

# REPORT OF THE AFL WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

The AFL Women's Committee has had a busy two years. We met 12 times during our term. The membership of the Women's Committee has tended to fluctuate, we have lost some great committee members such as Arlene Crozier from UFCW Local 401 but have gained new members equally interested in making contributions to the work of the Committee.

The following is a brief summary of some of the activities the Committee has been involved with:

## **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY ACTIVITIES AND AWARDS**

The Committee has been an active participant in the Edmonton IWD broad based coalition that organizes International Women's Day activities and celebrations. Members in Calgary joined with the Calgary and District Labour Council to celebrate International Women's Day (March 8<sup>th</sup>).

In both March of 2006 and 2007, the Committee organized fundraising so that they could sponsor a meal at the Boyle Street Co-op for Inner City women and their children.

In October 2006 as part of anti-poverty activities, the Committee organized fundraising and a meal in Calgary in conjunction with our conference. This meal was for women and children transitioning out of poverty. We did this activity at CUPS in Calgary. We shared our union commitment and perspective with these women on a number of issues, particularly poverty.

Upon the committee's recommendation, the AFL wrote the Mayors of Calgary and Edmonton and had the cities declare March 8<sup>th</sup> as International Women's Day and week for cities that had multiple activities.

## **FORUM ON EQUALITY**

In 2006 the AFL Women's Committee sponsored a successful forum on Equality, entitled "Hats off to Womyn". The forum was held in Calgary, and was open to both sisters and brothers. The feedback the committee received from participants was encouraging.

## **NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND ACTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

In 2005 and 2006 the AFL was actively involved in the event to commemorate the National Day of Remembrance on December 6<sup>th</sup>. In 2005 the event was held at Canada Place in Edmonton with councilors, MLAs, community and unionists participating.

In Calgary, members of the AFL Women's Committee supported December 6<sup>th</sup> activities at the union level, the Labour Council and in their community.

## **CAUCUSES AT THE AFL/CLC SCHOOLS**

Women's caucuses were held during each week of the schools in 2006 and 2007. The participation in both weeks at these

caucuses was high. Reports were made to the plenary sessions on the highlights of the sessions. AFL Women's Committee members chaired the caucuses and prepared the agenda for these meetings.

## **GUEST SPEAKER**

We invited the Volunteer Coordinator from Changing Together – A Centre for Immigrant Women to address our committee. We shared concerns and ideas around the situation for immigrant families, especially women and children.

Our Chair, Tamara Kozłowska met with Amnesty International's Edmonton chapter to discuss the "Stolen Sisters" initiative.

## **DISPOSITION OF 2005 CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS**

The AFL Women's Committee successfully dealt with the resolutions referred to them by the Executive Council.

### ***Resolution No. 604***

The Committee continues to support the lobbying efforts of the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters for increased funding.

## **CONCLUSION**

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

The AFL Women's Committee continues to play a vital role by bringing awareness to the labour movement on women's issues and policy initiatives and by continuing to lobby government, union locals, committees and communities on matters of interest and concern to this committee.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,

**AFL WOMEN'S COMMITTEE, 2005 – 2007**

Tamara Kozlowska, Chair & AFL Council Liaison	PSAC
Betty Connelly, Secretary	CEP 445
Mary Bain	CUPW-Edm.
Allison Kuzyk	TWU
Denise Palmer	UNA
Ailleen Runstedler	CUPW-Calg.
Wendy Renaud	HSAA
Kerry Barrett	AFL
Bena Pattni (alternate)	CUPW-Edm.
Roxanne Dreger (alternate)	UNA
Mary Dahr (alternate)	HSAA

**Committee Members who served a partial term:**

Arlene Crozier	UFCW 401
Joanna Blomer	CUPW-Calg.
Cheryl Cox	USWA 1-207
Helen Walroth (alternate)	CAW 4050
Danielle Williamson (alternate)	CUPE 40
Barbara Hauk (alternate)	CUPW

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