



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 21st 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 \$1,200 per child, in the form of a tax credit.
- ✓ 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!

Organization Endorsements (May 10, 2006 7:30am)

Action Ontarienne Contre la Violence Faite aux Femmes

Alberta New Democrats, Calgary Women's Caucus

Alliance des Femmes Immigrantes Francophones

Association d'entraide Le Chaînon

Au bas de l'échelle

B.C. Federation of Labour

Bathurst District Labour Council

Calacs Région Côte-Nord

Calgary and District Labour Council

Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies

Canadian Auto Workers Local 199 Women's Committee

Canadian Auto Workers Union

Canadian Council of Muslim Women

Canadian Federation of Students

Canadian Labour Congress

Canadian Office and Professional Employees Union

Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (CRIAOW)

Canadian Union of Public Employees

Canadian Union of Public Employees Ontario

Canadian Women's Health Network

Caribbean Women Network of Canada

Carrefour des femmes d'Anjou

Centre d'aide et de lutte aux les agressions a caractère sexuel de Rouyn-Noranda

Centre d'aide et de lutte contre les agressions sexuel (CALACS) Chaudière-Appalaches Inc.

Centre d'éducation et d'action des femmes

Centre de femmes dans Côte-des-Neiges Montréal

Centre de femmes l'Éclaircie

Centre de femmes l'Érige

Centre de formation sociale Marie-Gérin Lajoie
Centre des femmes du Plateau Mont-Royal (Montréal)
Centre for Feminist Research, York University
Centre de recherche interdisciplinaire sur la biologie,
la santé, la société et l'environnement
Centre ressources pour femmes de Beauport
Centre Victoria pour femmes de Sudbury
Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada (CCAAC)
Child Care Coalition of Manitoba
City of All Women Initiatives
Coalition of Black Trade Unionists
Coalition for Pay Equity (N-B)
Collectif de Sept-Îles pour la santé des femmes
Comité Chrétien pour les Droits Humains en Amérique
Latine
Communication, Energy and Paperworkers Union of
Canada
Conseil d'intervention pour l'accès des femmes du
travail
CUPE Local 2204 – Child Care Workers of Eastern
Ontario
CUPE Local 82
CUPE Ontario Women's Committee
Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario
Equal Pay Coalition of Ontario
Fédération des associations de familles
monoparentales et recomposées du Québec
Feminist Alliance for International Action
Feminist Coalition of Newfoundland and Labrador
Femmes et production industrielle
Gender Equality Incorporated
Hamilton and District Labour Council
(Women's Committee and Executive Council)
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace
Workers (Lodge 99)
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace

Workers in Canada

Kamloops and District Labour Council

La Fédération de ressources d'hébergement pour femmes violentées et en difficulté du Québec

L'Ombre-Elle de Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts (Québec)

La Table de concertation des groupes de femmes du Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean

La Maison des femmes de Rimouski

Maison des femmes des Bois-Francs

Manitoba Federation of Labour

Match International

METRAC

Mouvement ontarien des femmes immigrantes francophones

Multicultural Women's Organization of Newfoundland and Labrador

National Association of Women and the Law

National Council of Women of Canada

National Organization of Immigrant and Visible Minority Women of Canada

New Brunswick Federation of Labour

Northwestern Ontario Women's Action Group

Northern Territories Federation of Labour

Nova Scotia Federation of Labour

Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses

Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care

Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association

Ontario Federation of Labour

Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation

Ontario Women's Health Network

Ontario Women's Justice Network

Provincial Advisory Council on the Status of Women of Newfoundland and Labrador

Public Service Alliance of Canada

Québec Federation of Women

Quebec Native Women
Regroupement Naissance-Renaissance
Regroupement québécois des Centres d'aide et de
lutte contre les agressions à caractère sexuel
Réseau des femmes du Syndicat de la fonction
publique du Québec
Rights & Democracy
ROSE du Nord
Saint John & District Labour Council
Shipyard General Workers Federation
St. Andrews United Church, Calgary
St. John's Status of Women Council
Steelworkers Hamilton Area Council Women of Steel
Committee
Syndicat des employées de la Banque Laurentienne du
Canada
Table de concertation du mouvement des femmes de
la Mauricie
Table féministe francophone de concertation
provinciale de l'Ontario
Tibetan Women's Association of Ontario
Toronto Women's Call to Action
UFCW Local 1977
United Food and Commercial Workers
United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1400
UN Platform for Action Committee Manitoba (UNPAC)
Vancouver & District Labour Council
West Kootenay Labour Council
Women Against Violence Against Women
Women's Committee & Executive Council of the
Hamilton and District Labour Council
Women's Committee for the Prince Albert & District
Labour Council
Women's Committee of the Canadian Union of Postal
Workers
Women's Inter-church Council of Canada

Women's Network PEI

Women's Studies Department University of Windsor

Women's Studies Department, University of Victoria

Women's Centre of Calgary

Womenspace

YWCA Canada