
From the OSSTF Status of Women Committee – February 22, 2008

1. *Equality! Once and For All! / L'égalité! Une fois pour toutes!*

CLC Women's Economic Equality

Campaign



On International Women's Day, March 8th, the Canadian Labour Congress will launch its year long campaign to raise awareness about women's economic inequality. The campaign will take every opportunity to point out the need for pay equity and good jobs for women, as well as better access to employment insurance and improved pensions. Attention will also be directed at the importance of building a public child care system, ending gender-based harassment and violence, and opening the door to wider opportunities for young women.

More information on the campaign can be found in the most recent *Canadian Labour Online/ Congrès du travail en ligne* (see attached) or by visiting the CLC website at www.clc-ctc.ca

A list of local International Womens Day events and teach-ins where the campaign will be launched is attached. And just before IWD, the CLC will also be "going live" with a campaign website at www.onceandforall.ca . The website will feature information, updates and materials in both French and English, including activities, quizzes and fact sheets. These will be a great source of information for local events, including Status of Women Committee meetings, as well as for classroom use.

2. *It's Time for Public Child Care Campaign*

Ontario Federation of Labour/ Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care

The OFL and OCBCC have launched *It's Time for Public Child Care*. This joint campaign has been endorsed by OSSTF/FEESO and will highlight the dangers of big box child care and urge the Ontario government to move forward with building a non- profit system that meets the needs of children, parents, workers and community.



A tour of Ontario towns is planned for late February and early March, followed by a local lobbying campaign. In June, there will be a Queen's Park Lobby Day bringing together child care and union activists to meet with MPPs on this critical issue.

A list of the tour locations and dates is attached, along with information on child care and the risks posed by big-box corporations.

For more information, visit the OCBCC website at www.childcareontario.org

3. Equal Pay Coalition – 20th Anniversary Campaign

The Equal Pay Coalition's 20th Anniversary Campaign was launched mid-January at Queen's Park with a press conference and thousands of signed postcards strung together for display at the rally outside.

In February, the Equal Pay Coalition chose Family Day as the focus for its second campaign initiative and distributed flyers highlighting the impact of the gender wage gap on women and their families. Copies are attached in both English and French.



As supporters of the campaign, OSSTF/FEESO issued a media release on February 14th calling on the provincial government to honour the commitment to pay equity made 20 years ago when the Pay Equity Act was passed. Copies of the Family Day flyer were also distributed at the Collective Bargaining Conference that weekend and delegates asked to sign the online petition using the computer set up at registration.

The next EPC initiative will focus on International Women's Day, March 8th and tie in to the CLC women's economic equality campaign.

To sign the online petition and for more information on the campaign , visit www.equalpaycoalition.org

4. Gender-based Violence in our Schools

Both the recently released Falconer Report and the study by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) have confirmed what most women already know: gender-based harassment and violence is commonplace in our schools and not much official action is being taken to stop it. This is not acceptable.

So OSSTF/FEESO was pleased when on February 21st, the Ministry of Education announced it was re-engaging its Safe Schools Team specifically to advise the Ministry on addressing these concerns. The Ministry media release *Preventing Violence and Harassment in Schools* and other background information can be found on their website at www.edu.gov.on.ca/ The OSSTF/FEESO media release is posted on our own website.

In the meantime, OSSTF/FEESO itself is looking ahead to developing resources and workshops to assist members in addressing gender-based violence, including updating an earlier resource *The Joke's Over*.

As you can read in an attached *Toronto Star* article, The Miss G_ Project also highlighted this serious issue and the need for women's studies curriculum in our schools by organizing a Valentine's Day phone-in protest that jammed Ministry of Education phone lines. A contingent also showed up at Queen's Park asking to meet the Minister and speak with her directly. More information on the Miss G _ project can be found on their website at www.themissgproject.org

The CAMH and Falconer Reports can be found through the following links:



www.camh.net/News_events/News_releases_and_media_advisories_and_backgrounders/how_safe_do_students_feel.html



www.schoolsafetypanel.com./finalReport.html

And finally...

With speculation about a federal election running wild these days, members may be interested in reviewing the NDP federal caucus' Action Plan, *Fairness for Women* (attached in FR and ENG)

Take a look also at the following attached items::

_ *Women are Never Front Runners* - Gloria Steinem on why she supports Hillary Clinton:

_ *1943 Guide to Hiring Women* – written for male supervisors of women working during WWII.