

NOTES FROM THE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

By Mary Lou Norton

Each year members are looking for program material which applies directly to the Women's Institute mandate. In 1995, we heard and read about the Fourth World Conference on Women which was held in Beijing.

The Platform for Action (PFA) was signed by the Canadian Government, thus making a moral commitment to undertake the actions identified in it. As Canadians, we need to become active and aware of the action our government is following. To help, I recommend you purchase *Take Action for Equality, Development and Peace - A Canadian Follow up Guide to Beijing '95*. Contact the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (CRIAOW), Suite 408, 151 Slater St., Ottawa ON K1P 5H3, Phone: (613)563-0681.

This document outlines the Platform for Action, what this means to women and how you can take action. Some of the critical areas of concern include:

- Women and Peace
- Human Rights of Women
- Violence Against Women
- Women and Poverty
- Women and the Economy
- Education and Training of Women
- The Girl Child
- Women and the Media
- Women and the Environment
- Women in Power and Decision Making
- Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women

Every time we listen to the radio or television or read a paper, we are made aware of new legislation which will affect our lives, communities and Ontario. How involved have you and your Branch become in the issues behind this legislation? Have you as women expressed your views as 51 percent of the voters of Ontario? If not, why not?

One issue I am sure you have heard a great deal about is the proposed closure of Women's College Hospital in Toronto. At the March Board meeting a recommendation was passed that FWIO would support Women's College Hospital to keep it open. Letters have been sent to Women's College Hospital staff, Foundation and Friends of Women's College Hospital, Premier Mike Harris and Health Minister Jim Wilson expressing the support of 14,200 Women's Institute members in Ontario.

Did you know in the *Take Action for Equality, Development and Peace* document, under the section Participatory Women's Health Research, Women's College Hospital is named as the center in Canada? Are you aware of the programs and research that has been initiated at Women's College Hospital on behalf of women? Could your Branch, District or Area initiate an educational program to learn about this center, and how we can be a voice to increase the research dollars spent on women's health issues beyond five percent.

Use this document as a guide to prepare for the Fifth World Conference on Women.

Also keep in mind the following when planning programs:

Special Years

1998 - International Year of the Oceans

1999 - International Year of the Elderly

Special Dates

May 15 - International Day of the Family

June 5 - World Environment Day

June 16 - Day of the African Child

July 11 - World Population Day

August 9 - International Day of the World's Indigenous People

September 3 - International Day of Peace

September 8 - International Literacy Day

October 15 - World Habitat Day

October 16 - World Food Day

October 17 - International Day for Eradication of Poverty

October 24 - International Day of Tolerance

December 1 - World AIDS Day

December 10 - Human Rights Day

CIDA

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has information available stating the Canadian Government's policy on a number of issues. Some of the topics outlined in their catalogue include:

- CIDA's policy on poverty reduction
- creating a world equality
- CIDA's policy on women in development and gender equity
- CIDA, Human rights and democratization

For more information write to CIDA at 200 Promenade du Portage, Hull QC K1A 0G4, Phone: (819)953-5006.

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Addressing
so it gets
there...

faster



An address tells where to deliver the mail, but the way you write the address determines how fast it gets there.

- delivery information must appear on the bottom three lines of the address
- PO Box should never be used in an address with RR; this presents a conflict of delivery mode
- always place civic address information above the route information; route information is used to process the mail

Optimal Addresses:

- are typed in capital letters
- have a uniform left margin
- do not use punctuation unless part of a place name (ie. St. John's)
- use the two-letter symbol for province names
- place the postal code two spaces after the province name

Example:

FWIO
7382 WELLINGTON RD 30
RR 5
GUELPH ON N1H 6J2

Use these two-letter symbols for province names:

Alberta AB
British Columbia BC
Manitoba MB
New Brunswick NB
Newfoundland NF
Northwest Territories ... NT
Nova Scotia NS
Ontario ON
Prince Edward Island ... PE
Saskatchewan SK
Yukon YT
Labrador* NF

*part of Newfoundland

Source: Canada Post Corporation