

## 'Know your Federated Women's Institutes of Canada'

### AS THE WORLD SEES US

by: Jane Burnell

We're going to show you  
As well as we can  
How the world sees the women  
Who make up our clan  
Women's Institute members  
Are normal, you know.  
But the way the world sees us  
Is not always so.

We think of ourselves  
As plain Mary or Jane  
And we don't think our actions  
Are hard to explain.  
But I'm really surprised  
And I'm really surprised  
And I'm sure you are too  
At the way people see  
All the things that we do.

To many fine people  
The housewife is our role  
With a mop in our hand  
And no hope in our soul  
They see us as noble  
Dependable creatures  
With red dishpan hands  
And non-descript features.

There some folks who think  
Doing crafts is our thing  
That we knit and we knot  
And we crochet with string  
That we quilt and we sew  
And we hook, rugs we mean  
And we garden and plant  
To keep Canada green.

Some people think gossip's  
The thing that we do  
And at meetings the air turns  
A fine shade of blue  
But we have to remind them  
The men tell us more  
When they come from the mail  
Or the General Store.

And then there's the people  
Who want a good meal  
For a wedding, a banquet  
A fair or bonspiel  
They don't have much money  
'Cause somebody blew it  
But they know that  
The Institute Women will do it.

There's a terrible image  
We must put to rest  
That we're all nearing ninety  
And way past our best

We're seen as the grandmas  
Who drink lots of tea  
And talk of the way  
That the world used to be.

The husband is left holding  
The baby at home  
When to meetings, conventions,  
And minis we roam  
They look at our motto  
And say with a groan  
I'd mind the country  
If she'd mind the home.

Some organizations see  
Us as the goose  
That lays golden eggs  
That their projects could use  
Their needs are so great  
And their problems are worse  
They'd love to dip into  
The Institute purse.

They're never at home  
They're all over the earth  
At meetings in Kenya  
And Hamburg and Perth  
A passport in one hand  
A map in the other  
You'd wonder their husbands  
Don't go home to mother.

And then some folk think  
Women's Lib is our cause  
The radical fringe  
Out there changing the laws  
They ask us "why haven't you  
Burned your bra yet"  
Well, most of us need all  
The help we can get.

So there's some of the ways  
That the world seems to view us  
Some candid appraisals  
What harm can it do us  
The view of the masses  
Don't let it trouble  
Nothing can hurt  
F.W.I.C.

So there's some of the ways  
That the world seems to view us  
It's not hard to see  
All the harm it can do us  
Folks really don't know  
All the good things we do  
How we strive to help women  
And families too.