

REPORT OF THE AFL WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

It has been a busy two year period for the members of the AFL Women's Committee.

At the 2003 Women's Caucus at the AFL Convention, Sisters Arlene Crozier (private sector union) and Angela Clark (public sector union) were elected as Affirmative Action Vice Presidents representing their respective sectors. Due to circumstances, Sister Angela Clark (now Angela Lauderman II) is no longer able to be part of the Committee.

On several occasions the chairing of the Committee was done on a rotating basis as developmental assignments. Sister Kozłowska was able to take the Chair.

It has been our privilege and an honour to represent working women from all sectors of the economy in Alberta. As women activists in our workplaces and in our communities we addressed many issues pertinent to all women and their families.

The following is an accounting of the activities we have been involved with:

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY ACTIVITIES

In the past two years the AFL Women's Committee has been an active

participant in the Edmonton IWD broad based coalition of organizing the Vagina Monologues – this is a play which increases awareness of violence against women around the world. The play celebrates International Women's Day and raises money for non-governmental organizations dealing with women's issues. The NGOs are Changing Together – A Centre for Immigrant Women, Crossroads providing housing for sex trade workers, Planned Parenthood, the Alberta Association for Women's Shelters and many others.

This year (2005) on International Women's Day, the AFL Women's Committee organized a supper for women in need at the Boyle Street Cooperative in Edmonton. 25 union women did food preparation and cooked a meal for 70 women and about 15 children. The union women decorated the hall, did the cleanup afterward and made a short presentation on International Women's Day. The event was so successful that the Committee is planning to do it again next year.

Sister Kozłowska has been representing organized labour on the Edmonton IWD Committee. Our sisters in Calgary area joined activities to celebrate IWD with the Women's Committee of the Calgary and District Labour Council.

FORUM ON EQUALITY

In 2004 the AFL Women's Committee organized a successful forum on Equality. Our theme was **Achievements and Victories...the Struggle continues.** The location of the event was in Calgary. This event was open to men and women. Feedback received from the participants was encouraging.

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND ACTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Both in 2003 and 2004 the AFL was actively involved in the event to commemorate the National Day of Remembrance on December 6th. In 2003 the event was at the Edmonton City Hall with Councillor Karen Leibovici representing the City of Edmonton and other guest speakers.

In 2004 the event was a day long workshop entitled, "**Stop the Violence,**" to commemorate the slain women at the Polytechnique in Montreal and the women who perished in the Edmonton area.

In Calgary, members of the AFL Women's Committee also supported December 6th events at the Rosza Centre, University of Calgary. The theme was, "**Taking Stock of Fifteen Years of Action.**"

WOMEN'S CAUCUSES AT THE AFL/CLC SCHOOLS

Women's caucuses were held at both the 2003 and 2004 AFL/CLC Schools. In 2003 participation in the caucuses in both weeks was high. Reports from the meetings were made at the plenary. AFL Women's Committee members chaired the 2003 caucuses and prepared the agenda for the meetings.

The 2004 caucus meetings were disappointing – due to lack of involvement by the Women's Committee members who were not afforded the opportunity to be involved in organizing the caucuses.

The Committee recommends that caucus meetings be organized and well publicized by the AFL Women's Committee at the AFL/CLC Schools.

DISPOSITION OF RESOLUTIONS

The AFL Women's Committee successfully dealt with **Resolutions 601 and 602.**

Resolution 603 – the committee continues to support the actions taken by the CLC and PSAC on the issue of pensions.

Resolution 604 – the committee continues to support the lobbying efforts of the Alberta Women's Shelters for additional funding.

Resolution 605 – efforts were initiated to address the issue as presented by resolution 605.

CONCLUSION

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the officers, all members of the Executive Council and especially the dedicated staff of the Alberta Federation of Labour for consistently supporting us in our work and our activities.

The AFL Women's Committee continues to play a vital role by bringing awareness to the labour movement about women's issues, and to lobby at all levels of government, union locals, committees and communities.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,

AFL WOMEN'S COMMITTEE, 2003 – 2005

Tamara Kozlowska, Chair	PSAC 3015/AFL Liaison
Arlene Crozier, Secretary	UFCW 401/Private Sector Rep.
Denise Palmer	UNA
Betty Connelly	CEP 445
Cheryl Cox	USWA 1-207
Angel Folkestad	CUPW-Edm.
Allison Kuzyk	TWU
Helen Walroth	CAW 4050
Karen Werlin	COPE 458
Danielle Williamson	CUPE 40
Kerry Baret	AFL

Committee members who completed partial terms:

Peggy Askin	CDLC
Evelyn Fraietta	CUPW-Edm.
Jodie Gillam	CUPE 40
Shelina Hassanali	CUPE 38
Angela Lauderman II	CUPE 40/Public Sector Rep.

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