



UPDATED: Unions lead the fight for womens equality

March 4, 2011

March 8 marks the 100th Anniversary of International Womens Day.

Just a generation ago, when our mothers entered the workforce, job postings still listed higher wages for men ... -mens rates" ... alongside lower -womens rates," for people working side by side, doing exactly the same job. While women have fought for and achieved many significant gains, the wage gap between women and men today remains staggering: almost 30 per cent. Women working full-time still only make 70 cents for every dollar men are paid.

On average, a Canadian woman earns \$39,200, while a man earns \$55,700. The gap is even more appalling for women of colour (68 cents / dollar) and worst for Aboriginal women (46 cents / dollar).

Surprisingly, the situation is worse for women with post-secondary education. The Canadian Labour Congress reports that in 1985, these women earned 75 per cent of what their male peers got paid. By 2005, this had dropped to 68 per cent.

Union women lead the way

In fact, having union representation was the best way for women to achieve fairness. For example, in 2006, unionized women earned an average of \$21.85 an hour, or 93 per cent of the wage of unionized men, according to the CLC.

Thats in addition to the other benefits of being part of a union: better benefits, job security, protection from harassment, and maternity and parental leave benefits. However much we have achieved, its clear that more remains to be done.

HSA invites members to celebrate International Womens Day by taking part in various activities and celebrations taking place across the province this weekend.

If you know of an event in your community that is not listed below, please contact Yukie Kurahashi at ykurahashi@hsabc.org. Check HSAs website at www.hsabc.org for updates to this schedule of events.

MARCH 5

City: Vancouver

Date: March 5, Parade (12:30-2:00pm) Festival (2:00-4:30pm)

Place: Parade Start ... McSpadden Park (Victoria & E. 4th Ave.) Festival ... WISE Hall (1882 Adanac Street)

Event: International Womens Day Centenary Parade and Festival

City: Vancouver

Date: March 5, 6pm

Place: Fraserview Hall, 8240 Fraser Street

Event: International Womens Day with India Mahila Association; contact 604.777.2052, or india_mahila_association@hotmail.com

City: Victoria

Date: March 5, 6pm-10pm

Place: Floyds Diner, 866 Yates Street

Event: 3rd Annual V-Day Art and Music Show, including live performances and an auction of art and craft pieces by local artists. <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=177446462296753>

MARCH 8

City: Burnaby

Date: March 8, 7:30am-9:35am

Place: Firefighters Club, 6515 Bonsor Avenue

Event: BC Federation of Labour / International Womens Day Breakfast

City: Courtenay

Date: March 8, 5:30 p.m.

Place: K'omoks First Nation Band Hall

Event: International Women's Day Community Potluck and Film Night; free, everyone welcome

City: Nanaimo

Date: March 8, 11:30 p.m.

Place: Royal Canadian Legion, 1630 E. Wellington

Event: Zonta Club of Nanaimo IWD Centenary lunch; for tickets, call Corinne at 250-754-5226 or Del at 250-758-8792

City: Penticton

Date: March 8, 10am-2pm

Place: Sunoka Foyer, Okanagan College campus on Duncan Ave

Event: Refreshments & festivities

City: Penticton

Date: March 8, 6pm-8:30pm

Place: Cafeteria, Okanagan College campus on Duncan Ave

Event: Celebrate with live music, speakers, art exhibition, refreshments; co-hosted by the Okanagan College Students' Union, the South Okanagan Boundary Labour Council, and the Penticton & Area Women's Centre

City: Surrey

Date: March 8, 5pm, rain or shine

Place: Peace Arch Park

Event: Women on the Bridge: come together at the Peace Arch International Park in support of war-torn women across the world. For more information contact sfwss@sfwomensservices.com

City: Vancouver

Date: March 8, 4:30pm

Place: Vancouver City Hall

Event: Mayor Gregor Robertson and the Womens Advisory Committee are pleased to invite you to attend a celebration of the 100th International Womens Day; rsvp@vancouver.ca

City: Vancouver

Date: March 8, 7pm-10pm

Place: Ironworks Studio, 235 Alexander Street

Event: Strong Women, Strong Music: benefit for Atira Womens Resource Society

City: Vancouver

Date: March 8, 7pm

Place: Room 122A Langara College, 100 West 49th Avenue

Event: IWD Film Night ... A Powerful Noise

MARCH 9

City: Nanaimo

Date: March 9, 5:30pm

Place: St. Pauls Anglican Church Hall, 100 Chapel Street

Event: Womens International League for Peace and Freedom potluck gathering

MARCH 10

City: Vancouver

Date: March 10, 7am-9:30am

Place: Fairmont Hotel Vancouver, 900 West Georgia Street

Event: West Coast Legal Education and Action Fund Annual Equality Breakfast; see westcoastleaf.org

City: Vancouver

Date: March 10, 6:30pm

Place: Heritage Hall, Main St and 15th Ave

Event: Hungry4Change, a unique banquet dinner representative of food distribution around the globe with all proceeds going to Oxfam Canada. Hungry4Change is a banquet fundraiser unlike any other. Email

oxfamubc.president@gmail.com

MARCH 12

City: Victoria

Date: March 12, 7:30pm

Place: Alix Performance Hall, 907 Pandora

Event: Fundraiser to end violence against women and girls: a presentation of the Vagina Monologues; \$30, or \$25 (seniors and students)

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