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(Volunteer Coordinator)

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Status of Women Canada;
The BC Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General;
City of North Vancouver;
District of North Vancouver;
District of West Vancouver;
and donations from individuals, businesses and organizations.

FRESH FACES NEW STAFF MEMBERS and VOLUNTEERS at the NSWC

There have been many changes afoot at the North Shore Women's Centre. The last Nellie Newsletter heralded the coming move to our new home at 131 East 2nd Street. We have since settled nicely in the new space, and would encourage anyone who hasn't seen it to come pay a visit. We are open from Monday to Thursday, 10:00-5:00.

Since the move, the Centre has also seen a major change over in staff. Deanna Ogle, the Women's Centre Coordinator, has left to be closer to family and attend school in Saskatchewan. In her place, there are now two part time workers, Anouchka Nowicki and Danielle Gauld.

Danielle, who is working for the Centre in the position of Communications Coordinator, is a recent graduate in Women's Studies from the University of Victoria. She has been working for nearly a decade with campus and community Women's Centres in Victoria and in her hometown of Kenora, Ontario and also has a background as a freelance writer and workshop facilitator. She is very interested in the public education aspects of Women Centres and uses an anti-oppression lens in her work. Since starting at the Centre, Danielle has worked mainly on the website, events, and around women's issues in the May 17th Provincial Election. Danielle is also co-coordinating the "New Voices Joining the Table: Bridging Local Policy and Decision Making with

Women's Equality Issues" project (see page 3).

Anouchka, the new Volunteer Coordinator, has been living in North Vancouver for the past 5 years. She has 20 years of experience as an educator working with women and children, the bulk of which was in South Africa and related to languages and health and safety. Since being in Canada, Anouchka has been working mainly as a French tutor for immigrant children and is currently enrolled in a Certificate Course in Counselling at Vancouver Community College. She is looking forward to expanding the Centre and is very interested in making sure that our services are available to the widest range of women possible.

Anouchka has been working very hard to bring even more new faces into the Centre. Since beginning work in February, Anouchka has facilitated six volunteer trainings. The Centre now has eleven new volunteers working as computer trainers (many of whom are bilingual), and resource centre and library assistants.

In Anouchka's words: "It's an interesting bunch of women, and they come from really varied backgrounds. They bring an amazing range of skills and lots of personality into the Centre! We're even able to offer computer training in several different languages now!"

North Shore Women's Centre Fundraising Campaign

By Maureen Johnston, Fundraising Committee

The North Shore Women's Centre held its second annual fundraising Garage Sale on Saturday June 11th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm – in the rain! The event took place in the parking lot behind the Women's Centre's new location, at 131 East 2nd Street. Last year, the sale attracted a large number of bargain hunters, who chose from a wide variety of clothing, books, children's toys, household accessories, furniture - and even a few antiques. This year was even bigger and better, with so many contributions that the Centre will be holding a second sale in a few months time. The event raised almost \$1400, in spite of the unfavourable weather.

The 30-year-old plus North Shore Women's Centre was faced with closure after the provincial government cut its yearly operating contract of \$47,000, effective April 1st of 2004. In late July 2004, the Mayor and Councillors of the City of North Vancouver resolved to help save this essential organization by providing the Women's Centre with a rent-free home.

In order to meet expenses other than rent, and to continue offering critical programs and services, the North Shore Women's Centre has embarked upon an extensive fundraising campaign. Earlier this year, they presented the play "The Vagina Monologues" to a sold-out crowd at the Centennial Theatre. The production was preceded by a reception and silent auction. Thanks to the generosity of the North Shore community the Women's Centre raised over \$14,000 at this event.

On Thursday, August 11th the Centre is planning another annual fundraiser, Feeding Freedom. Last year, several North Shore restaurants donated 15% of the food revenue they received that day. This year we hope to expand this event throughout the North Shore.

Restaurants interested in participating in this year's Feeding Freedom and women interested in joining the Fundraising Committee or otherwise helping with our fundraising efforts are asked to call 604.984.6009 or email info@northshorewomen.ca

Women's Health in Women's Hands



Workshop Series

Inside Out: Workshop for Young Women

Report by Danielle Gauld, Communications Coordinator

On Thursday May 5th, the NSWC celebrated Youth Week and launched its "Women's Health in Women's Hands" workshop series with *Inside Out: Workshop For Young Women*. This 2 ½ hour workshop was facilitated by Gabrielle Martin and Sara Kendall and was attended by fourteen young women from the North Shore.

The facilitators described the workshop this way: *Inside Out is a workshop for young women to reflect on the world around us and express ourselves through art and discussion. Inside Out will be a fun and comfortable place to try out rhyme, wordplay, and acrobatic balance (no experience necessary!), as ways of expressing ourselves and building self-esteem. We will also talk about stereotypes, how they affect us, and the social pressures that try to tell us how to think!*

Sara and Gabrielle are both accomplished youth facilitators and performers who have worked with a range of organizations and initiatives including Access to Media Education Society (AMES), SafeTeen, The Colouring Book Project, The Momentum Project, the BC Maximum Security Juvenile Detention Centre, and the Power of Hope.

Their creative use of movement, discussion, activities and spoken word was highly effective in creating a dynamic, trusting and open environment in which the young women expressed their thoughts and feelings about self-esteem, gender, stereotypes, social pressures and exclusion. The feedback we received at the workshop and since has been overwhelmingly positive.

New Voices Joining the Table: Bridging Local Policy and Decision Making with Women's Equality Issues



The *New Voices Joining the Table: Bridging Local Policy and Decision Making with Women's Equality Issues* initiative is a participatory action research project based in the North Shore Women's Centre. The initiative, co-coordinated by Surjeet Sidhu and Danielle Gauld, is focused on engaging women, service providers, and municipalities on the North Shore in identifying the impacts of provincial government cutbacks—particularly those that relate to violence against women—on the lives of women in our communities.

This year-and-a-half effort will include several phases. The first will involve the writing and distribution of a report that explores the impacts of recent provincial government cutbacks on the experiences of women and service providers on the North Shore. It will also examine the consequences of

those policies on municipalities, who have been forced to step in and address the resulting gaps or lapses in services.

The second and third phases will aim at addressing the findings of the report, by developing tools that individuals and groups can use to become more engaged in their communities around issues of violence against women and women's equality issues.

More specifically, phase two of the project will explore possible responses to the findings of the report and outline key steps for women and agencies interested in participating in local municipal politics.

The final phase of the project will involve building a diverse and inclusive network of women and organizations on the North Shore that can be consulted by local decision makers about policy development and implementation that impacts violence against women and other women's equality issues.

If you are a woman who has been affected by recent provincial government cutbacks, if you provide services to women who have, or if you would like more information about the project, please contact Danielle at newvoices@northshorewomen.ca or 604.984.6009

**The North Shore Women's Centre
has updated our website!**



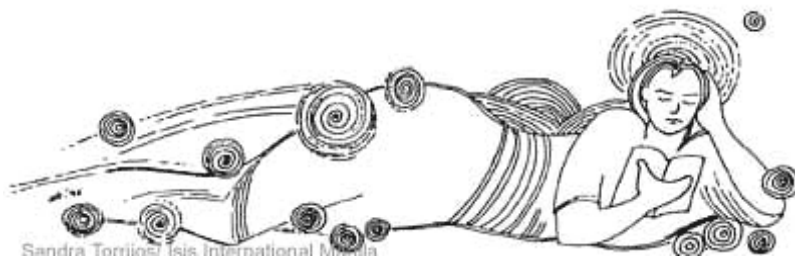
www.northshorewomen.ca

**Check back regularly for updated event listings and
special projects!**

NEW LIBRARY BOOKS

The North Shore Women's Centre has recently started adding to our library collection. New books are arriving all the time. Drop by to see new titles like:

- The Blind Assassin, by Margaret Atwood
- The Way the Crow Flies, by Ann-Marie MacDonald
- Away, by Jane Urquhart
- The Complete Novels, by Jean Rhys
- Daughter of Fortune, by Isabel Allende
- What the Body Remembers, by Shauna Singh Baldwin
- Anger Workout Book, by Dr. Weisinger
- White Teeth, by Zadie Smith
- Wild Decembers, by Edna O'Brien
- Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center, by bell hooks
- The Aguero Sisters, by Cristina Garcia
- The God of Small Things, by Arundhati Roy
- Fear of Fifty: A Midlife Memoir, by Erica Jong



North Shore Women's Forum Coalition:

The North Shore Women's Forum Coalition was originally founded to organize the highly successful January 2004 forum *Women and Children Last?*, which raised awareness about the impact of the Provincial government policy changes and funding cuts on North Shore women and children. It then recently reformed to encourage women's participation and highlight women's issues in the May 17th provincial election. The Coalition organized three all-candidate forums on the North Shore, one of which was in partnership with the West Vancouver Teacher's Association.

If you or your agency are interested in getting involved in future activities of the North Shore Women's Forum Coalition, please call 604.984.6009 or email info@northshorewomen.ca

MISSION STATEMENT

The North Shore Women's Coalition is a nonpartisan network of individuals, community organizations, and social service agencies committed to the advocacy of women's equality and children's welfare on the North

Shore. Membership is open to all women and organizations interested in the active support of women's equality and children's welfare.

Our goals are:

- to raise public awareness about issues affecting women and children
- to play a leadership role in facilitating discussion and action to support the activities of individuals and community groups working to improve the lives of women and children
- to develop a network that is representative of the diversity in our community

*New Report Prepared for the BC Coalition of Women's Centres,
by the University of British Columbia Centre for Research in Women's Studies and Gender
Relations and the BC Federation of Labour*

Losing Ground: The Effects of Government Cutbacks on Women in British Columbia, 2001-2005

Written by Gillian Creese, Professor of Anthropology and Sociology Studies at the University of British Columbia and Veronica Strong-Boag, Professor of Educational Studies and Women at the University of British Columbia

COPIES NOW AVAILABLE AT THE CENTRE FREE OF COST

From the Executive Summary: "While women were far from equal in May 2001, there is no doubt that British Columbia women have lost ground under Gordon Campbell's New Era. [...] On major policy fronts—caring work, health and safety, welfare, education and training, employment, access to justice and women's advocacy—Liberals have tossed equality and justice overboard. The Liberal government may pretend that gender equality has already been achieved and policy formation can be indifferent to women, but abundant research demonstrates otherwise. Gender inequality is increasing even as BC Liberals promise a 'golden decade' in the pre-election throne speech."

UPCOMING EVENTS

Women's Health in Women's Hands



Workshop Series

Holistic Stress Management Workshop

Monday June 20th

1:00-3:00 p.m.

at the North Shore Women's Centre

Facilitated by Ellen Besso, M.A., R.C.C.

Free of cost. All women welcome. Please call
604.984.6009 to register.

July Workshop:

Body Work



Lesbian and Bisexual Support Groups (Trans inclusive & open to women questioning their sexual identity)

This program consists of regular drop-in sessions interspersed with a 9 week closed coming out support group offered several times a year. Both the drop-in and closed groups give North Shore lesbian and bisexual women, as well as women who are questioning their sexual identities, a chance to discuss ideas and important issues, meet and socialize with one another, and learn about upcoming events and community issues.

Drop In Sessions:

Monday July 11th, July 25th, August 8th and August 22nd
7:30-9:30 pm at the North Shore Women's Centre

9-Week Closed Coming Out Group:

9 week closed group. Starts in September after the Labour Day Long Weekend. Please call to register.

appreciations

Many thanks to all the dedicated women who volunteer at our Centre, including our Board of Directors.

Thank you to all of our members who support the North Shore Women's Centre and those individuals who have graciously made financial contributions.

Thank you to the North Shore Outlook for their donation of \$2,902.81 from the North Shore Women of Excellence Awards Lunch on International Women's Day!

Thanks so much to everyone who helped make our first annual performance of the Vagina Monologues such a huge success! Please see our website for a listing of the cast and crew, the staff of Centennial Theatre, the sponsors and donors, the organizing committee and the volunteers who helped us raise over \$14000 for the Centre!

Thank you to everyone who donated goods to and volunteered at our 2nd annual Great Big Garage Sale!

And thanks to CUPE Local 389 for the outdoor tent!

(in)Visible: A North Vancouver Women's Public Art Project



Now officially open to the public

at the John Braithwaite Community Centre (145 W. 1st St.) in the mezzanine level windows
(in)Visible, a publicly displayed etched-glass art piece, reminds us that violence against women is a community issue and celebrates the transformation from isolation to empowerment many women experience as they confront the abuse in their lives.

Made possible with funding from the City of North Vancouver and support of the John Braithwaite Community Centre.



I WISH TO BECOME A MEMBER:

Date: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____

City: Please check the appropriate box:

- City of North Vancouver District of North Vancouver
 District of West Vancouver Other: _____

Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Tel: (H) _____ (W) _____

Email: _____ Fax: _____

Subscribe this email to the NSWC Email News and E-Nellie List:

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE ENCLOSED

___ \$20 Individual

___ \$ 5 Senior/Un(der)employed/Student

___ \$25 Organizational

I would like to make a donation in the amount of:

\$20 \$35 \$50 \$75 \$100

Other: _____

I would like to be contacted about making a monthly donation through pre-authorized payments.

I would **not** like my donation acknowledged in the North Shore Women's Centre Newsletter *the Nellie*.

Membership offers: Opportunities to be a part of a diverse network of women, a subscription to the *Nellie E-News* and our print newsletter *the Nellie*, library borrowing privileges and voting privileges at the Annual General Meeting. Please make your cheque payable to the North Shore Women's Centre and return it with this form. The NSWC is a non-profit registered charity. Income tax receipts will be issued for donations.

NSWC 131 East 2nd Street, BC V7L 1C2