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Happy Holidays

It's here again, the end of another year and hopefully the end of our bizarre weather for the winter.

This year has given us some ups and downs, and through all of these we've developed some great friendships and partners. GROOTS Canada has developed into a much bigger and stronger organization thanks to all of you all and the big events that happened this year such as WUF3 in Vancouver and the AIDS Conference in Toronto.

In this issue is the first of a series of exposays on the individual Canadian groups that make up GROOTS Canada. In the near future I will be contacting you for information about your group.

I had the honor this past summer of attending GWIA and WUF3 as some of you did as well, and I must say here that I had a great time, learned a lot, and enjoyed meeting all of you that I meet there as well as was very happy to see old friends again.

Women and WUF

Leslie Stern of BC Women's Housing Coalition has sent this piece of information for everyone along with her greetings.

The <http://www.womenandwuf.ca> website is starting to shape up. People are invited to take a look and provide feedback to info@womenandwuf.ca. Any groups and / or individuals who would like to be included, as members will be given a login identity and password. Soon members will be able to add their own profiles, news and events and

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a bright solstice, happy holidays, Christmas, Hanukkah and a bountiful and great New Year. I also hope you enjoy the company of your families, friends, loved ones and community members. As well I hope you keep in mind as well those that don't have the support or wishes of community, friends, family members near them, like the homeless, disabled, sick, this is a very stressful and lonely time filled with anxiety for them, so what ever compassion can be given to them is appreciated by them and is a satisfying part of the human experience.

I look forward to working with you all in the New Year and publishing your stories in the newsletter for others to read. Happy Holidays

If you have a story or news to share for this newsletter, you can write to groots_canada@shaw.ca. I hope to hear from you soon.

indicate whether they would like their information to be available on the public or members only portion of the site.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL.

Leslie Stern



Yellowknife Women's Society

The Yellowknife Women's Society is located in Yellowknife Northwest Territories and receives calls for advocacy support from across the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. The group was founded in 1990, the group serves women and their families living in Yellowknife and surrounding area.

A board comprised solely of women governs the Society. In keeping with the aim of supporting women as they define their needs, the Centre offers support programming to their families, which include men and youth.

The group was started in order to support and assist women by empowering themselves so that they can develop their goals, achieve wellness, enjoy equality and be recognized for the contributions that they make in the community.

Yellowknife Women's Society operates the Centre for Northern Families which houses an emergency shelter for women. The Centre offers a broad range of support services along a continuum of care to women and their families and supports youth-initiated activities and events, along with this the Centre acts as a host to a broad variety of visiting professionals including doctors, public health nurses, counselors and lawyers.

The Centre also operates a prenatal program, a family support program, a day care, and offers several youth directed initiatives including "Girls Night Out" and "Guys Night Out", along with housing the Yellowknife

Inuit Katujjiqatigiintit and a peer-directed New Canadian and Ethno-cultural Program.

The Society published a document in the *Child's Best Interest: Government Sanctioned Oppression of Families* in response to racist child welfare practices in the Northwest Territories.

The Society is governed and staffed by grassroots women who apply life experience to their work in the community, the agency is recognized as a grassroots entity by other service providers. As other non-profits the Society is not self-sustaining and always on the brink of closure. Programs and services offered by the Centre are largely funded through government bodies.

If you would like to find out more about this group and / or Centre please feel free to go to: <http://www.real-eyes.ca/cnf/index.html>

*"I have moved to music,
wrapped myself in song as
with a silver cloak, how
bright, how splendid!"*

*Audrey Alexander Brown,
(1904-) Canadian poet &
author.*



Temiskaming Native Women's Support Group

The Temiskaming Native Women's Support Group was started in 1997, in order to strengthen Native Families so that they are vibrant and in balance with each other as well as the world around them according to the teachings of the medicine wheel. The foundation for strengthening the families is based upon the honesty, integrity and commitment of the members. With the group based on the Matachewan First Nations land it serves aboriginal women and their families living in the Temiskaming Region of Northern Ontario.

This group operates two Aboriginal Family Resource Centers, one located in Kirkland Lake and the other located in Temiskaming Shores. The group was selected by service providers in the region as the sponsor for Aboriginal Early Learning and Child Care Hubs, one located at each site, along with these programs the centers provide a prenatal

program, a family support program and a life skills program.

The Society is governed and staffed by a board of Aboriginal women who use their life experience to inform their work with the women of the community and their families, and in keeping with their value based programs and services they are inclusive to men and youth.

The Society itself is not self-sustaining as of yet and struggles with financial security, but the programs and services are funded through government bodies.

If you would like to find out more about this group and / or Centre please feel free to go to: <http://www.real-eyes.ca/afrc/index.html>

“How Do We Want To Raise Our Children?”

After a year long campaign by Mother Centers International Network for Empowerment (MINE) hosted a conference titled “How do we want to raise our children?”, the conference was from the 17th – 20th of November, this was the first International Mother Center, which took place in Bratislava, Slovakia. Some of the goals of the conference are to provide an opportunity to reflect on how grassroots women's groups can support the development of children. What values do we want to pass on to children and what does the community need to look like, so that these values and visions can be met.

Over 75 Mother Centers and grassroots women's groups and networks from 17

countries joined the yearlong campaign, which the conference in November pulled together all the information from. One group and Mother Center that did participate in the campaign and conference was Canada's own Aboriginal Mother Center of Vancouver.

For more information about the campaign and policy paper from conference go to; <http://www.mine.cc/files/PlatformforActionSlovakConference.pdf>

and MINE go to: <http://www.mine.cc>



WOMENNET.ca

Womennet.ca is a Canadian Women's Information Centre. With this site you are able to find out what challenges there are happening in the various provinces / territories of Canada and how you can respond.

The site also has a Directory of Canadian Women's Resources, a links section that has international as well as Canadian sites and news and resources section also a free e-

letter for notification of additions and improvements to womennet.

I have been to this site many times it is fairly up to date, if you haven't been you should check it out, below is the address;

<http://www.womennet.ca/about.php>

"This thing that we call 'failure' is not the falling down but the staying down".

Mary Pickford – movie star and Hollywood businesswomen.

SWAG Closure

Swag (Status of Women Action Group) of Victoria BC. has been forced to vacate it's physical space as of Dec. 30th, 2006, although the website will continue to run. This group has been serving women of Victoria since the early 1970's.

The group has been struggling for some time with finances, as a lot of women's groups in Canada, and this last cut to the SWC has made the struggle even harder.

It pains me to see this closure and the others that will follow due to this cut and change to the funding criteria of SWC. Women from

this group and others that have been tirelessly fighting for women's equality in this country for most of their lives are being told that those basic human rights are really not valued.

Because of these verbal and not so verbal statements we really need to continue to fight for those rights, and keep in mind that no matter of gender / color / beliefs / age / ability / race, that we are all human and deserve to be treated so.

For more information about SWAG, go to the website; <http://pacificcoast.net/~swag/>

Links

<http://dominionpaper.ca>

<http://www.straightgoods.com>

<http://www.womennet.ca>

<http://www.dawncanada.net>

http://www.nac-cca.ca/index_e.htm

<http://www.ccihc.ca>

<http://www.napo-onap.ca>

<http://www.livableincome.org>

<http://www.huairou.org>

<http://www.groots.org>

<http://www.amcs.ca>

<http://www.mine.cc>



If you have any news of your groups activities, or announcements, tidbits for the Hearth, B-Day greetings for our newsletter please

E-Mail:

groots_canada@shaw.ca

We hope to be on the Web soon !

I may be calling on each of you for your group's story to be featured for future stories for the newsletter

From The Hearth

* This past month has been very trying and busy for me for a few reasons; surgery / moving into new house with my daughter Meshum and two grandkids and among all this and unpacking (which is still happening) the holidays happened, which is why this newsletter is late.

Meshum passed up a great opportunity to go to the Mother Centre conference to stay for the move and to help with my care, so I'd like to take this opportunity to thank her and my partner for all their help, and for joining household due to my level of care needed, that's family.

- The Goddess's Cake

Sometimes we wonder, "What did I do to deserve this?" or "Why did the Goddess have to do this to me?" Here is a wonderful explanation.!

A daughter is telling her Mother how everything is going wrong, she's failing algebra, her boyfriend broke up with her and her best friend is moving away.

Meanwhile, her, Mother is baking a cake and asks her daughter if she would like a snack, and the daughter says, "Absolutely Mom, I love your cake." "Here, have some cooking oil," her Mother offers. "Yuck" says her daughter. "How about a couple of raw eggs?" Gross Mom!" Would you like some flour then?" Or maybe baking soda?" "Mom, those are all yucky!" To which the mother replies; "Yes, all those things seem bad all by themselves. But when they are put together in the right way, they make a wonderfully delicious cake!

The Goddess works much the same way. Many times we wonder why she would let us go through such bad and difficult times. But the Goddess knows that when she puts she puts these things all in her order, they always work for good! We just have to trust her and, eventually, they will all make something wonderful! The Goddess is crazy about you. She sends you flowers every spring and a sunrise every morning.

Whenever you want to talk, She'll listen. She can live anywhere in the universe, and she chose your heart. I hope your day is a "piece of cake!" Life may not be the party we hoped for, but while we are here we might as

About GROOTS Canada...

GROOTS Canada is an umbrella organization that is made up of many different types of groups that are concerned with women's equality and women leaders in the larger or small community. A group of women at this time are in the process of developing the incorporation papers for GROOTS Canada to be registered federally. Along with this registering is a fee, we are requesting donations for this fee, if you feel that you are able to donate some finances for this purpose what ever the amount \$5, 10,20, it would be very much appreciated, we regret that we will not be able to provide you with a tax deductible receipt as we are not registered as a charity, but if this does not concern you, and you still want to donate, you can contact Marnie Tamaki at mtamaki@shaw.ca

And she will discuss with you how to get the donation to her. Thank You