

# 8th Annual EQUALITY Recognition Awards International Women's Week

Arts Guild, Richmond Street, Charlottetown  
March 8, 2001



## AGENDA

- 12:00 Welcome by Heidi Rankin, Director and Jackie MacNeill Doiron, Emcee
- 12:10 Patricia Roy-Ballem, Chairperson
- 12:15 Presentation of Awards
- 12:45 Greetings from the Province
- 12:50 Ann Wheatley and Sharon Gallant, PEI People First
- 1:00 Entertainment by *The Cheveries*
- 1:10 Singing of suffragette theme song "Bread and Roses"

## Background to International Women's Week Celebrations

Every year throughout the world women celebrate International Women's Day on or around March 8th.

Steeped in a history of women's struggles for equality, it has come to symbolize women's efforts to shape a better world. The origins of the day can be traced back to the early 20th century when women in both North America and Europe were fighting for better working conditions, demanding the right to vote, and, as the First World War escalated, calling for peace.

On March 8, 1857 women textile workers marched through the streets to protest 12 hour workdays, low salaries and unsanitary working conditions. These women were beaten by police officers and trampled by their horses. Fifty-one years later, New York women protested working conditions at the Triangle Shirt Waist Factory, where 128 women died in a fire caused by unsafe conditions at the factory. Although these particular dates do not actually mark the beginning of strikes, they do reflect a period of significant labour unrest. The early 20th century witnessed numerous strikes involving thousands of women in major centres such as New York, Chicago, Philadelphia and Montreal.

Women's suffrage was discussed at a meeting of the New York City Social Democratic Women's Society on March 8, 1908. A year later on February 23, 1909, over 2000 people in New York attended the first National Women's Day. The event, sponsored by the American Socialists focused on women's rights and suffrage. On March 8, 1910, during the Second International Socialist Conference in Copenhagen, Clara Zetkin succeeded in having March 8 proclaimed 'International Women's Day.' The day was observed on various dates in both February and March throughout Europe and Russia as well as the United States in the following years.

After a period of years in which the day was celebrated only in a few countries such as Spain and China, International Women's Day was revived and revitalized in the late 1960s in North America. In 1977, a United Nations' resolution was passed calling for countries to celebrate a day for women's rights and international peace. March 8 was not specifically designated but it has become the date observed in many countries as International Women's Day.

Although the origins of International Women's Day seem to be drawn from more than one event in 'herstory,' the meaning of the day has remained clear over the decades. As the need continues for a day to reflect on women's progress and to consider future action, it is likely that International Women's Day will be celebrated for many years to come. (Adapted from the NB Women's Directorate IWD pamphlet)

## 2001 Winners 2001 Winners 2001

### Individual

#### Ellie Reddin

Beginning with a report she authored in 1987, Ellie was instrumental in creating the Island's first victim services program. She works to place the needs of victims, especially women, foremost in any discussion of family violence or sexual assault on PEI and on the national scene. She works closely with community groups and ensures their representation on provincial committees such as the Victim Services Advisory Committee and the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention. As Provincial Manager of Victim Services, Ellie has earned the respect of the community and government equally and is committed to improving the system from within.

### Group or Organization

#### Management Development Program for Women

This one-year certificate program enhances women's skills and increases their confidence as they assume management and leadership positions in today's workplaces. Since its beginning, 150 Island women have been part of the program at the University of Prince Edward Island. While focusing on the learning environment, the program develops abilities and opens doors for both personal and organizational growth. The MDPW's flexibility allows women to learn in real work settings while maintaining their current employment and family roles. Blending technology and group learning, the Management Development Program for Women prepares women to be transformative leaders in PEI's public and private sector.

### Special Recognition ~ Inclusion

#### Kay Reynolds

Kay is a role model and leader in the disability community and has been instrumental in founding many of Prince Edward Island's disability organizations. For over 50 years, she has fought for changes in attitudes and practices. In recognition of her efforts, the Kay Reynolds Centre was named in her honour. Kay's dedication to removing barriers and promoting awareness is tireless and her spirit continues to inspire all who know her.

### Lifetime Achievement

#### Anne T. Gillis, CND

For more than 20 years, Anne has worked with and for women to raise awareness on issues, particularly about violence and addictions and their effects on women's lives. Anne is committed to supporting those who are vulnerable and isolated from society. Her strong vocal, advocacy, and leadership skills have been cherished by women's groups for decades. She continually struggles for the rights, hopes and aspirations of individuals by challenging patriarchy's status quo. Anne has worked in both voluntary and paid service to Island women and their families, taking every opportunity to gently promote a new paradigm, a new vision, that fosters respect for all persons.

### Selection Process



Rise Up, Rise Up!

In January, the Advisory Council mailed nomination packages to individuals and groups province-wide and advertised a

"Request for Nominations". By the deadline on February 15th, there were 37 nominations to be considered.

The EQUALITY Recognition Awards Selection Committee for 2001 included representatives from Women's Network PEI; the business community; EPWIC; Women's Institute; l'Association des femmes Acadiennes et Francophones de l'I-P-E; an advocate for people with disabilities and the PEI ACSW. Committee members abstained from any voting where a conflict of interest existed.

IWD Award recipients receive awards displaying a colour digital copy of the work of Island artist Elizabeth Vessey. *Rise Up, Rise Up!* is a Montreal Massacre commemorative piece which features the faces of the fourteen women who were murdered December 6, 1989.

## Congratulations to all of the nominees in 2001!!

Angele Arsenault

Leone Bagnall

Maria Bernard

Mary Boyd

Vangie Broderick

Marlene Bryenton

Hon. Catherine Callbeck

Farida Chishti

Louise Comeau

Joan Dawson

Rosemary Faulkner

Jean Ginn

Dorothy Jean Gogan

Sharda Gupta

Sandy Kowalik

Maureen Larkin

Gloria Lea

Shirley Limbert

Mary McQuaid

Gertrude Partridge

Peggy Reddin

Ann Sherman

Bobbie Smith

Janet Snazelle

Sylvie Toupin

Wanda Whitlock

AIDS PEI Community Support Group

Becoming An Outdoors Woman

Program - BOW

Canadian Abortion Rights Action

League - CARAL PEI

Community Legal Information

Association - CLIA

Montague Regional High School

PEI Women's Festival Committee

UPEI Women's Centre

Visual Communications, Holland College

### Last year's IWD Award Recipients March 8, 2000



From left: Honourable Pat Mella, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women; Lorna Hutcheson of PEI Rape/Sexual Assault Crisis Centre (Group or Organization); Donna Lewis (Individual); Joanne Lajeunesse, with G.I.F.T. Program, Colonel Gray High School (Employer); and Regena Russell (Lifetime Achievement).

## Bread and Roses Suffragette Theme Song

As we go marching, marching,  
in the beauty of the day  
A million darkened kitchens,  
a thousand mill lofts grey  
Are touched with all the radiance  
that a sudden sun discloses  
For the people hear us singing:  
"Bread and Roses, Bread and Roses"

As we go marching, marching,  
We battle too for men  
For they are women's children  
but change must come from them  
Our lives shall not be sweated  
from birth until life closes  
Hearts starve as well as bodies;  
Bread and Roses, Bread and Roses

As we go marching, marching,  
unnumbered women dead  
Go crying through our singing  
their ancient call for bread  
Small art and love and beauty  
their drudging spirits knew  
Yes, it is bread we fight for -  
but we fight for roses too.

As we go marching, marching,  
we bring the greater days  
The rising of the women means  
the rising of the race

No more the drudge and idler -  
ten that toil while one reposes,  
But a sharing of life's glories  
Bread and Roses, Bread and Roses!

Our lives shall not be sweated  
from birth until life closes;  
Hearts starve as well as bodies;  
Bread and Roses, Bread and Roses

*Adapted by Mimi Farina*



PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women

March 8, 2001