

## PROVINCIAL COORDINATORS REPORT JUNE 2000

ACWS has continued to participate in government meetings on the redesign of children's services. I attended a conference April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in Edmonton which proved most interesting as the guest speakers talked about the detrimental effects of poverty on children and the need for more dollars and greater programming to assist with low income children. Many of the programs, which are proving to be highly successful Stateside and in BC were presented here. Although many of the Regional Staff was present I didn't see anyone from treasury and so I don't believe we will see these programs come to Alberta.

I was given the opportunity to teach two classes at the U of A. One in the political science faculty regarding the effects of neo-conservatism on women in Alberta and another through the Woman Studies faculty on organizations which are run from the feminist perspective.

"Supports for Independence and the Cost of Living in Alberta: Regional Differences", the brief commissioned by the ACWS Social Issues Committee, is completed and ready for release. It has been approved in principle by the Executive and forwarded to the committee for their comments before going out to the membership. ACWS will be participating, with several supporting partners, in a Symposium hosted by the Edmonton Social Planning Council on June 8<sup>th</sup>. The Symposium is titled, "Healthy Incomes – Healthy Outcomes. This will be the first step in building a province wide coalition advocating for change. If you are interested in attending please contact the Edmonton Social Planning Council at (780) 423-2031.

On May 30<sup>th</sup>, the official launch of VIOLET and ROSENET will take place at the University of Alberta. ROSENET is a web site for immigrant women developed by immigrant women. Please visit this new site in shelter for legal and family violence information specific to immigrant women. The URL is [www.rosenet-ca.org](http://www.rosenet-ca.org). I would appreciate feedback from each shelter on the use of VIOLET. Are shelter staff and clients using the web site and are you participating in the Forum section? Please forward your comments to me regarding these web sites.

Through my work with other organizations, it has come to my attention that ACWS has not evolved standards of conduct for Council members. In looking towards the future and towards "Best Practice" I have invested considerable time and energy drafting two documents. They are "Conflict of Interest and Board of Directors Code of Conduct" and "Standards and Accepted Practices for Council Members". These are in "draft" form and have been forwarded to Executive Committee for review and discussion. I expect they will be brought forward at the general council meeting. It is my hope this will give guidance not only to existing members but help new members orient themselves to the structure of ACWS.

The research on the shelter information for Provincial Voices for Action and Change has begun. Casey Boot, the PVAC researcher, will speak to Council on Saturday regarding the intent of the research, and ask for input from the membership.

Work on the ACWS Standards document has been completed and forwarded to committee members for their perusal and comment. I expect the 'draft' document will be ready for council comment at the June meeting. Many thanks for all the hard work by the committee members.

The Transitions Points Committee has continued to meet and we have now completed the literature review. Our next steps will be to look at:

- Safety net information
- Other groups working on SFI and affordable housing information
- Work on funding proposals to address the gaps the focus groups will identify
- Corporate sector should be players in "a fund" e.g. Capital City Savings

At this years AGM we have two members leaving. Lana Wells, Secretary, and Jean Langdon, president. I have no words to express to Jean my heartfelt thanks for all her years of hard work and dedication to this organization. She has always been a tremendous support to me and to say that I will miss her does not reflect the huge gap it will leave for me. I am thankful she will still play a role as past president. I will also feel the loss of Lana very much. She has been an inspiration with her vision and energy and I wish her all the very best in her pursuit of her Ph.D. It has been both an honour and a privilege to work with them both.