

NB Women's News - November 3, 2008
- A service of the **New Brunswick Advisory Council on the Status of Women**

CRISIS: NO HOME SUPPORT WORKERS

It has been 5 months and Anne Robichaud is worried... "It's been long before, sometimes 2 months, never this long." Her 35-yr-old daughter is in a wheelchair and needs constant help to complete daily functions. She qualifies for a home support worker for 37 hrs/wk. The Dept of Social Development can't find her help. ... 25% of current contracts calling for home support workers are unfulfilled. Most of the 4,500 people approved for home support in NB live alone. The province currently has only 3,000 workers. ... Adrien Mazerolle, NB Home Support Assoc. V.-P., warns that if wages don't increase there will potentially be terrible consequences. "We are eventually going to find somebody that has been dead in their house for a while." Clients outside city centres are less likely to receive care because the agency can't afford to pay mileage. N.B. workers are paid an average of \$9.07/hr. Most provinces pay over \$11/hr. Minister of state for seniors Eugene McGinley: "It's a matter which will be addressed in the budgetary process."

- Excerpts, *Seniors, disabled lack support workers*, Adam Huras, TJ, 29 Oct 2008.

www.nbhhsa.ca/english/home.htm See also: *Pay increase and other changes*: www.nbhhsa.ca/english/news/17oct08.htm

***** *NB Women's News* *****

EVENTS, NOTICES, RESOURCES

Apply to be appointed to N.B. Advisory Council on Youth, which voices the interests of people aged 15–24. By noon 6 Nov 2008. www1.gnb.ca/cnb/abc/index-e.asp; Box 6000, 130-77 Westmorland St., Fredericton, E3B 5H1; NBACY-CCJNB@gnb.ca

Engaging Men In Ending Violence Against Women – Thurs. 4 Dec 2008, Wu Centre, Fredericton. For government, groups, sports associations, educational institutions, individuals. Dr. Jocelyn Lindsay of Univ. Laval on "Getting out of Violence: What does it mean for men?". Panel: Michael Rempel, Center for Court Innovation, NYC; Richard Gallant, Virage/Turning Point; Bill Patrick, Gender Justice Collaborative; DJ Joseph, RespectED: Violence and Abuse Prevention Aboriginal Coord., etc. Next steps chaired by Ombudsman Bernard Richard. \$60; (\$30 studt). Register by 20 Nov. 453-3595 ; tsavage@unb.ca .

Captured Hearts: New Brunswick's War Brides, new book by Melynda Jarratt, Vol. 12 in N.B. Military Heritage Series, Goose Lane Editions with Gregg Centre for Study of War and Society and Canadian War Museum.

Free Pay Equity workshop - NB Coalition for Pay Equity, 29 Nov. 2008. Information & tools for workers in jobs that are female dominated jobs or associated with women. In English, MAGMA, 1299A Mountain Rd. 855-0002.

***** *NB Women's News* *****

N.B. AND CANADA SIMILAR

Percentage of employees in 2007 who work in enterprises with:

Fewer than 5 employees:

NB: 7% ; Canada: 7%

Fewer than 50 employees:

NB: 33% ; Canada: 32%

- Includes women & men, part-time, full-time in all industries (except agriculture, fishing & trapping, private household services, religious groups). Excludes self-employed, owners/ partners of unincorporated businesses, unpaid family workers, military personnel & some casual workers. Statistics Canada, Summary table: Employment by enterprise size, www40.statcan.ca/101/cst01/labr77a.htm?sdj=employment%20size

***** NB Women's News*****

DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU THINK

I have been thinking of a bumper sticker someone told me about recently. It said, "Don't believe everything you think"... For most of us, travel and life regularly make us question what we know. (Prejudiced people, on the other hand, somehow only come across things that confirm their prejudices). The women's movement has been good at making people question what they thought they knew – about what little girls and boys are made of, why certain jobs are paid less, what really makes the world go round... Historically, the women's movement has changed how we live our lives more than any other movement. And yet, the promise was so much greater than what has been delivered. The change that women are looking for has occurred in them but not so much around them. For starters, when three-quarters of women with young children work outside the home, a childcare system is critical, not so much for women as for children and the economy...

- Excerpt from a column by outgoing Chairperson Ginette Petitpas-Taylor, 18 Sept 2008.
www.acswccf.nb.ca/english/documents/LAST.pdf

***** NB Women's News*****

HURRY! SAVE! SAVE!

30% off women's labour (Valid for most workplaces without a union) Hurry! When they're equal, the savings will be gone!!

Get the facts...women have not achieved economic equality. We need pay equity laws to ensure women are properly paid for work of equal value.

- Excerpts, Canadian Labour Congress's Equality once and for all! flyer www.onceandforall.ca .

***** NB Women's News*****

HUMAN TRAFFICKERS GO UNPUNISHED IN CANADA

There were 31 cases of international human trafficking in Canada in 2006-2008 but there has never been a conviction in court, often because victims are reluctant to come forward or co-operate with investigations. UBC law professor Benjamin Perrin obtained documents identifying 31 cases of human trafficking flagged by immigration officials; 4 cases involved children. He calls on governments to do more to help victims and bring traffickers to justice. "There are Canadians who are exploiting these women as well as foreign traffickers." The 31 cases likely represent a fraction of victims, typically women brought to Canada to work in sex trade or forced labour. The top 4 sources: Romania, the Philippines, Moldova and China. "Victims are often threatened - if they say what was happening, their family back home would be threatened. Just to cope with being treated as property, they often don't view themselves as victims." Few cases were referred by local police or Canada Border Services Agency, suggesting those groups need better policies and education about spotting and reaching out to victims.

- Human traffickers go unpunished, Canadian Press, www.ottawasun.com/News/National/2008/10/28/7232676.html

***** NB Women's News*****

ONLY 16% KILLED BY A STRANGER

Of 414 solved homicides in Canada in 2007:

16% were killed by a stranger;
16% were killed by a current/former spouse (married/common-law)
17% by a family member (parent, son/daughter, sibling, other).
37% by an acquaintance (incl. boy/girlfriend, close friend, neighbour, business).
15% by a criminal relationship:

In 2007, 51 women & 13 men (& 1 gender unidentified) were killed by a current/former spouse, down from 56 women and 22 men in 2006. Of the 51 female spousal victims in 2007, 11 were killed by a separated/divorced spouse, but none of the male victims. Another 16 people (data by sex not available) were murdered by a current/former intimate partner in 2007, as in previous years.

- Statistics Canada, Juristat, Oct. 2008, Homicide in Canada, 2007, www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/85-002-XIE/85-002-XIE2008009.htm

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WHEN WOMEN GATHER

... great things can happen. When a safe space is created for sharing and healing, stories begin to emerge. Today it was stories of childbirth, puberty rights, moon teachings and menopause. ...It is in these all-women spaces that the knowledge and stories often emerge. Each woman in the room bonded to the other by virtue of the fact that women were given the gift to be able to birth life. So much of the teachings that women share co-exist with this fact. As we close the circle, if there is one lesson to take away, it is the importance of respecting yourself and your body. NAHO's Journal of Aboriginal Health March 2008 is focused on Aboriginal Women's Health (www.naho.ca/english/journal_V04_01.php).

- Blogger Colleen, communications officer with National Aboriginal Health Organization, reporting from the national gathering in Elsipogtog (formerly Big Cove Band), Gogenoatatoltimig: Sharing the Knowledge, in Sept 2008. <http://promotingaboriginalhealth.blogspot.com/>

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THEY LISTEN TO THEMSELVES

Three new movies explore how beauty has come to be equated with ultra-thin, highly toned bodies. In "America the Beautiful," filmmaker Darryl Roberts confronts fashion insiders about wire-hanger-thin models. For filmmaker Diane Israel, the pursuit of the beauty ideal proved almost fatal. Her film "Beauty Mark" describes her anorexia. An elite triathlete, her eating habits and obsessive exercising led to collapse and the end of her athletic career at age 28. Poor nutrition left her with bones like a 70-yr-old woman. The 3rd movie, "disFigured," is the story of a recovering anorexic and an overweight woman who meet at a "fat acceptance" group. The anorexic inappropriately tries to find support there. The group rejects her, but she becomes a friend to the overweight Lydia.

...It was not until the end of the 70s, early 80s that low weight became the overriding goal, according to "The Beauty Myth" by Naomi Wolf. Women no longer consumed by domestic duties had to be motivated to keep lusting for products and services ... to be unrealistically thin. "Even if people don't develop eating disorders, the self-esteem issues are rampant" ... The best results to date (in preventing eating disorders) come from an intervention called Body Project, funded by National Institute of Mental Health: high school/college students are shown magazine pictures and asked to talk about how the images affect girls. "If the information comes out of their mouths, they listen to themselves."

- Excerpts, 'America the Beautiful' Probes Fashion's Ugly Side, WeNews. Frances C. Whittelsey, media ethics teacher, Hofstra Univ., author who blogs, The Equalizer, on women's health & the environment.

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YUKON WOMEN'S MINI-BUS SOCIETY

In 1975, the Yukon Status of Women Council formed the Yukon Women's Mini-Bus Society and ran the first modern transit system in Whitehorse. With a Transport Canada grant, the Society purchased 2 mini-buses, offered part-time, good-paying, work to women and introduced job-sharing to Whitehorse. In 1977, a federal-Yukon-municipal review reported on an "extremely successful transit operation" and recommended Whitehorse set up a transit commission. The Mini-Bus Society agreed and in 1978, a new commission took over the system.

- Yukon Women's Directorate poster.

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AS THEY SAY

When a man gets up to speak, people listen then look. When a woman gets up, people look, then if they like what they see, they listen.

- Pauline Frederick, 1908-1990, U.S. News Correspondent.

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