

UBC, Faculty of Law

LAWFEMME: CFLS NEWS

Volume 1, Issue 2

March 13, 2002

Happy International Women's Day!

See page 9...

In This Issue:

Pivot - Legal Advocacy in downtown eastside	1
Submission to the U.N. Commission on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	2-6
Marilyn MacCrimmon Retiring	6
Profile of a Scholar: SUNDYA PAHUJA	7
Marlee Kline Essay Prize for Students	7
Joan Brockman: Celebrating Women	8
Women in Print: Friend of the Centre	9

CFLS NEWSLETTER

Editor:

Cheryl Conibear

Editing Professor:

Susan B. Boyd

Student Volunteer:

Kat Kinch

CFLS Steering Committee

Susan B. Boyd, Director

Ruth Buchanan

Annie Rochette

Claire Young

Cheryl Conibear

Jamala MacRae

Angela Cameron

PIVOT ORGANIZING LEGAL ADVOCACY IN THE DOWNTOWN EAST SIDE

Pivot is a non-profit society dedicated to advancing the interests of illegal drug users, sex trade workers and other marginalized persons in the Downtown East Side (DES) through strategic legal action, law reform and legal education. The membership of Pivot is made up of sex trade workers, drug users, DES residents, community advocates lawyers and law students.

Pivot is currently investigating several issues for strategic legal action. These include the potentially discriminatory gap between the arrest rates of sex trade workers and their clients for the offence of communicating for the purposes of prostitution, the obligations of government towards those with the disability of addiction, and the constitutionality of narcotics laws as they apply to drug addicts. Another aspect of Pivot's work focuses on the grassroots legal education of illegal drug users, sex trade workers, and DES residents through public meetings, publications and outreach.

Pivot works closely

with grassroots organizations such as VANDU (Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users), and PACE (Prostitution Alternatives Counseling Education) in order to be responsive to the issues that affect the interests of substance users and sex trade workers.

On Thursday, February 28, VANDU was represented by Pivot in Supreme Court to respond to a petition brought by the Community Alliance, a coalition of east-side business and property owners, to have the Health Contact Centre at 166 East Hastings Street shut down. The Contact Centre, vitally needed to address the escalating epidemic of disease and death among drug users, is being challenged by the Alliance as not be for "retail or similar use" as set out in the Official Community Development Plan. The newly opened Contact Centre is the first major health initiative for drug users under the Vancouver Agreement.

The judgment on this preliminary hearing was significant. In summary,

VANDU was granted status as a party respondent, rather than an intervenor. The judge found that, due to VANDU's participation in the hearings around the permits and the fact that Contact Centre was aimed at addressing the health crisis among drug users, that VANDU had a direct interest that would be affected should the petition be successful. The judge found the Alliance should have served VANDU from the beginning, and its failure to do so was a violation of the Supreme Court Rules (10(5)).

Pivot holds its meetings on the Second Wednesday of each month at 327 Carrall Street. All are welcome to attend. Donations and volunteer lawyers are especially needed. The next meeting is scheduled for April 10, 2002 at 6:30 pm.

For more information, please visit Pivot's website at www.pivotlegal.org.

THE POVERTY & HUMAN RIGHTS PROJECT:
A submission to the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights released on February 13, 2002 by twelve anti-poverty organizations in BC calling on the U.N. Committee to give urgent attention to welfare and legal aid cuts in British Columbia.

Written by: Shelagh Day and Gwen Brodsky

To: Professor Virginia Dandan, Chairperson
Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,
United Nations High Commissioner for
Human Rights

On behalf of: federated anti-poverty groups of B.C.:
End Legislated Poverty,
United Native Nations,
B.C. Human Rights Coalition,
B.C. Coalition of Persons with Disabilities,
Seniors Network B.C.,
Alliance for the Rights of Children,
Justice for Girls,
B.C. Coalition of Women's Centres,
Social Planning and Research Council of B.C.,
Working Group on Poverty,
West Coast LEAF Association

The changes to social assistance and to social services announced on January 17, 2002 by the Government of British Columbia will have a drastic effect on the groups in British Columbia who are the most vulnerable to poverty and social exclusion. These groups include Aboriginal people, women, single mothers, people of colour, recent immigrants, refugee claimants, people with disabilities, older people, youth, and children.

The Committee expressed particular concerns about these groups in its 1998 Observations. It noted that

Dear Professor Dandan:

We are writing as advisors to a coalition of non-governmental organizations that deal with social rights issues, and issues of poverty, in the province of British Columbia in Canada. These organizations have recognized expertise as front-line service providers, legal advocates, community advocates, and social policy analysts.

Our organizations are writing to you urgently to bring to your attention a massive assault on the social and economic rights of the poorest people by the Government of British Columbia. On January 17, 2002, the Government of British Columbia announced that it will cut rates for social assistance recipients, thereby deepening the poverty of people who already live well below the poverty line. The Government will also narrow the rules governing eligibility for social assistance. This will result in many people who are currently eligible for social assistance being dis-entitled.

The announced changes to social assistance and social services clearly do not comply with the Government of British Columbia's obligations to respect, protect and fulfill the rights set out in the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)*. The Government of British Columbia has also ignored the Committee's concerns regarding Canada's compliance with the *ICESCR*, which were expressed in the Committee's 1998 Concluding Observations on Canada's 3rd periodic report (E/C.12/1/Add.31, 10 December 1998).

In light of Canada's recent record of adopting retrogressive measures, and as a follow-up to the Committee's 1998 recommendations, the undersigned non-governmental organizations request that the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights give urgent attention to the actions of the Government of British Columbia.

there is a gross disparity between Aboriginal people and the majority of Canadians with respect to the enjoyment of *Covenant* rights. It also noted that cuts to social assistance and social services are having a particularly harsh impact on women in Canada, and that reductions in provincial social assistance programmes, combined with the unavailability of affordable housing, create obstacles to women escaping domestic violence. The Committee expressed concern that homelessness among youth and young families is at a crisis level. The Committee also observed that cuts to home care, attendant care and special needs transportation, as well as tightened eligibility rules for social assistance, are increasing the social and economic vulnerability of persons with disabilities (paras. 17, 18, 23, 28, 35, 36).

See "SUBMISSION" page 3

"The changes by the Government of British Columbia will drastically affect groups most vulnerable to poverty and social exclusion..."

SUBMISSION continued from page 2

The Committee recommended that Canada consider re-establishing a legally enforceable right to adequate assistance for all persons in need, a right to freely chosen work, a right to appeal and a right to move freely from one job to another (para. 40). The Committee also recommended that a greater proportion of federal, provincial and territorial budgets be directed specifically to measures to address women's poverty and the poverty of their children (para. 54). Further, the Committee recommended that the federal, provincial and territorial governments, address homelessness and inadequate housing as a national emergency by increasing social housing programmes for those in need, increasing shelter allowances and social assistance rates to realistic levels, and improving protection of security of tenure for tenants (para. 46). The Committee also expressed its concerns about workfare programmes which violate the right to freely chosen work and other labour standards, including minimum wage (paras. 30 and 55).

Income Assistance

Without regard for the Committee's concerns and recommendations, the Government of British Columbia has announced a new B.C. Employment and Assistance regime, with the following planned changes:

- Shelter allowances for families with two or more children will be reduced.
- Shelter allowances will be eliminated for adult recipients living with an adult relative. This will increase the risk of homelessness for vulnerable individuals whose lives are improved through sharing accommodation with a relative.
- Support allowances for "employable" welfare recipients between age 55 and 64 will drop

by between \$47 and \$98 per month. This amounts to a 20 – 35% cut in the non-shelter portion of social assistance for elderly recipients.

- Low-income seniors (those over 65) will also see cuts in their small incomes because subsidized transit passes will be taken away, and their medical prescription subsidies will be reduced due to cuts to the Pharmacare program.
- Welfare benefits for employable single parents will be cut by \$70 a month. This 18% reduction in the support portion of social assistance will affect families in which approximately 60,000 children live. The overwhelming majority of the members of this group are single women with children.
- The Family Maintenance Exemption will be eliminated. All child support paid will be deducted dollar for dollar from income assistance benefits. Until now, if a single parent on social assistance was receiving child support payments from a spouse, they were entitled to keep up to \$100 per month of these payments.
- The Earnings Exemption will be eliminated for "employable" recipients. This exemption allowed people on welfare to work and keep \$100 if they were single, or \$200 if they had children or a partner.

In total, these measures mean that some single mothers could see a drop of as much as \$370 per month. In the income of a single mother with one child, this would represent a 46% cut to the support allowance available to her.

The Social Planning and Research Council in its December 2001 report on living costs and income assistance in British Columbia concluded that, before the cuts announced January 17, 2002, social assistance met only 45 – 65% of the minimum

monthly costs of single parent families and single adults for food, clothing, household supplies, personal care, transportation, child care, shelter, and other basic costs.

- Single parents will now be considered "employable" after their youngest child reaches 3 years of age (down from 7). Advocacy organizations for children and youth report that this change will affect the care of approximately 15,000 young children. This change comes just after the Government of British Columbia repealed legislation whose goal was universal access to affordable, safe child care.
- The government will introduce welfare time-limits. "Employable" people without children will only be allowed to receive welfare for two years during any five year period. After two years they will simply be cut off.
- Similarly, "employable" parents (with children older than 3 years), will only receive full benefits for two out of five years, after which time they will see their support allowance cut by 25%.

To our knowledge, no government in Canada has ever before imposed flat time limits on eligibility for social assistance. This will mean that some British Columbians will simply be refused social assistance, regardless of need.

- Full-time post-secondary students will no longer be eligible for welfare. They will have to turn exclusively to student loans, which are not adequate to support full time study.
- In addition to the criminal penalty for fraud, those found guilty of welfare "fraud" (which may include failure to report a gift) will be banned from receiving welfare.

“Desperate positions risking homelessness, illness and extreme psychological stress.”

See page 4

SUBMISSION continued from page 5

community advocates, and if they have, in effect, no access to the courts to challenge rights violations because there is no legal representation available to them, the central obligation to give effect to the rights is contravened.

Conclusion

The changes that the Government of British Columbia has announced are only possible in a post-*Canada Assistance Plan Act* (CAP) era where there are no national standards for social assistance and social services that bind provinces and territories. In light of the Committee's concern that the repeal of CAP accorded "virtually unfettered discretion to provincial governments in relation to social rights" the Committee urged the Government of Canada in its

1998 Concluding Observations

"to take concrete steps to ensure that the provinces and territories are made aware of their legal obligations under the Covenant and that the Covenant rights are enforceable within the provinces and territories through legislation or policy measures and the establishment of independent and appropriate monitoring and adjudication mechanisms" (emphasis added) (para. 52). To our knowledge, no steps have been taken to implement this recommendation, the importance of which is now painfully evident to the most vulnerable groups in British Columbia.

The Government of British Columbia seeks to justify its new welfare scheme on the grounds that it will face a "structural" deficit unless it makes deep cuts to its budget. However, cutting a deficit by introducing measures that imperil the rights of the most disadvantaged people to food, shelter, clothing, and ac-

cess to justice is not defensible. The Committee noted in its 1998 Concluding Observations (paragraph 11) that by slashing social expenditure to address budget deficits, Canada "has not paid sufficient attention to the adverse consequences for the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights by the Canadian population as a whole, and by vulnerable groups in particular." The Government of British Columbia has chosen to ignore this observation.

In closing, the undersigned non-governmental organizations ask again that the Committee give urgent attention to the introduction by the Government of British Columbia of retrogressive measures, contrary to its treaty commitments to the residents of this province. We appreciate your consideration of this request.

BEST WISHES, MARILYN**Professor Christine Boyle**

"Marilyn's attention to equality analysis of egalitarian processes of fact finding have left their mark on evidence doctrine."

Long-term member of faculty, Professor Marilyn MacCrimmon, is teaching Evidence for the last time this spring as she is retiring at the end of June, 2002.

Her many scholarly interests included a commitment to studying how the law of evidence and the human process of fact determination is influenced by the social location of, for example, women, children and members of racialized groups.

Her attention to equality and her theoretical analysis of egalitarian processes of fact finding have left their mark on evidence doc-

trine. This could be illustrated in many ways, but one way is to focus on the extensive use of her research by the Supreme Court of Canada with respect to issues of concern to feminist. The Supreme Court noted her influence by referring to her work on "The Consistent Statements of a Witness", this before the recent complaint rule was abrogated by Parliament, on hearsay (relating to the *Khan* case on statements by children) in "Developments of the Law of Evidence: The 1990-91 Term-Social Science, Law Reform and Equality", on the Battered Woman Syndrome in "The Social Construction of

Reality and the Rules of Evidence", on sexual history evidence in "The Constitutionality of Bill C-49: Analysing Sexual Assault As If Equality Really Mattered", and, most strikingly, on her work on defence access to records relating to sexual assault complainants in several published works, including "Trial by Ordeal".

She will be missed by her many colleagues and students at the UBC Faculty of Law. We wish her well in her retirement.

SUNDYA PAHUJA: PROFILE OF A LEGAL SCHOLAR

Sundya Pahuja

Sundya Pahuja was a visitor at UBC for the month of February and gave a lecture at the CFLS with UBC Professor Dr. Ruth Buchanan. Sundya's research interests include globalization, international economic law and legal theory, including feminist and postcolonial theories.

Here Sundya talks a bit about her work and her collaboration with Ruth Buchanan.

It was a great pleasure to be able to return to UBC as a visitor this month. It is, of course, not my first experience of UBC as I was a graduate student here in 1997/98. In fact, coming to UBC was the start of quite a scholarly adventure for me and many of the relationships I established have then turned out not only to be wonderful and sustaining friendships, but to be very important to my work and career.

An important part of this connection is my collaborative project with Professor Ruth Buchanan. Together over the past two years, we have adapted a course Ruth taught at UBC on the Regulatory Impact of Globalization into a trans-Pacific course on Globalization and the Law, taught simultaneously in Melbourne and Vancouver. Our collaboration in teaching has inspired us to undertake joint research in the area and we

are currently involved in several projects revolving around international economic law and post-colonial theories.

In our work, we do not use feminist theory to ask questions about gender, but rather as an important tool in our critical toolbox. Feminist theory is particularly useful to us because of the many examples of the extended elaboration and application of methods directed at addressing questions of difference and oppression, and understanding the ways in which dominant narratives shape particular subjectivities. These questions are particularly important to scholars interested in dominant narratives of globalization and the myth of inevitability which inheres in them.

The creature of our collaboration itself is also inspired very much by the idea of feminist scholarly practice. We were each inspired by the collaboration of the two feminist geographers who

formed the amalgamated author, J.K. Gibson-Graham. This collaborative conversation allows us to disrupt somewhat the artificiality of the idea of scholarship ever emanating from a single source, rather than being part of a much wider conversation, which is how we see it. Because of the way in which we actually write jointly (rather than each writing discrete sections of a work), it also forces us continually to examine our own subject positions and articulate our background assumptions. Of course, we have to be careful of not backgrounding even further the assumptions which we do share, but overall, we both find the process of critique and examination while we write to be helpful (if exhausting!).

It was very stimulating (and lots of fun) to be visiting at UBC in February. Thanks to the CFLS for inviting us to give a lecture. I hope to be back again soon.

“To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here.”

MARLEE KLINE ESSAY PRIZE

Centre for Feminist Legal Studies Offers New Prize to Student

In 1989, Marlee Kline wrote: “The various intersections between gender, race, class, sexual orientation, and other differentiating characteristics, affect how and when all women experience sexism.

The Centre for Feminist Legal Studies will award a \$250 prize to the best essay written by an

LL.B. student attending the University of British Columbia during the 2001-2002 academic year, addressing the themes identified in the above quotation in relation to a topic dealing with law or legal regulation.

The prize is offered in the name of Marlee Kline, one of UBC's feminist professors, who died in November, 2001. The prize money is part of the 2001

J.C. Smith Scholar Award, which was awarded to Marlee Kline in October, 2001. Professor Kline generously donated half of the prize money to the CFLS to use for special projects.

The Centre's Steering Committee used the donation to establish the Essay Prize, which will be awarded each year for the next five years.

SUBMISSION continued from page 3

• Before even being able to apply for assistance individuals will have to undertake a “three-week self-directed job search.” This will apply to everyone, including families with children. Most people exhaust all other avenues of survival before turning to welfare and appear at welfare offices having no income, assets or other means of support. Many are on the verge of losing their housing. The three-week rule increases the risk of homelessness, illness, and extreme psychological stress.

• The Government intends to start the welfare application process with an assessment of whether or not an applicant is “expected to work.” An individual’s entitlement and treatment by the Ministry will depend on this assessment. Experts are concerned about the quality of these assessments and concerned for the “hidden unemployable” who will fall through the cracks, for example, survivors of abuse or trauma in residential schools, refugees, and adults who have undiagnosed mental illness, intellectual impairment, fetal alcohol syndrome and learning disabilities.

• Young adults (19 and over) will have to demonstrate that they have lived independent of their parents for two years before being eligible for welfare. This means that youth escaping from abusive family homes will be without support.

• Individuals who have left jobs “voluntarily” will be ineligible for any assistance. Experts are concerned that individuals may be considered ineligible for welfare even if they have left jobs because of sexual harassment, unsafe working conditions, or labour standards violations.

• Refugee claimants, who are not currently allowed to work without special authorization, will no longer be eligible for assistance. Refugee claimants, whose status has not been determined, are a particularly vulnerable group – poor, and socially isolated.

• The *Disability Benefits Program Act* will be repealed. This legislation has provided a separate benefit scheme for people with disabilities, which recognized some of the unique needs of this group. People with disabilities will now be included within the general welfare system, and they fear that

when new eligibility rules are applied they will be defined as “employable”, even though they are unable to work on a regular basis. The Government of British Columbia has stated its view that too many recipients are classified as “disabled” and that in order to meet its fiscal target those numbers must be reduced.

On February 19, 2002, when it brings down the next budget, the Government of British Columbia, may identify other categories of individuals who will be ineligible for assistance.

Reduced shelter allowances for families with two or more children, combined with reduced support allowances, and time limits on eligibility for social assistance will predictably result in increased numbers of homeless people in British Columbia, and increased numbers of people living in overcrowded, inappropriate and desperate conditions.

The Government’s approach rests on the assumptions that the majority of social assistance recipients are employable people who choose not to work, and that work is available for them. However, British Columbia is currently experiencing a downturn in its economy, due to various factors. The official unemployment rate is at 9.7 % and expected to go higher. At the same time, training programs across government, including some designed for young low-income people, are scheduled for termination. Many “employable” social assistance recipients may not be able to find training or work opportunities, for reasons that are not in their control.

Access to Justice and Remedies for Social and Economic Rights Violations

In its 1998 Concluding Observations, the Committee expressed serious concerns about the ability of people in Canada to seek and obtain effective remedies under domestic law for violations of their social and economic rights. It noted that provincial governments have urged upon their courts an interpretation of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* which would deny any protection of *ICESCR* rights and would leave the complainants without the basic necessities of life and without any legal remedy

(para. 14, 15). The Committee also repeatedly expressed its concern about access to civil legal aid because of its importance to vulnerable groups seeking remedies for social and economic rights violations (paras. 16, 42, 51, 54).

Despite this central concern of the Committee, the Government of British Columbia has announced a number of cuts to the Attorney General’s Ministry which will directly affect the capacity of low-income people to seek remedies when they are denied social benefits and protections. The budget for legal aid will be cut by 38.8% over the next three years. Coverage will be provided only for criminal law matters, *Young Offender Act* matters, mental health reviews, restraining orders, and child apprehensions. No services will be provided for family maintenance or custody disputes. Direct services for poverty law matters, that is for landlord/tenant, employment insurance, employment standards, welfare, disability pension claims or appeals, foreclosures, and disability trusts, will be eliminated.

Many Native and Community Law Offices are expected to be closed. Until now these Offices have provided legal assistance for “a legal problem or situation that threatens the individual’s family’s physical or mental safety or health, the individual’s ability to feed, clothe and provide shelter for himself or herself and the individual’s dependents, or the individual’s livelihood” (s. 3(2)(d) of the *Legal Services Society Act*). Under this mandate, a legal aid lawyer would provide assistance in a case like this:

See page 5

“The budget for legal aid will be cut by 38.8%...”

SUBMISSION continued from page 4

a woman and her children are locked out of their apartment because of a small amount of arrears in rent, due to a delay in the receipt of an Employment Insurance cheque. The landlord has removed all of her belongings and refuses to return them unless she pays the arrears. She has nowhere to go.

Until now an advocate from a Native or Community Law Office would help this woman to obtain the benefits to which she is entitled and to find immediate shelter for herself and her children. These services will no longer be available. The closure of Native Law Offices will also deprive Aboriginal people of services designed specifically to meet their needs.

There may also be a complete cut to legal aid services for those who file human rights complaints contesting discrimination in employment, tenancy and the delivery of services. The budget of the British Columbia Human Rights Commission will be cut by 32%, severely diminishing its capacity to provide protection from discrimination to vulnerable individuals and groups. Further, funding to all women's centres in the province, and to tenants' rights organizations, will be cut by 2004.

These changes to income assistance and to legal aid violate *ICESCR* rights, including:

- the general right to non-discrimination (Article 2(2)), and the right to equality between women and men (Article 3), with respect to the enjoyment of economic and social rights.

The new measures will have a disproportionately severe effect on women and other disadvantaged groups because they will exacerbate their pre-existing social and economic inequality. In addition, some reductions in rates and some disentanglements are targeted, directly or indirectly at specific groups of welfare recipients defined by age, sex, disability, and refugee status.

- the right to work that is freely chosen (Article 6) and to just and favourable conditions of work (Article 7).

The new regime is likely to have the effect of coercing individuals in need into accepting work and staying in jobs without regard for whether the conditions are non-discriminatory, safe and healthy, and without regard for whether the work provides a decent living. Individuals may be denied social assistance if they do not accept available work, no matter what the conditions of that work are, and they may be denied social assistance if they leave their employment "voluntarily", even if the reason for their leaving is unsafe or intolerable conditions.

- the right to special measures of protection and assistance to children and young persons without discrimination based on parentage or other conditions (Article 10(3)).

The new regime will be particularly punitive for children of social assistance recipients, denying them supports that they need precisely because of the poverty of their parents.

- the right to an adequate standard of living, including food, clothing and housing (Article 11).

The new scheme will deepen the poverty of people who are already living well below the poverty line. The ability

of social assistance recipients in British Columbia to provide adequate food, clothing and housing for themselves and their children is at serious risk.

- the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health (Article 12).

Ample data is available to show that increased poverty means increased health risks. The new measures will make access to adequate financial assistance and supports uncertain for persons with serious physical and mental health problems, and will have damaging effects on the health of individuals who already at risk because of inadequate nutrition and housing.

In addition, the targeted elimination of legal aid for most family law matters and for poverty law, as well as the elimination of funding to community advocates for women and low-income people, and the cut to the budget of the B.C. Human Rights Commission, deprives members of the most disadvantaged groups of the means to seek remedies for social rights violations. This contravenes a central *Covenant* obligation. The Committee's General Comment No. 9, *The domestic application of the Covenant*, (4 December 1998 E/C.12/1998/24), points out that it is the obligation of States parties to use all means at their disposal to give effect to the rights recognized in the *Covenant*, to provide appropriate means of redress for *Covenant* rights violations within their domestic legal schemes, and to ensure that remedies are available to any aggrieved individual or group. If members of the most socially and economically disadvantaged groups cannot effectively exercise their rights before human rights, tenancy, welfare, and other tribunals because they have no access to legal or

"Measures will have a disproportionately severe effect on women and other disadvantaged groups."

**BLACK LAW
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Jamala MacRae

In February, the month that Black people throughout North America celebrate their background and history, I attended the Black Law Students Association annual conference in Toronto. The conference was very well attended, with about 60 students participating. The lectures and seminars scheduled dealt with a variety of ways in which Black lawyers are challenged by the system, and strategies for dealing with those challenges. For me, the most memorable lecture was "Black Women and the Law" which really focused on the ways in which racism and sexism interrelate in the legal profession. It was also inspiring to connect with Black students across the country. I look forward to attending next year's conference.

**A SOCIAL AND SCHOLARLY EVENING:
THE CFLS BOOK LAUNCH WITH JOAN BROCKMAN**

Kat Kinch

On January 24, 2002, the feminist and feminist-friendly community from UBC Law School and beyond braved the rain and cold to celebrate the publication of Joan Brockman's new book, *Gender and the Legal Profession: Fitting in or Breaking the Mould*, published by UBC Press.

Based on interviews with women and men lawyers in British Colum-

bia, the book examines issues of discrimination and sexual harassment in the legal profession.

The event was sponsored by the Centre for Feminist Legal Studies and was organized by Susan Boyd and other feminist professors and students.

Great food, engaging conversation and congratulations to Ms. Brockman for her timely analysis were the hallmark

of the evening.

The CFLS wants to extend thanks to Ms. Brockman for offering us her time and talents for both the Book Launch and the UBC Law Women's Caucus' 25th Annual Women and the Law Dinner. Her role as keynote speaker at the Dinner is appreciated by everyone involved.

Thank you, Ms. Brockman!

**Professor
Joan Brockman**

**A woman to
celebrate!**

**JOAN BROCKMAN:KEYNOTE SPEAKER
AT THE UBC FACULTY OF LAW WOMEN'S CAUCUS
25TH ANNUAL WOMEN & THE LAW DINNER**

The keynote speaker at this year's Dinner is Professor Joan Brockman. Ms. Brockman is currently a professor of Criminology at SFU. She holds an LL.B. from the University of Calgary, and LL.M. from UBC and an M.A. from the University of Alberta. She has practiced law for the Department of Justice in B.C.

She has conducted studies on gender bias in the in the legal profession in B.C. and Alberta. Professor Brockman's interest in this issue has inspired her recently published book entitled *Gender in the Legal Profession: Fitting in or Breaking the Mould*, which she discussed at the Dinner.

Based on interviews with women and men lawyers in B.C., the book examines issues of discrimination and sexual harassment in the legal profession. Although legal barriers that historically have prevented women from entering the legal profession have been removed, informal and structural barriers that impede women's full participation in the profession remain.

A GOOD FRIEND OF THE CENTRE

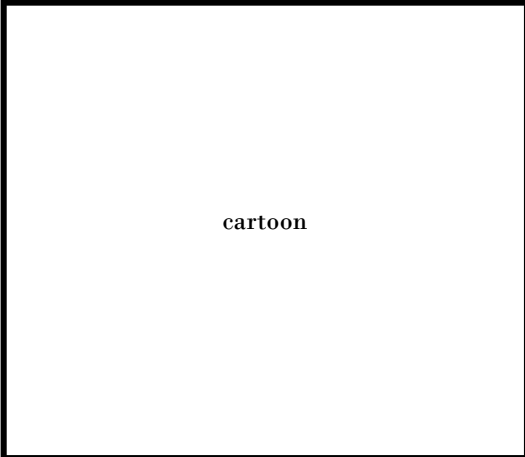
Professor Claire Young

Women in Print, a feminist bookstore located on West 4th at Dunbar one and a half blocks east of Alma, has been a great supporter and friend of the Centre since our inception in 1998. Indeed, Louise Hager, on of the co-owners, has attended every one of our book launches as well as many other events. The bookstore is owned and run by Louise and Carol Dale, who between them have over 70 years in the book-selling business. I sat down the other day with Louise to find out more about the store and to talk about the philosophy underlying their approach to running a feminist business.

As Louise told me, the purpose of the bookstore is to “support and promote people’s equality with a special emphasis on women”. She believes that we have an obligation to learn about issues such as race, class, gender and other matters of global concern. As she put it, “this is not the mandate of mainstream bookstores, nor is it co-

incident with the interests of their shareholders”. For me that philosophy is what makes Women in Print so special. The bookstore plays a key role in the women’s community in Vancouver. As well as selling books, you can find the staff selling tickets to women’s music, running a bulletin board about women’s events and resources, launching the publication of new books (including those by some of us associated with the Centre) and selling books at readings. They also publish a newsletter with news and reviews of latest books.

But first and foremost, Women in Print is an independent feminist bookstore. Its shelves are packed with books by women and about issues that affect women. In my view, the best feminist theory section of any bookstore in Vancouver, and that includes an extensive collection of feminist legal theory books. Perhaps most importantly the staff know their books. I don’t know where they find the time, but unlike the chain stores, these women have read the books they sell



cartoon

and can answer any query you may have. It is hard to ask a question about a book that they do not know, or cannot find the answer to. And, of course, they will order any book that is not on the shelf.

When Women in Print opened its doors in 1993 there were five feminist bookstores in BC. Now it is the only one left in the province. As Louise told me, feminist bookstores are disappearing, and not just in Canada. Even Washington D.C. has lost its feminist bookstore. For this reason it is so important that all of us who buy books make a point of buying them from a store such as Women in Print. If we don’t we lose so much more than a bookstore, we lose an indispensable community resource.

HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY!

Aileen , UBC Student

You are WOMYYYYYYN!!!!

You make a difference today, whether it be a smile, a protest, a caring ear, some good advice, a laugh, a howl, or just being there in someone’s life.

I just wanted you to know.

Privilege is power, so use it compassionately and with good intent.

DO SOMETHING! (if you can) and if you can’t right now and you feel tired, immobilized or swept up in your life, I share with you my hope and love so that you may find the strength and courage to think proactively and do as womyn have been doing for years-kicking ass (and healing...)

One more thing: work for your dreams because I know they will come true. Don’t settle or give up ever, and we all know we need to be here for each other. I’m here for you.

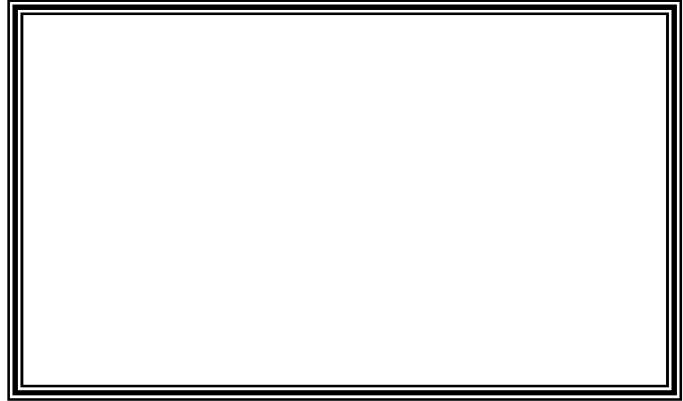
Be aware. Live.



UBC, Faculty of Law

Centre for Feminist Legal Studies
Faculty of Law, UBC
1822 East Mall
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1

Phone: 604-822-6523
Fax: 604-822-6531
Email: cfls@law.ubc.ca
Web: <http://faculty.law.ubc.ca/cfls>



**We want to acknowledge the
Musqueam people, whose
traditional territory we are
on, and thank them for
allowing us to be here.**

CFLS ADVISORY BOARD

Brenna Bhandar
Gillian Calder
Silvia Chejter
Dorothy Chunn
Dianne Martin
Angela P. Harris
Martha Fineman
Joanne Fiske
Reg Graycar
Guimi Bai***
Didi Herman
Patricia Hughes
Nitya Iyer
Saras Jagwanth
Kiyoko Kinjo
Ratna Kapur
Valerie Raoul
Ruthann Robson
Madam Justice Lynn Smith
Nan Seuffert
Fay Blaney
Kim Stanton
Margot Young

BECOME A "FRIEND OF THE CENTRE"

You may become a Friend of the Centre for \$25, which will entitle you to notices of Centre events, copies of our newsletter, and access to the resource centre and library.

Further donations are welcome, and we will send you a tax receipt. Please send your cheque to the Centre and fill out the form below.

I WANT TO SUPPORT THE CENTRE FOR FEMINIST LEGAL STUDIES

NAME _____

DONATION _____

EMAIL _____

RETURN ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____