay Room from 1-3 p.m.

International Women's Day celebrations include a dance, starting at 7 p.m. at the WISE Hall, 1882 Adanac St. at Victoria Dr. (Wheelchair access is from the rear of building). Tickets are sliding scale from \$5 to \$20, available at the door or at Little Sisters and Co-op bookstores.

Join women and men from across the Lower Mainland to celebrate International Women's Day and to send a message to the provincial government that their attacks on women must stop.

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