



The Nellie

A Publication of the North Shore Women's Centre

Winter 2006

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Focus on V-Day

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The North Shore Women's Centre would like to acknowledge the Squamish Nation on whose territory the Centre is located. We would also like to acknowledge the Tsleil-Waututh and Musqueam Nations.

V-DAY NORTH VANCOUVER 2006

The North Shore Women's Centre presents a benefit production of Eve Ensler's

The Vagina Monologues



at Centennial Theatre

TICKETS AND MERCHANDISE ON SALE NOW!!

Saturday Feb 4th:

Silent Auction at 5:30

Showtime at 7:00

Tickets \$29

Sunday Feb 5th:

Doors open at 1:00

Showtime at 2:00

Tickets \$24

For more information, please see: www.vday.org & www.northshorewomen.ca/V-Day/

To order tickets or merchandise, please call 604.984.6009

VAGINA WHAT?!

Heard about the upcoming production of The Vagina Monologues and want to know more? Come learn more about the V-Day global movement to end violence against women and girls and V-Day North Vancouver 2006

Saturday January 21st
Drop-In from 1:00-4:00 pm

Screening of the film V-Day:
Until the Violence Stops
1:00, 2:30 and 3:00 pm

North Shore Women's Centre
131 East 2nd Street
(1/2 block off Lonsdale)

VAGINA MONOLOGUES MERCHANDISE

"I Love My Vagina"
tank tops and underwear
\$15 each or \$25 for both



Chocolate Vulva-Pops
\$2 each

All proceeds go towards our programs & services.

Ideas for Healing and Change

On December 6th, the National Day for Remembrance and Action to End Violence Against Women, approximately 30 community members gathered for a candle-lighting ceremony at the John Braithwaite Community Centre. Afterwards, we asked those in attendance to write a few words on how they could work towards healing and change concerning violence against women in their lives and communities. Here is what they said:

- Get involved.
- Speak out!
- Teach our children well.
- Women need to learn about, care for, support, inspire, mentor, accept and respect other women.
- Assertiveness training/awareness for girls and young women.
- Self-esteem, healthy relationships, and self defense workshops.
- Mentorship programs in elementary and middle schools.
- Identity-reclaiming.
- Writing support group. Singing group.
- Help for single parent families.
- Availability of information on 'natural' healing.
- Volunteers to offer free therapies.
- Learn as much as possible about signs of violence, potential violence and behaviour camouflaging violence.
- Be available to friends in troubled relationships.
- If you are in an abusive relationship, get out, and get out now; it will only get worse, not better.



The lit candles from the December 6th candle-lighting ceremony, in front of the (in)Visible Women's Public Art Project in the mezzanine level window at the John Braithwaite Community Centre.

Imagine a Woman



Imagine a woman who believes it is right and good she is a woman. A woman who honors her experience and tells her stories. Who refuses to carry the sins of others within her body and life.

Imagine a woman who trusts and respects herself. A woman who listens to her needs and desires. Who meets them with tenderness and grace.

Imagine a woman who has acknowledged the past's influence on the present. A woman who has walked through her past. Who has healed into the present.

Imagine a woman who authors her own life. A woman who exerts, initiates and moves on her own behalf. Who refuses to surrender except to her truest self and wisest voice.

Imagine a woman who names her own gods. A woman who believes her body is enough, just as it is. Who celebrates her body's rhythms and cycles as an exquisite resource.

Imagine a woman who honors the body of the goddess in her changing body. A woman who celebrates the accumulation of her years and her wisdom. Who refuses to use her precious life energy disguising the changes in her body and life.

Imagine a woman who values the women in her life. A woman who sits in circles of women. Who is reminded of the truth about herself when she forgets.

Imagine yourself as this woman.

By Patricia Lynn Reilly

From Imagine a Woman in Love with Herself

The Federal Election: Monday, January 23rd

North Shore Women's Centre Survey for 2006 Federal Election Candidates

On Thursday January 5th, the North Shore Women's Centre sent a survey on women's issues to all North Shore candidates in the upcoming Federal Election. At the time this newsletter was published, we had heard back from Sherry Shaghghi and Judith Wilson of the New Democratic Party, Anne Jameison of the Marxist-Leninist Party of Canada, John Weston of the Conservative Party, Silvine Zimmerman of the Green Party and Don Bell of the Liberal Party of Canada. We still hope to hear back from the rest of the candidates.

Please go to www.northshorewomen.ca/Election to see their responses.

Below are samples of the questions we asked:

Women's Economic Security

According to Statistics Canada, women who work full-time earn 71% of what men earn. Women make up the majority of Canadians with incomes below the poverty line and do significant amounts of unpaid care-giving work. As such, social assistance is a crucial support for women, particularly those leaving abusive situations or raising children on their own. It is well documented that Provincial Government changes to social assistance, made possible by the elimination of conditions attached to Federal transfer payments, have disproportionately impacted women, and single mothers in particular. **Will you and your party support:**

- the implementation of federal pay equity legislation?
- an increase in the federal transfer and the attachment of standards and conditions to the Canada Social Transfer so that social assistance rates in British Columbia and across the country are raised to a livable level?

Women's Organizations

Mirroring earlier cuts to core funding to women's centres at a federal level, the British Columbia Provincial Government cut 100% of the core funding of all 37 of BC's women's centres in 2004. This loss of funding has made it very difficult for these organizations to provide essential services to women in their communities and to continue their vital democratic role in improving the lives of women and representing their concerns. In fact, many women's centres in BC have had to close their doors or reduce staff, hours, programs and/or services. This has made the role of Status of Women Canada even more important in supporting the voices of Canadian women and the organizations that represent them. **Will you and your party agree to:**

- restore federal core-funding to women's centres?
- increase the Women's Programme budget (of Status of Women Canada) to \$100 million, which would be 0.05% of total federal spending?

Civil Law Legal Aid

Although there is a designated federal fund for criminal law legal aid, legal aid for family and civil law matters are no longer designated in the federal transfer, creating the conditions for Provincial Governments to drastically cut these services back. As a result, the current British Columbia government has made huge cuts to the Legal Services Society that have resulted in elimination of Family, Poverty and Immigration Law Legal Aid, except in exceptional cases. These are the areas in which women most often need legal assistance. The Canadian Bar Association (CBA) has recently launched a legal challenge against the federal government for failing to adequately fund this vital service. **Will you and your party support a designated federal fund for civil legal aid (to be transferred to provinces and territories) and the establishment of minimum national standards?**

As well as questions on Violence Against Women and Girls, Aboriginal Women's Human Rights; Immigrant, Refugee and Migrant Women; Women's Reproductive Rights; Housing and Homelessness; Home, Elder and Long Term Care and Childcare.

For information on voting and candidates please contact: Elections Canada

<http://www.elections.ca/>, 1 800 463-6868 (toll-free in Canada) or TTY 1 800 361-8935 (toll-free in Canada)

Vagina Resources

Books

- **The Vagina Monologues**, by Eve Ensler (in the NSW Library)
- **Vagina Warriors**, by Eve Ensler and Joyce Tenneson (in the NSW Library)
- **The Good Body**, by Eve Ensler (soon to be in the NSW Library)
- **The Dinner Party**, by Judy Chicago (in the NSW Library)
- **At Your Fingertips: The Care and Maintenance of a Vagina** (in the NSW Library)

Films

- **V-Day: Until the Violence Stops** on DVD (soon to be available in the NSW Library)
- **The Vagina Monologues** on VHS (soon to be available in the NSW Library)

Local Stores

- **The Art of Loving:** <http://www.theartofloving.ca/>
- **Womyns'Ware:** <http://www.womynsware.com/>

Websites

- **V-Day:** www.vday.org
- **All Things Yoni:** www.yoni.com/
- **Anatomy, from alt.sex:** <http://www.luckymojo.com/faqs/altsex/vulva.html>
- **Anatomy, at The-Clitoris:** http://www.the-clitoris.com/n_html/n_anatomy.htm
- **VaginArts:** www.vaginarts.com/Eindex.html
- **The Big Vagina:** <http://thebigvagina.com/home.html>

all duties into a single male godhead.



Primer for a Vagina

from the Dinner Party, by Judy Chicago



About V-Day

V-Day is a global movement to stop violence against women and girls. V-Day is a catalyst that promotes creative events to increase awareness, raise money and revitalize the spirit of existing anti-violence organizations. V-Day generates broader attention for the fight to stop worldwide violence against women and girls, including rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation (FGM) and sexual slavery.

V-Day stages large-scale benefits and produces innovative gatherings, films and campaigns to educate and change social attitudes towards violence against women. Through V-Day campaigns, local volunteers and college students produce annual benefit performances of "The Vagina Monologues" to raise awareness and funds for anti-violence groups within their own communities.

Performance is just the beginning. In Africa, the Middle East, and Asia, V-Day commits ongoing support to build movements and anti-violence networks. Working with local organizations, V-Day provided hard-won funding that helped open the first shelters for women in Egypt and Iraq, sponsored annual workshops and three national campaigns in Afghanistan, convened the "Confronting Violence" conference of South Asian women leaders, and donated satellite-phones to Afghan women to keep lines of communication open and action plans moving forward.

The V-Day movement is growing at a rapid pace throughout the world, in 81 countries to date. V-Day, a non-profit corporation, distributes funds to grassroots, national and international organizations and programs that work to stop violence against women and girls. V-Day was named one of Worth Magazine's "100 Best Charities." In eight years, the V-Day movement has raised over \$30 million. The 'V' in V-Day stands for Victory, Valentine and Vagina.

The Worldwide and College Campaigns

These V-Day Campaigns invite members of communities and campuses around the world to present V-Day benefit productions of "The

Vagina Monologues" annually during February and March to raise money and awareness to stop violence against women and girls. V-Day organizers donate the proceeds from these events directly to local anti-violence organizations in their communities.

In 2005, 1100 communities and colleges around the world participated in the Worldwide and College Campaigns. US\$6.5 million was raised through Worldwide and College Campaign events and more than 100 million people were exposed to V-Day's vision. In 2006 we expect there to be more than 2,000 Worldwide and College Campaign events!

The Worldwide and College Campaigns strive to empower women to find their collective voices and demand an end to the epidemic levels of violence and abuse in their communities around the world.

"The minute you decide that violence against women and girls must end everywhere, you become a member of the V-Day movement. This simple act of embracing the ideal of a better, safer life for women and girls brings us one step closer to V-World." - www.vday.org

Petition Campaign: Restore Women's Centre Funding Now!

On Thursday November 24th, Ralph Sultan, MLA for West Vancouver – Capilano, tabled a petition in the Legislature signed by nearly 1,500 people, many of whom are North Shore residents. Addressed to Premier Gordon Campbell, the petition states that elimination of funding to Women's Centres jeopardizes women's lives as Women's Centres provide many important direct services to women, especially in the area of violence against women and children. The petition was then sent to Premier Campbell, Finance Minister Carole Taylor, North Shore MLA's and members of the Opposition.

The response so far, particularly from Premier Campbell and Finance Minister Taylor, consisting mainly of lists of the ways that the Provincial Government says it has "helped in the fight against violence against women" is inadequate. Although we are aware that the Provincial Government has maintained and even increased funding to other kinds of services for women, we are deeply concerned with their focus on solely funding organizations that provide what they call "immediate services" to the exclusion of organizations such as Women's Centres.

Many of the wide array of supports provided by Women's Centres are preventative in nature, and are therefore a crucial complement to crisis services. We cannot simply address violence against women once it has already taken its toll. We also need to address the root causes of violence, so that we can eradicate it altogether in our lives and communities. Re-funding all of BC's Women's Centres would only require \$1.7 million or 4.6% of the \$37 million allocated for violence against women programs in the February 2005 Provincial Budget.

The petition has been endorsed by the City of North Vancouver, whose mayor and council sent a letter to Premier Campbell and all the municipalities in BC stating their support for the restoration of provincial women's centre funding. It is currently under review by the Mayor and Councils of the District of North Vancouver and the District of West Vancouver.

For more information, please call 604.984.6009 or go to www.northshorewomen.ca/petition

Upcoming Events

North Shore Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Drop-In Group and Coming Out Group

(Trans inclusive and open to all exploring their sexual identity)



Drop-In Group

Monday January 23rd

7:30-9:30 pm

At the North Shore Women's Centre (131 East 2nd St.)

Coming Out Group

9 week closed group

Meets Mondays, 7:30-9:30 pm

At the North Shore Women's Centre (131 East 2nd St.)

Start Date: February 6th

Space is limited, so register soon at
(604) 984-6009 or info@northshorewomen.ca

V-DAY CELEBRATION

meet organizers and cast of the Vagina Monologues and learn more about the V-Day movement to end violence against women and girls

Saturday February 18th

**at the North Shore Women's Centre
131 East 2nd Street, North Vancouver**

11:00-4:00 pm

FILM SCREENINGS:

including V-Day: Until the Violence Stops, The Day My God Died and Keepers of the Fire

VAGINA ARTS AND CRAFTS:

including quilting, costumes and decorating handmirrors

WORKSHOPS:

On self-defense and sexual health/empowerment

All women welcome. Admission by donation

For more information, or to register for workshops please contact (604) 984-6009 or info@northshorewomen.ca

appreciations

Many thanks to all the dedicated volunteers and board members who donate their time and energy to the Centre.

Thank you to all of our members who support the North Shore Women's Centre and those individuals who have graciously made recent financial or in-kind contributions, including: Barbara Livingston, M. Arvilla Read, Rhonda Spence, Sally Sutherland, Susan Stout, Rill Sutherland Clarke, Filomena Martini, Denny Boyd, June Thompson, Shirley Freund, Pat Mitchell, Merle Todd, Robyn Palliardi, Angela Stuart, Margaret Morgan, CD Anglin, Phyllis Kenney, and Candace Asconi.

We would also like to thank the North Shore Unitarian Church, the BC National Action Committee on the Status of Women, and Vancity (West Vancouver Branch) for their generous support.



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

Community Survey: Have you been impacted by Provincial Government Cutbacks?

Many women have been severely impacted by Provincial Government cutbacks and policy changes over the past four and a half years.

Cuts and changes in the areas of social assistance, disability benefits, pay equity, legal aid, health care, child and eldercare, education and training, employment standards, public sector jobs and contracts, housing, human rights, advocacy, and community-based social services have disproportionately affected women because:

- women were disproportionately poor and marginalized before the cuts
- women are more dependent on the public services and policies that have been cut
- women provide most of the services that were cut and now do even more unpaid labour as a result

The North Shore Women's Centre is currently conducting a community survey on the impacts of the cutbacks on women on the North Shore.

A copy of the survey was included with this newsletter. Please take a few moments to fill it out and return it to us by fax (604.980.4661), mail or drop off (131 East 2nd St. North Vancouver BC V7L 1C2)

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
604.984.6009 info@northshorewomen.ca**