

## Not Just Another Newsletter!

January, 1995

### MNSJ VIGIL FOR FEDERAL CAUCUS

A 48-hour vigil and lobby of MP's is planned for 4:00 p.m. on Feb.1st to 4:00 p.m. on Feb.3rd to serve as a constant reminder to government MP's that we will not stand for further cuts to Canada's social programs.

The entire federal Liberal Caucus will be in Metro for a two-day caucus meeting at the Howard Johnson Hotel at Keele St. and Highway 401. The purpose of the caucus is to discuss cuts to social programs, the upcoming federal budget, and the situation in Quebec. The Metro Network for Social Justice and many of our social justice partners will be there to greet them. For further information on how you or your organization can participate, please call Bill Howes at 441-3663 or Janet Conway at 351-0095.

### MNSJ PLANS FOR '95

The Metro Network for Social Justice has established Work Groups to advance the defined priorities of the network. A list of the groups and their contact persons follows. Anyone interested in participating in the activities of a group is invited to call the contact person listed. MNSJ Work Group meetings are open to all supporters.

Social Policy Reform Action Group  
Bill Howes (Ofc: 441-3663)

Metro Budget Work Group  
Brent Patterson (Ofc: 598-4945)

NAFTA Work Group  
Peggy-Gail DeHal-Ramson (Ofc: 469-2745)

The Economic Literacy Work Group is presently working in tandem with the Social Policy Reform Action Group.

### CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

Listed below are meetings and events of interest to activists in the Metro area. If you have additions for the calendar, please fax information to Bill Howes at fax 445-8405.

Jan.26	MNSJ NAFTA Work Group meeting
Jan.27	Workshop on The Ghanaian Community
Jan.27-29	COMER Conference
Jan. 30	Talk on Social Dumping
Jan. 31	OCSJ Monthly Meeting
Jan. 31	Lunar New Year - Year of the Pig
Feb.-1-3	MNSJ Vigil for Canada's social Programs
Feb. 6	Axworthy Report to be issued
Feb. 7	MNSJ Steering Committee meets
Feb. 10-12	Conference on Future of Public Sector
Feb. 14	NYIACC's "Have a Heart" Lobby Day
Feb. 15	Justice & Gender: International Voices
Feb. 17	MNSJ Lobby on Metro Budget
Feb. 28	MNSJ Steering Committee meets
Mar. 4	International Women's Day March
Mar. 8	International Women's Day
Mar. 21	MNSJ Steering Committee meets
Mar. 25	Int'l Day to Eliminate Racism
Apr. 11	MNSJ Steering Committee meets
May 6	Men Walking Against Male Violence

### MNSJ MEETING DETAILS:

Steering Committee - Tues, Feb. 7, 9:30 a.m. till noon at the Scarborough Town Centre, Education Bldg, Committee Rooms 3 & 4.

NAFTA Work Group Talk on Social Dumping - Mon, Jan. 30, 5:30 p.m. at 527 College St.

### METRO BUDGET UPDATE

Despite the opposition of thousands of Metro residents, the Community Services Department net operating budget has been cut by more than \$50 million over the past three years. Metro Councillors have consistently disregarded alternatives to cost-cutting, and as a result many necessary community services have either been eliminated or seriously undermined.

In 1995, the Community Services Department budget is facing either flat-lining, or a possible 5% reduction. The Metro Network for Social Justice is advocating for Community Services to be exempted from flat-lining, and is seeking a reinvestment of funding to strengthen Metro's social infrastructure.

In addition, as Metro and the province begin to explore Greater Toronto Area (GTA) issues, the MNSJ is looking to Metro Councillors for a proactive vision of community services and a commitment to our social infrastructure.

During the 1995 campaign, deputations will be made to the Human Services Committee on Monday, Jan.30th and Monday, Feb.27th. As well, a Lobby Day will be held to pressure Metro Councillors on Friday, Feb.17 at Metro Hall. Throughout the period up to Metro Council's final decision on the budget on Monday, April 10th, we are encouraging people to contact their Metro Councillor to oppose flat-lining and/or cutbacks, and to request a reinvestment into the Community Services budget. Other events are currently in the planning stages and will be announced shortly. If you or your organization is interested in working on our Metro Budget Work Group, or if you'd like more information on our efforts, please call Brent Patterson at 598-4945.

### "HAVE A HEART" - NYIACC MESSAGE TO MP'S

The North York Inter-Agency and Community Council (NYIACC) is organizing a lobby of North York MP's in an effort to stave off planned cuts to social programs. Their "Have a Heart" campaign is designed to let the federal government hear from the people of North York - know as the "City with the Heart". Kits prepared by NYIACC outline the issues, raise questions, and offer alternatives. The organizers ask residents of North York to fax-phone-write-in to their MP's and to Chretien, Martin, and Axworthy on Valentine's Day, February 14th with the message "don't cut our social programs". If you'd like to help with the campaign or get more information about it, call Cheryl MacDonald or Alyssia Zirka at 490-8903.

## TALK ON SOCIAL DUMPING

Spadina Action for Justice and Jobs is organizing a talk on the effects of NAFTA on jobs and the environment for January 30th at 5:30 p.m. The talk will be given by Jim Stanford, economist for the CAW, and it will be given at the CAW Workers' Centre, 527 College St, near Bathurst. There is no charge for admission, and further information can be obtained by calling 532-2310.

## JUSTICE AND GENDER: INTERNATIONAL VOICES

"What are the crucial issues for women in your country that should be raised at the UN Fourth World Conference on Women being held in China in September, 1995?" That is the question that will be discussed by a panel of women with a variety of international links on Wed, Feb.15th from 7:30 p.m. till 10:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity Church. If you'd like more information, please call 466-6561.

## MEN WALKING AGAINST MALE VIOLENCE - MAY 6, 1995

The Labour Council and the organization "Men Walking Against Male Violence" are sponsoring a walk-a-thon in Toronto on May 6th to call attention to the need for men to confront the issue of male violence against women and children. Funds raised from the walk will be divided equally between Men Walking Against Male Violence and Anduhyun, a Toronto shelter for First Nations women. Anyone interested in helping with this event is urged to call Bill Howes at 441-3663.

## WORKSHOP ON GHANAIAAN COMMUNITY

The Leaders-in-Training Workshop series is presenting a cultural awareness workshop on the Ghanaian Community on January 27th at the Driftwood Community Centre, 4401 Jane St. The workshop will showcase the cultural, religious, and traditional life of the Ghanaian community and will be held from 9:30 a.m. till 2:00 p.m. Childcare will be provided if it's requested in advance, and anyone wishing to attend should register by January 23rd. There is no registration for community residents, and a small fee for others. If you'd like more information, call Mamoun Gamal at 663-2733.

## CROSS-CULTURAL FORUM FOR YOUTH

The Canadian Arab Federation, in order to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Racism, is organizing a forum for youth to discuss curriculum changes in schools. The object is to ensure that curricula incorporate the histories and perspectives of other cultures, and to ensure that there is close coordination between communities of colour around the issue.

Meetings continue and will be held Feb.2, Feb.22, Mar.8, and Mar.15 from 6 till 8:00 p.m. at the Toronto Board of Education, 155 College St., Rm. 251. For more information call Nada at 231-7524 or Arif at 530-0262.

## GREEN INITIATIVES

The Green Work Alliance is organizing a one-day conference entitled "Labour/Community Strategies for Creating Green Communities" for Saturday, March 4th. More information will be given in future issues of the newsletter as it becomes available. Meanwhile, if you're interested, block out your calendar. If you need more information or can help organize the day, call Nick di Carlo at the CAW: (416) 497-4110, ext. 464.

## JOB OPPORTUNITY: RESEARCH ASSISTANT

The Women's Counselling Referral & Education Centre (WCRC) is looking for a Resource Assistant. The part-time, contract position will run from March 13 to September 11, and interested persons should submit a resume by February 3rd. Computer experience with Macs is a must, and applicants should have a solid knowledge of women's issues. Priority will be given to women of colour, First Nations women, and immigrant women. Submit resume to WCRC at 525 Bloor West, Toronto, Ont, M5S 1Y4 or by fax to 534-1704.

## SUCCESSFUL FOOD CO-OP INVITES MEMBERS

Karma Co-op, Toronto's oldest non-profit food co-op, has room for new members. Karma carries a comprehensive inventory of health food and standard products, both organic and commercial fresh fruit and vegetables, organic meat, baked goods, cheese and dairy products, free-range eggs, bulk grains, flours, seeds, spreads, dried fruits and nuts. In addition, there is a variety of cleaning, household, and personal care products.

Owner-members are expected to help the co-op function, and there are rewards. A recent price comparison indicated that shopping at Karma is about 29% less expensive than a local major health food store, and 23% cheaper than a predominant supermarket in the area. The store is located at 739 Palmerston Ave, in the Bathurst-Bloor area, and more information can be obtained by calling 534-1470. (Visitors are welcome to do a trial shop.)

## HYPOCRISY AT THE TOP

Several months ago, Finance Minister Paul Martin stood up in Parliament and talked tough about the federal deficit. Said Martin: "lowering the deficit. It's a target we will meet - come hell or high water." Yet the Action Canada Network publication "Where's the Wealth?" has noted that Martin's corporation, CSL Group Inc., in a recent year made a pre-tax profit of \$19,700,000, paid no income tax, and received tax credits equalling \$400,000!

## NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS TO CHINESE & VIETNAMESE

We take this opportunity to extend our best wishes for a happy and peaceful new year to our Chinese and Vietnamese communities who celebrate the Lunar New Year on January 30. The date marks the beginning of the Year of the Pig.

## Editor's Notes:

1. You may have noticed that this issue of the newsletter doesn't have the polished look of recent issues. That's because our layout expert has been busy helping to organize the students' strike and we didn't want to bother her. We hope to see her handiwork in the next issue.
2. If we threatened to cut you off our mailing list in the last issue, it's only because we haven't had time to do it that you've got this one month grace period. You can redeem your organization by affiliating or renewing your affiliation. Individuals receiving the newsletter can continue to do so by making a \$25 contribution to the MNSJ.

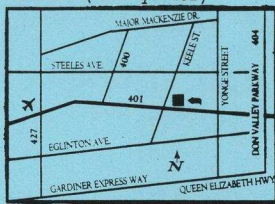
## A ROUND-THE-CLOCK VIGIL FOR CANADA'S SOCIAL PROGRAMS

### STAND ON GUARD

Wednesday, February 1 at 4 pm  
through to  
4 pm on Friday, February 3

outside the Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel, North York  
2737 Keele Street (at Hwy. 401)

Subway to  
Keele Station  
then any  
Keele 41 bus  
North to  
Howard Johnson  
Plaza Hotel  
(1/2 hr on bus;  
buses every  
10 mins.)



FREE PARKING

The federal Liberal caucus is meeting to discuss the upcoming federal budget. On the agenda are deep cuts to social programs that will fundamentally change our society.

We did not elect the Liberals to gut our social programs in the name of "reform" or make the poorest among us bear the greatest burden.

Let us remind them that the people of Canada are a caring people who wish to live in a caring society.

- o Light a candle and stand with others around a flame of hope
- o Add your wish for Canada to a giant banner
- o Be a presence of conscience for this government
- o Send a message to your MP
- o Find out what others are doing and what you can do

Come with your friends and family. Come for a few minutes or a few hours any time between Wednesday at 4 pm and Friday at 4 pm.

#### SCHEDULE OF KEY TIMES

Wednesday, February 1, 4 - 8 pm: Media launch and arrival of MPs

Thursday, February 2, 4 - 8 pm: Prominent persons express their support

FOR INFORMATION or to VOLUNTEER: CALL JANET at 351-0095 or BILL at 441-3663.

## WE'LL STAND ON GUARD

Please complete the information below if you will join the vigil for Canada's Social Programs. We're there 24 hours a day from 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 1st to 4:00 p.m. on Friday, February 3rd.

This information should be faxed to Bill Howes at fax 445-8405.

NAME

PHONE

ORGANIZATION DAY/HOURS AVAIL.

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**METRO COUNCIL  
BUDGET LOBBY**

on Friday, February 17, 1995

9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

**Metro Hall, 55 John St. at King St. West.**

Metro Council is in the process of setting the budget for 1995. The Community Services and Housing Department has been asked to present both a **flatline** budget and one showing a 5% cut. Those concerned about Community Services **know** what that means and there is a lot of pressure on to **cut even** further.

The Metro Network for Social Justice (MNSJ) and its supporters want to change Council's direction. Cutting the Budget has gone on steadily over the last four years so there is no more to cut. People are really hurting. **LET'S STOP THE HURT !**

On **Friday, February 17th.** from 9:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m. we've arranged appointments with Metro Councillors to discuss the Community Services and Housing Budget. We'll have an MNSJ "**Drop-in Centre**" at Metro Hall for our friends and supporters. Call Barbara at 351-0095 for **Lobby Materials** right away.

**JOIN US TO STOP THE HURT !**

To visit your Councillor - Call Rachel at 351-0095 Tues. or Thurs.

For Information Call Brent at 598-4945