



## Focus on Women's Labour

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### **We acknowledge funding from the following sources:**

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.

**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  
Tseil-Waututh and Musqueam  
Nations.**

## Making Our Voices Heard

### **BC Federation of Labour Women's Conference and Lobby**

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, Michelle Dodds and Kristina Vandervoort of the North Shore Women's Centre joined 120 other members of the BC Coalition of Women's Centres, as well as community activists, and childcare and union organizers from all over the province for the BC Federation of Labour women's conference and lobby in Victoria BC. The conference included meetings with MLAs and Ministers, where the participants demanded that the BC government:

- Insist that the new Conservative federal government live up to the childcare agreements negotiated and signed with all the provinces—including British Columbia, under the current Premier. Restore the \$40 million in provincial annual funding to childcare cut by the Liberal government in 2002.
- Make further changes to the Employment Standards Act including:
  - the elimination of the \$6.00/hr. training wage;
  - increasing BC's minimum wage; and
  - increasing the minimum call-out from 2 to 4 hours.
- Restore the former free-standing Ministry of Women's Equality and funding for Women's Centres.

As stated by Debra Critchley of the Vernon Women's Centre "We have no illusions that the immediate implementation of all three of these recommendations will lead to overnight solutions. But the three taken together would provide valuable support and assistance to hundreds of thousands of women across BC as they struggle to win a better life for themselves and their families".

After a morning of complications due to a former arrest incurred when meeting with the same Minister several years ago, Michelle and 3 other representatives of the BC Coalition of Women's Centres were permitted in the Legislature once again and met with Ida Chong, Minister of Community Services. During this meeting, Minister Chong did state a willingness to discuss some future funding for women's centres. The Coalition is hoping to meet with Minister Chong again in the early summer to continue the discussion.

Said Michelle Dodds upon returning, "It's a start. While substantial damage has already been done with the elimination of 100% of our core funding in April 2004, and while we will still have much work to do in funding the daily operations of the Centre, it does show that the Provincial Government is at least recognizing the importance of Women's Centres' services in the lives of women in our communities. We will continue to discuss how they can support all of BC Women's Centres to continue providing crucial services and programs for women in this province".

**If you wish to support the important work begun at this conference and lobby, please contact your MLA and the appropriate Ministers responsible for these areas and express your support for the above recommendations. For more detailed information, please contact the North Shore Women's Centre.**

*A special thanks to Angela Schira and The BC Federation of Labour's Women's Committee for all their hard work and support of BC Women's Centres.*

## National Association of Women and the Law Mothers Day Statement, May 2006

On Mothers Day, we celebrate our mothers and all they have done for us. Yet in all our communities everywhere in Canada, mothers are struggling to make ends meet, to do well by their children and their families. Women must work hard to bring about a world where their children will not have to fear sexual violence, racism, poverty, discrimination and exclusion. Mothers do this in a society that has not adapted itself to the reality of motherhood in the 21<sup>st</sup> century or delivered its promise of equality for all women.

While more fathers have been getting involved, women still do the lion's share of the work of caring for children and the home. Most mothers do a double day's work and pay a disproportionate price for raising children. Motherhood often leads to impoverishment for women, to overwork, exhaustion and guilt. All mothers should freely choose to give life. All children should be wanted children. No mother should have to interrupt a pregnancy because she is too poor or because she lacks social or economic support.

Childbirth is one of the most expensive times in a woman's life, yet that is when she has the least capacity to earn a living. Mothers should be respected and supported. They need more government support and better income replacement, so they are not forced to depend on other family members for basic income security. Women with children must remain strong and autonomous and never be forced by economic necessity to remain with an abusive partner.

### **For Mothers Day 2006, we the undersigned request that:**

- Federal funding for safe, quality, flexible, inclusive and universally accessible childcare services be maintained and expanded.
- Each mother of a child under six receive in full the promised amount of a \$1,200 tax credit per child
- No Province be allowed to claw-back Child Tax Benefit because a child's family is on social assistance.
- Maternity and parental benefits be improved, so that women across Canada receive at least as much as they would under Québec's more generous system.
- Federal pay equity legislation be adopted, as recommended by the Pay Equity Task Force Report in May 2004.
- Workplace policies be improved to meet the needs of casual, part-time and contract workers and to allow for flexibility to accommodate the needs of children.
- We want real equality for mothers, now!

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## Warning Signs of Financial Abuse in Relationships

### Does your partner or spouse:

- take your paycheque?
- limit your access to the financial resources?
  - provide only a small "allowance" for your daily expenses?
  - use money as a means for manipulation, domination, control or threats?
  - keep financial details secret or discourage you from learning about them?
- control the bank accounts and financial papers and/or keep everything in their name?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you may be at risk or experiencing financial abuse. Please contact the North Shore Women's Centre for more information.

## **A vagina-friendly world**

**At the NSWC's production of the Vagina Monologues on February 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, sheets in the bathrooms asked audience members: What would make the world a more vagina-friendly place? Here are some of their answers.**

Acknowledge women—not just for their vaginas...I wish to be identified for more than my sexual organ!!

More men getting punished/jail for the horrible things they think they are allowed to do to women!

Less male privilege.

Men giving birth to children—to understand how incredible vaginas are.

Respect and acceptance from men.

Women must vote! More vaginas in government.  
More women who support women's issues elected to government.

More affordable housing for vaginas.

Funding for women's centres.

PAY FOR MOTHERS! ☺ Yeah!

More equality.

More love.

Freedom not to fear.

Instruction manuals!

If we just took a better look at it!

Teach young girls the proper word! VAGINA

Teach our sons to respect and honor women.

Talk about our vaginas.

Respect the vagina.

## **Wild Geese**

**By Mary Oliver**

*You do not have to be good.*

*You do not have to walk on your knees  
for a hundred miles through the desert, repenting.*

*You only have to let the soft animal of your body  
love what it loves.*

*Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.*

*Meanwhile the world goes on.*

*Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain  
are moving across the landscapes,  
over the prairies and the deep trees,  
the mountains and the rivers.*

*Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air,  
are heading home again.*

*Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,  
the world offers itself to your imagination,  
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting--  
over and over announcing your place  
in the family of things.*



[http://www.english.uiuc.edu/maps/poets/m\\_r/oliver/online\\_poems.htm](http://www.english.uiuc.edu/maps/poets/m_r/oliver/online_poems.htm)

### **Code Blue for Child Care**

**To Stephen Harper, provincial premiers and federal opposition leaders: HONOUR THE CHILD CARE AGREEMENTS**

We are calling on you to work together to honour the promise of a national child care program. The place to start is by protecting the early learning and child care agreements between the Government of Canada and the provinces. The federal-provincial agreements on child care were negotiated in good faith. They lay a foundation for a full system of early learning and child care that can meet the needs of all Canadian families. Canceling them sets back the development of a national child care program for years to come, leaving families with young children to fend for themselves. Breaking federal-provincial child care agreements would be a breach of public trust and would lead to a cut of almost \$4 billion from child care funding. The federal election results were not a mandate to turn back the clock on child care. While income support for families is a valid policy goal, a taxable family allowance and a tax credit for employers will not create early learning and child care services that are high quality, available and affordable. Families need income supports and publicly funded child care services. We call on all governments to protect and enhance progress on child care.

To sign, please go to: [www.buildchildcare.ca](http://www.buildchildcare.ca)

## Upcoming Events

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

(trans inclusive and open to women questioning their sexual identity)



May 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>    June 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>  
July 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>    August 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>

**Mondays at 7:30-9:30 pm**

**At the North Shore Women's Centre**

131 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, North Vancouver (1/2 block off Lonsdale)

**Meet, socialize and discuss ideas with other women. Plus, find out about upcoming events and get involved in community issues!**

For more info: (604) 984-6009 or [info@northshorewomen.ca](mailto:info@northshorewomen.ca)

## FINANCIAL AWARENESS WORKSHOP FOR WOMEN

Thursday May 25<sup>th</sup>

Doors open at 6:30pm, Program at 7:00pm

John Braithwaite Community Centre

145 West 1<sup>st</sup> Street, North Vancouver

Speakers: Miriam McClellan—Stopping the Violence Counselor,  
Cherie Devisser—VanCity Branch Manager, Phyllis Kenney—  
Family Law Lawyer

*This workshop will provide an opportunity for women to learn more about their personal finances, particularly in the context of a relationship. Legal rights, financial literacy, and warning signs and risk factors of financial abuse will be discussed. Three speakers—a counselor, a family law lawyer and a bank manager— will offer important information for all women interested in developing their ability to make informed, effective choices regarding their finances.*

*Free of cost. All women welcome\*. Please call to register.*

To register: (604) 984-6009 or [info@northshorewomen.ca](mailto:info@northshorewomen.ca)

\*The NSWC is currently not scooter or wheelchair accessible.  
Please contact us if this is a barrier to your participation.

## Women's Labour in Canada

Statistics Canada, <http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/89-503-XIE/0010589-503-XIE.pdf>

- The increased participation of women in the paid work force has been one of the most significant social trends in Canada in the past quarter century. In 2004, 58% of all women aged 15 and over were part of the paid work force, up from 42% in 1976. In contrast, the proportion of men who were employed fell during this period from 73% to 68%.
- There have been particularly dramatic increases in the employment levels of women with very young children. Indeed, by 2004, 65% of all women with children under age 3 were employed, more than double the figure in 1976. The share of female lone parents with jobs has risen dramatically over the last three decades. In 2004, 68% of female lone parents were employed, whereas the figure was under 50% in 1976.
- Women generally have lower incomes than men. In 2003, the average annual pre-tax income of women aged 15 and over from all sources was \$24,400, just 62% the figure for men. The average income of women in 2003, though, was 13% higher than the figure in 1997, once the effects of inflation have been factored out, whereas the real average income of men rose 8% in the same period.
- The average earnings of employed women are still substantially lower than those of men, even when employed full-time. In 2003, women working fulltime, full-year had average earnings of \$36,500, or 71% what men employed full-time, full-year made that year. As well, the gap between the earnings of women and men has not changed substantially in the past decade.
- Women make up a disproportionate share of the population in Canada with low incomes. Unattached women are particularly likely to have low incomes. In 2003, 31% of unattached women aged 16 and over had incomes below the after-tax Low-Income Cut-offs, while this was the case for 28% of their male counterparts.
- Women are also much more likely than their male counterparts to work part-time. In 2004, 27% of the total female workforce were part-time employees, compared with just 11% of employed men. Indeed, women currently account for about seven in 10 of all part-time employees, a figure which has not changed appreciably since the mid-1970s.
- Families headed by female lone parents also have relatively high rates of low income. In 2003, 38% of all families headed by lone-parent mothers had incomes, which fell below the after-tax Low Income Cut-offs. In comparison, this was the case for 13% of male lone-parent families and just 7% of nonelderly two-parent families with children. The incidence of low income among female-headed lone-parent families, however, has declined somewhat from the period from the early 1980s to the mid-1990s when the figure hovered around 50%.



## Recently Released Reports

- **Denied Assistance: Closing the Front Door on Welfare in BC:**  
[http://www.policyalternatives.ca/documents/BC\\_Office\\_Pubs/bc\\_2006/denied\\_assistance.pdf](http://www.policyalternatives.ca/documents/BC_Office_Pubs/bc_2006/denied_assistance.pdf)
- **Ombudsman Investigation of the Public Interest Advocacy Centre's Complaints about the Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance:**  
[www.ombud.gov.bc.ca/reports/Special\\_Reports/Special%20Report%20No%20-%2028.pdf](http://www.ombud.gov.bc.ca/reports/Special_Reports/Special%20Report%20No%20-%2028.pdf)
- **North Shore Municipal Support for Community Social Services - Opportunities for Collaboration:** [http://www.dnv.org/upload/documents/Council\\_Reports/00642.pdf](http://www.dnv.org/upload/documents/Council_Reports/00642.pdf)

## V-DAY NORTH VANCOUVER 2006



**thank you to everyone who helped make our benefit production of the Vagina Monologues a huge success!**

**deep thanks to our generous sponsors and donors:** AG Hair Cosmetics, Janet Appleton, the Art Express, The Art of Loving, Body Harmony Yoga, The Body Shop, Denny Boyd, Canadian Outback Adventure, Capers Community Market, Capilano Suspension Bridge, Carol's Costume Corner, Centennial Theatre, Chara Designs, Cheers Restaurant, Chris O'Byrne Graphics, Christine Designs Ltd., CIBC Park Royal, Cinnamon's Chocolates, Deep Cove Kayak, Deep Cove Market and Grill, Fairmont Chateau Whistler, Falcon International, Fitness World, Gold's Gym, Anne Junkin, Inessence Skin Synergies, International Arts Initiative, Holly Salons and Schools, Health E Now, Phyllis Kenney, Latin Organics, the Love Nest North Vancouver and the Love Nest Home Parties, Lonsdale Rentals, Lunabar, Megahair Family, Darrell Mussatto, North Shore Outlook, Northlands Golf Course, Erin O'Byrne, Opus Framing and Art Supplies, Orquieda, Power of Affirmation, Purple Orange Arts, Raincoast Books, Seymour Art Gallery, 32 Books (Edgemont Village), Silk Purse Arts Centre, Sky Spirit Studios, Susan Stout, Sweet Cravings, True Colours, Van City (West Vancouver Community Branch), West Coast Mystic Arts, Whole Foods Market, Women in Film, [www.vashomestay.com](http://www.vashomestay.com)...and all our Anonymous donors (you know who you are!)

**to our wonderful cast:** Diana Bang, Erica Claire Bearss, Linda Boyd, Ingrid Hartloff, Natalie Hoskins, Shannon Kostrzewski, Andrea Lai, Kate Lelane, Khoal Marks, Marcia Moulton, Amanda Oliver, Amy Rhead, Cynnamon Schreinert, Lisa Sowden, Elly Stonebrink, Kim Stubbs-Law, Libya Taylor, Naomi Thomas, Marni Westerman, Rosalyn Winther.

**to our fabulous directors and stage manager:** Eran Norton, Robyn Carson and Noa Anatot.

**to our incredible organizers:** Carolyn O'Byrne, Christine O'Byrne, Fran Nelson, Heather Gunn, Kristina Vandervoort, Laura Fordyce, Maureen Johnston, and Sara Jones.

**to our amazing volunteers:** Bakhshaei Attoosa, Liu Candy, Elaine Carter, Mary-Jean Chorzepa, Chloe Delaney, Chelsea Keays, Suzette Lemar, Helen Mole, Syumi Konnai, Younghee Lee, Rosanna Ng, Lori Payne, Tina Powell, Jinny Rodrigo, Myriam Segovia, Surjeet Sidhu, Menka Sull, Joanna Theodoropoulous, Leigh Green, Lisa Stuitable, Chelsea Keays, Laurie Sluchinski (Carol's Costume Corner), Gloria Larocque, Erin O'Byrne, and Cluida Zuniga-Blaney.

**to Eve Ensler and the women of the V-Day Global Movement to End Violence Against Women and Girls and to all the fantastic women and men who attended the show and supported our silent auction!**

# appreciations

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

Thank you also to all of our members who support the North Shore Women's Centre and to those individuals who have graciously made recent financial or in-kind contributions, including: Andrea Gauthier, Candice Asconi Capilano College Womyn's Collective, Carol Slight, Christine O'Byrne, Darlene Hilden et al Darlene Jacobi, Denny Boyd, United Way Janine Cross, Katherine Newman Lorraine Douglas, Marian Shipley, Roberta Clark Shan Sims, Tina Parbhakar, VanCity (West Vancouver Branch), Soroptomist International (North and West Vancouver Branch).

And thank you to all of our anonymous donors. Our apologies to anyone we have missed.



## DONATION WISHLIST

- Stamps
- Herbal Teas
- A Flipchart stand
- Books of one and two zone bus tickets
- Grocery store gift cards for \$10 and up
- Toilet paper, light bulbs and other small household items useful to women
  - Diapers, babywipes, bottles etc.
  - Toothbrushes and toothpaste
  - Healthy nonperishable food items
- Candy, small new toys and other small items to give away at our tables at events
- Books (to replace popular titles that go missing from our library)

***If you would be interested in donating any of the following items to the North Shore Women's Centre or have ideas for other donations, please contact 604.984.6009.***

### 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, BC V7L 1C2  
604.984.6009 info@northshorewomen.ca**